

VERO BEACH RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Tuesday, March 8, 2016 – 4:00 p.m.

City Hall, Council Chambers, Vero Beach, Florida

PRESENT: Chairman, Richard Yemm; Members: Greg Holtan, Judy Jones, Sue Dinunno, and Alternate Member Christina Pierce Also Present: Recreation Director, Rob Slezak, Assistant Recreation Director, Patty Howard; and Senior Administrative Assistant, Rita Hawkins

Excused Absences: Bobbi Burdick and Angie Schepers

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called today's meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and the Senior Administrative Assistant performed the roll call.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A) January 12, 2016 – Regular Meeting
- B) January 26, 2016 – Special Call Joint Recreation Commission/Marine Commission Public Workshop
- C) February 9, 2016 – Special Call Joint Recreation Commission/Marine Commission Meeting
- D) February 11, 2016 – Special Call Recreation Commission Meeting

Mrs. Dinunno made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2016 Regular Meeting, the January 26, 2016 Special Call Joint Recreation Commission/Marine Commission Public Workshop, the February 9, 2016 Special Call Joint Recreation Commission/Marine Commission Meeting, and the February 11, 2016 Special Call Recreation Commission Meeting. Mr. Holtan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Yemm asked that Item 4-A) be heard first on today's agenda. There were no objections from the Recreation Commission members.

3. CITIZEN INPUT

- A) Indian River Sports Complex Proposal of a Game Field – Mr. Derek Muller, President of Baseball Operations

Mr. Derek Muller, President of Indian River Sports Complex, said that they currently have a lease with the City for Michael Field. Adjacent to the game field there are sand lots that are used as practice fields, but they would like to turn one of them into another game field. Currently there are 32 baseball teams and they play two (2) games each night on Michael Field and Thompson Field. That leaves 24 teams sharing the sand lots for practice time. The Indian River Sports Complex's electric bill last year was \$21,000, so if they had another game field they could play more Saturday games and cut down on the electric use. Right now they are in need of another field they can play games on and have a better practice fields. If they built the game field they would also improve two (2) of the sand fields to make them better for practicing. If

they got permission to build this field they would want to extend their lease. Their current lease is for five (5) years and renewable in five (5) year increments, but they would like a longer lease of 10 or 20 years. The league is growing rapidly and they need more space for the children to play on. Anyone will still be able to use the fields by giving him a call. He will gladly schedule other sport teams practice times when the fields are not being used.

Ms. Jones asked if the Elks Club had any property they could let them work with.

Mr. Muller explained that the Elks Club is south of the existing Michael field so that would not work. They already share a parking area with the Elks Club at Michael Field and they have a good relationship with them.

Mrs. Dinunno asked if they have to wait until the end of their current lease to renegotiate the terms. Mr. Slezak replied no.

Mr. Yemm stated that based on this proposal they will end up with two (2) game fields and two (2) practice fields on this property.

Mr. Muller said that is correct. He would also like to construct a few more batting cages.

Mr. Yemm asked how many acres does it take to build a field.

Mr. Muller stated that a Little League size field would take approximately two (2) acres, so they would need eight (8) acres to build a quad field.

Mr. Holtan asked if the distance is still 200 feet to the outfield fence.

Mr. Muller explained that most game fields are 225 feet and that is the required distance for the Cal Ripkin League Baseball rules. If they hold the district tournaments here they would be required to have two (2) game fields with a concession stand. At least one of the fields would have to have a grass infield, a pitching mound, and be a distance of 225 feet to the fence. He said if they could start with this field and show progress they will be able to get more investors and possibly do fundraising for lights. He stated that there is actually enough room there to build a third field and with Thompson Field that would give them a total of four (4) game fields.

Mr. Yemm asked what percentage of the participants are City versus County residents.

Mr. Muller reported that during the spring session 19.5 percent were City residents.

Mrs. Dinunno asked Mr. Slezak if he was in favor of this project. Mr. Slezak replied yes.

Mrs. Dinunno asked what do they need to do to move this forward. Mr. Yemm replied that they can make a recommendation, but he believes a big issue will be with parking. If the Recreation Commission makes a recommendation to the City Council they will kick it back for site plan approval, which will require designated parking and that will take up a lot of space.

Mr. Jim O'Connor, City Manager, explained that a site plan can be approved with a parking agreement with the Elks Club, so there are ways of working around it. He said this is a great use

for this facility, because it was an under used asset until the Indian River Sports Complex got involved and changed the whole dynamics of the field. He will highly endorse this proposal and a modification to the lease if that will help them raise the funds they need to move forward.

Mr. Yemm made a motion recommending that the Recreation Commission forward the concept of building a baseball game field, providing they get a site plan approval and that the City Council considers giving them a 20-year lease. Mrs. Dinunno seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Slezak commented that Mr. Muller and his group will continue to solicit the County for help in trying to get more fields.

B) Mrs. Leslie Spurlock, Tobacco Prevention Specialist, to Discuss the Negatives of Chewing Tobacco

Mrs. Leslie Spurlock, Tobacco Prevention Specialist, stated that she has met with Mr. Slezak and the City Council many times about different tobacco issues. She said that she came to today's meeting to expose them to some new smokeless tobacco products. She said the purpose of her presentation is to see if they can work together to have all of the sports teams and children's organizations have a mission statement or a policy in place that states they are providing a healthy play environment for all children. This means not just for the umpires, referees, and coaches, but also the parents need to provide a clean and tobacco free environment. She proceeded with a Power Point Presentation (on file in the City Clerk's office).

Mrs. Dinunno asked Mrs. Spurlock what she would like the Recreation Commission to do.

Mrs. Spurlock said that she would like to know if the Recreation Commission would support requiring people who lease the City facilities to promote, maintain, and publicize a tobacco free environment for the children. She reported that Martin County made their fairgrounds tobacco free and posted signage stating no smoking, no vaping, and no dipping. She is going to talk with Indian River County about possibly doing the same thing.

Mr. Yemm commented that the City already has a smoke free policy at the City playgrounds.

Mr. Slezak stated that there are currently "no smoking signs" at Leisure Square and the Riverside Tennis facilities, but they could easily be changed to tobacco free signs. He said that most of the City facilities that deal with recreation are with Mr. Muller's organization and he feels that Mr. Muller would be receptive to posting signs. He is not sure how their organization can enforce it, but he thinks they would at least ask people not to use tobacco products.

Mr. Yemm stated that with the other groups it would just have to be voluntary, because it would be a lot of work if they had to change all the contracts.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A) Sunshine Law Review – Mrs. Peggy Lyon, Assistant City Attorney

9-7-6

