

RECREATION COMMITTEE
5:30 pm, Tuesday, February 5, 2008
Isle of Palms, South Carolina 29451

The regular meeting of the Recreation Committee was held at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 5, 2008 at the Recreation Center, 24 Twenty-eighth Avenue, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending were Chairwoman Carol Rice, Councilmen Buckhannon and Duffy, City Administrator Tucker, Recreation Director Page, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban and City Clerk Copeland.

1. **Call to Order.** Chairwoman Rice called the meeting to order and acknowledged that the press and the public had been duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

2. **Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes.**

MOTION: Councilman Buckhannon moved to approved the minutes of the meeting of January 8, 2008 as presented; Councilman Duffy seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **Citizens' Comments.** None.

4. **Recreation Department Report, January 2008 – Director Page**

Director Page directed the Committee's attention to the opening report, which was produced by the RecTrac software from data keyed as citizens enroll or attend Recreation programs. There was considerable discussion regarding the report, and the Director commented that she and the staff are still learning the nuances of the program so it will be fine-tuned continuously over time. By way of highlights, Director Page related that she was very pleased with the way the Employee Wellness Program is going; for the first month, Rhonda Gibbons of the Building Department was the biggest loser having shed seven (7) pounds. A basketball team for 9-10 year olds gives every appearance of being an all-star team; as such, there is a possibility that Isle of Palms Recreation will host the district championship for that age group. At the Island Arcade Day, 137 bicycles were registered. Doggie Day at the Rec is planned for Saturday, February 23; Administrator Tucker asked that Doug and Garia Wilmer be contacted to film the event. Director Page announced that another Movie on the Beach has been scheduled for May 16; after discussion, the Committee agreed that the movie should be at the Recreation Center, not on the beach. The full text of the report is attached to these minutes.

5. **Old Business**

Review Bids for Gym Ceiling

The bids for the replacement of the gym ceiling had been received and opened at 1 p.m. today; only two (2) companies responded, and the bids, although close in amount, were both considerably higher than anticipated. The Recreation Department budget contains fifty-five thousand dollars (\$55,000.00) for the project, of which twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00) has been provided from Accommodations Taxes. The bids received were as follows:

Ascent Construction	\$87,155.00
J Musselman	\$86,400.00

There was a great deal of discussion on the bids as they were thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00) more than was projected. Issues that were discussed include the fact that there were only two (2) bidders; the lack of detail pricing in the bids; and what was included in the bid package. Councilman Buckhannon stated that the Committee would be fiscally irresponsible to accept one of these bids in such a tight budget year

MOTION: Councilman Duffy moved to accept neither of the bids due to excessive cost and to re-bid the project with the addition to the RFB that bids must include a detail cost breakdown; Councilman Buckhannon seconded.

When asked her opinion of the bids, Assistant Dziuban stated that the closeness in the amounts of the bids led her to believe that they were both legitimate bids.

Call for the Question: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. New Business:

A. Consideration of Sealing Openings in Gym's Corrugated Steel-\$3000

Director Page explained that this was necessary primarily because squirrels are using these as an expressway into the walls of the gym and are causing their share of damage to wiring, for instance. The company that she has contacted will humanely remove all of the squirrels from in-between the walls and return on a regular basis to ensure that the squirrels are not getting in after the work is completed – the company gives a two (2) year guarantee. The Committee agreed that the funds should come from the Maintenance Account.

MOTION: Councilman Buckhannon moved to spend \$3,000 from the Maintenance Account to seal the corrugated steel ends around the gym; Councilman Duffy seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Review of Capital Budget for 2008-2009 Fiscal Year

Director Page stated that, in general, she believes that this is a very conservative budget; she then reviewed each item that has been identified for the Capital Budget with an explanation as to the need. The items are as follows:

Walk behind blower	\$ 1,300
Four (4) portable interior adjustable basketball goals	6,000
Replace computer & Purchase addtnl RecTrac software	5,000
Replace basketball scoreboard in Gym	7,000
Create Reserve to reconfigure baseball/softball fields and replace lights	150,000
Additional/replacement playground equipment	10,000
PARD grant to offset playground equipment	(3,000)

Non-capital expenditures/special projects

Top dress playground surface	3,500
Top dress flower & plant beds with mulch or pine straw	5,000
Clean, seal & paint exposed exterior metal beams	5,500
Replace gutters on gymnasium	6,000

Subtotal **\$196,300**

In the Director's comments, she stated that the replacement of the portable basketball goals was a necessity, as they have become a safety issue. She was asking that the basketball scoreboard be replaced because all others had been replaced and this was the oldest one. She did note that the scoreboard continues to work. As for the ball field lights, one hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$120,000.00) was set-aside in the FY 2007-08 budget for this purpose. The Treasurer and the Director believe that it would be most prudent to establish a reserve fund for the new lights and the reconfiguration of the fields, then to add to that reserve each year. To accomplish this, there needs to be a motion to transfer the \$120,000 from FY 2007-08 to a reserve fund for the fields' reconfiguration and new lighting.

MOTION: Councilman Buckhannon moved to reaffirm the fact that a reserve fund of one hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$120,000) from the Fiscal Budget 2007-2008 is being created for the reconfiguration of the ball fields and for new lighting to be carried over to the Fiscal Budget 2008-2009; Councilwoman Rice seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) for playground equipment and repairs combines with the PARD grant to maintain the playground equipment each year. Director Page does not anticipate replacing any of the large pieces of playground equipment.

Councilman Buckhannon asked if the cost of additional surveillance cameras to cover, what are now, blind spots should be considered for inclusion in this capital budget. Director Page explained that the primary blind areas are the tennis courts and the basketball courts; she reported that there are few problems in these areas. In the past, cameras were pointed in that direction, but the area is so far away that the images were hard to see.

Councilman Buckhannon asked if the scoreboard replacement could be put off until it is no longer salvageable; the scoreboards that were replaced were outside and had suffered severely from the weather. Director Page reported that the control panel had been repaired a couple of times; it may have been hit by lightning.

MOTION: Councilman Buckhannon moved to adopt the proposed Capital Budget for FY 2008-2009 with the one (1) exception of moving the replacement of the gym scoreboard to FY 2009-2010; Councilwoman Rice seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Director Page continued with the discussion of the ball fields' reconfiguration/lighting subject; she feels that the replacement of the lights needs to be the priority. In the past, ADC Engineering had designed a master plan for the Recreation Center with the reconfiguration of the ball fields, a press box and new lighting included. The design was sent to professional estimators; these estimates for the lighting alone were a quarter of a million dollars. The Committee encouraged the Director to seek grants and other sources of funding for the reconfiguration of the ball fields.

Councilman Buckhannon suggested that the proposal or designs generated by ADC be pulled from the files for another review and for Councilman Duffy to familiarize himself with them. He also suggested that personnel from ADC, who had been involved with the design, come to an upcoming Committee meeting to inform them of exactly what the Council is looking to achieve.

Administrator Tucker stated that, since the replacement of the lights seems to be the chief concern, possibly the lights could be replaced as they currently exist, but, when the electrical is installed, it be done underground in such a way as to allow for the lights to be moved in the future. This would result in a smaller phase one project that contemplates the bigger project in the future. The Committee was very receptive to this idea. The Administrator also noted the possibility of using the SCE&G non-standard service clause to offset some of the costs.

3. Special Event Request – ALS Race on June 7, 2008

Director Page informed the Committee that the City has been approached to hold the ALS Race here on June 7, 2008. She stated that she has no objections to this and that she has spoken with Chief Buckhannon has voiced no concerns with the event. Councilwoman Rice noted that Piccolo Spoleto at the Beach is the same day. The Director reminded the Committee that the ALS Race takes place in the evening and, therefore, will not conflict with the other event. The Committee was also reminded that the ALS Race is on the list of Approved Annual Events for the City. Director Page had assuaged the concerns of the Committee, so the event will be held as requested.

7. Miscellaneous

Next meeting date: 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 4, 2008.

8. Adjourn

MOTION: With no further business to come before the Committee, Councilman Buckhannon moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m.; Councilwoman Rice seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland, City Clerk