

RECREATION COMMITTEE
5:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 5, 2009

The regular meeting of the Recreation Committee was held at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 5, 2009 at the Recreation Center at 24 Twenty-eighth Avenue, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Chairwoman Rice and Councilman Duffy, Administrator Tucker, Director Page, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban and City Clerk Copeland. Councilman Buckhannon's absence was excused.

1. 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 Duffy moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 1, 2009 as submitted; Chairwoman Rice seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **Citizens' Comments** - None

4. **Departmental Report** - Director Page

Director Page reported that there was a lot of activity at the Recreation Center in April, especially the week of spring break. For the Bike Rodeo on Saturday, May 2, there were only fifteen (15) young people to attend, but they were taught road safety, car awareness and basic operation of their bicycles. Each participant was given a new helmet, as well as a bicycle bell and reflectors. The Director noted that the on-going classes continue to be well attended. She was pleased with the number of children who participated in the activities during spring break despite the fact that few were interested in the Science Camp day. Since participation continues to be good for Friday Night Hoops, the program will continue indefinitely. Two (2) new programs being offered are a line dancing class and Saturday yoga. Athletics have been going well, and Director Page complimented Ben Hull for the new programs he has started. Director Page reported that registration has begun for the athletic camps and that she expects them to fill once school is out.

On the topic of special events, the Director reported that seven hundred (700) children had attended the Easter Egg Hunt. Camp Summershine was filled in the first two (2) weeks of registration. As usual, the yard sale was a tremendous success with sixty (60) booths rented this year. Roles have been cast for "The Wizard of Oz" which will be performed for Piccolo Spoleto Goes to the Beach, June 3 through June 6. The Piccolo Spoleto Sand Sculpting contest will be held on Saturday, May 3 beginning at 9 a.m.

The Employee Wellness program continues to be successful, and the staff is planning the second Wellness Fair for September. The staff is also hard at work developing new ideas and programs for the fall.

On the subject of the triathlon, Director Page stated that, in her opinion, the City should re-address that event, because there appear to be some organizational and traffic issues. She noted that it appears to be an Isle of Palms event when the events take place on the island, and the only thing involving Mount Pleasant is the end of the event. In addition, she reported that the intersection at the Connector was tied up for some three (3) hours.

Administrator Tucker stated that the City has a commitment to Mount Pleasant for a specific number of years, but she did not remember exactly how many or when it ended.

5. Old Business
Middle School Dances

Director Page informed the Committee that only forty (40) young people had attended the April dance and that she has cancelled the one scheduled for May. She stated that she prefers not to set a specific number of dances for next year, but would like to gauge continuing the dances by the number of young people who attend the first dance.

6. New Business – None

7. Miscellaneous Business

Based on Kai Dilling's comments to City Council on April 28, Mayor Cronin has asked that Director Page speak to the issue of surf camp. Administrator Tucker related the history of surf camp stating that the City had taken a business that was operating illegally on the beach and made it legal by including it as a Recreation Department activity. It worked well for two (2) seasons and was well attended, but it was difficult to provide the type of supervision that was needed because the camp was an off-site activity. The decision was ultimately made to end the camp. A conflict ensued between the City and the surf camp provider, which was resolved in a manner in which no blame was assigned and the least possible expense was incurred. This same person appeared before City Council requesting a franchise agreement with the City to operate the camp on the beach again; Administrator Tucker stated that the City has no franchises on the beach.

Mayor Cronin has requested that the Recreation Department comment on whether the City should consider offering surf camp again. Director Page noted that surfing was a dangerous sport, and proper supervision of an off-site activity remains a major concern.

The Director informed the Committee that the City's insurance carrier has expressed serious concerns about this activity. She stated that, should the Committee decide to pursue surf camp, she wanted to select the instructor in the same way that all other Recreation Department instructors are selected by going through the application process, having an interview, the background check and drug screening. Director Page concluded her comments stating that she did not want to hold surf camp; she related that she had been Waterfront Director for thirteen (13) years and knew just how quickly an accident could occur, but she added that she would follow the directions of the Committee.

Chairwoman Rice stated that she thought surf camp was an activity that the City should offer and, if possible, should be considered. She noted that there was a huge demand for surfing lessons on the island and that the young people benefited in several ways.

Director Page was asked to contact the Parks and Recreation Department of Charleston County to find out if surfing lessons could be taught at the County Park, thereby taking the Isle of Palms out of the equation; she agreed to call the next day.

Director Page stated that Bill Schupp had contacted her about the ALS Race – he apparently thought the Recreation Department was involved; he has been approached by the organizers asking that he close the City lot at 4 p.m. and to allow the runners to park.

Administrator Tucker noted that Mr. Schupp has a contract with the City that gives him jurisdiction over the parking lots; therefore, she opined that this was an issue between him and the ALS Race organizers.

The next meeting was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9, 2009.

8. Adjourn

**MOTION: Councilman Duffy moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:11 p.m.;
Chairwoman Rice seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk