

VERO BEACH RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
Tuesday, May 10, 2016 – 4:00 p.m.
City Hall, Council Chambers, Vero Beach, Florida

PRESENT: Chairman, Richard Yemm; Vice-Chairman, Bobbi Burdick; Members: Greg Holtan, Judy Jones, and Sue Dinunno **Also Present:** Recreation Director, Rob Slezak, Assistant Recreation Director, Patty Howard; and Senior Administrative Assistant, Rita Hawkins

Excused Absences: Angie Schepers and Christina Pierce

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called today's meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. and the Senior Administrative Assistant performed the roll call.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) April 5, 2016

Mr. Holtan made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2016 Recreation Commission meeting. Mrs. Dinunno seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. CITIZEN INPUT

None

4. NEW BUSINESS

None

5. OLD BUSINESS

A) Review Recreation Department Staff Budget Recommendations

Mr. Rob Slezak, Recreation Director, reported that he met with the City Manager regarding the Recreation Department's budget and right now they are looking at a flat budget. The Recreation Department's staff had plenty of recommendations and most of them are in the five-year capital plan.

Mr. Yemm asked Mr. Slezak to go through each of the staff's recommendation and let me know where they fall in the budget.

Mr. Slezak said the first item was a request for a larger parent viewing room in the Center Stage building. This item is in the budget again for 2016-2017 and it will be one of two scenarios. Either they will expand the current Center Stage building, or they will be acquiring a new building. The request for a covering over the basketball court is in the 2020-2021 budget. Also in the 2016-2017 budget is the request for multiple awnings, which includes the covering for the main entrance to the Center Stage building.

Mr. Yemm asked if it would help if they informed the Recreation Commission members on what is involved with obtaining the new building and to make a motion.

Mr. Jim O'Connor, City Manager, suggested that if the building is something the Recreation Department wants it would be good to make a motion. There are still challenges with Planning and Zoning on where they want it located. They also need to work out the details on moving the building and pouring the cement slab.

Mr. Slezak said that the Purchasing Department is currently assessing the proposal from the engineers to inspect the building. They want to make sure it is sound and safe for moving. He explained that the building they are looking at is an 8,000 square foot metal building, which is located on the Power Plant property. They would have to comply with all the City requirements and codes to have it dismantled and moved to Leisure Square.

Mrs. Burdick asked what will it be used for.

Mr. Slezak explained that it would take the place of the expansion to the Center Stage building. They could use it for performances, summer camp programs, and they would be able add more gymnastic and performing arts programs.

Mrs. Patty Howard, Assistant Recreation Director, commented that it will also provide storage and space for two (2) maintenance workers who will be losing their facility at the old Dodgertown Golf Course. They will be able to provide a larger parent viewing area in the new building, have larger groups, and have simultaneous performances by utilizing the new building and Center Stage.

Mrs. Dinunno made a motion that they endorse the Recreation Directors request to move the 8,000 square foot building from the Power Plant site to Leisure Square. Mrs. Burdick seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. O'Connor commented that if any of the Recreation Commission members want to view the building to let Mr. Slezak know and he will schedule a visit.

Mrs. Burdick asked what is the estimated cost for the Recreation Department to move the building.

Mr. Slezak explained that last year he put the expansion of the parent viewing room and a new storage building in the five-year plan, which would have cost approximately \$265,000. If they can get this new building they will not need these two items. Right now they are not sure how much it will cost to move the building.

Mr. Yemm said that with the Recreation Commission's involvement in the development of the Power Plant property, he would like to recommend that they look at the property as a group. It would be to their advantage to see how the property is laid out.

Mr. O'Connor said that should not be a problem and it will give them a better idea of the possibilities for the property. It is a nice piece of property with water on two (2) sides and a lot of natural vegetation.

Mr. Holtan asked what is the time frame for moving the building.

Mr. O'Connor explained that the cooling tower will be the first item to go, the oil tanks will be the second, and then followed by the little brown building and gas field. He is hoping that by January they will have everything removed from the property, with the exception of the big blue building and the substation.

Mr. Slezak continued with going over staff's recommendations. He said the Vero Beach Lifeguard Association and the Lifeguard Corp are still working on developing plans for a lifeguard tower at Humiston Beach. This will be in the budget for next year, but it might be an item that takes a while to achieve. A storage shed at Jaycee Beach is also in next year's budget. However, he spoke to Mr. Scott Caviness with Shark Bait Beach Gear Rentals and he may help by building a storage facility, so it will not cost the City anything. He reported that he is working with Human Resources on the request for a Lifeguard Supervisor. Recently one of the Lifeguard Lieutenants resigned from the position, so they are looking at possibly creating an Assistant Lifeguard Captain instead of filling the Lieutenant's position. There was a request to add another lifeguard tower, so he spoke with the lifeguards and they thought the best place to start would be at the south end of the Conn Beach Boardwalk, but this will take some time. For next year or the following year they are looking at the possibility of guarding Conn Beach and South Beach after 5 p.m. in the summer, because people are staying on the beaches until later in the day.

Mrs. Dinunno commented that the beach at Sexton is used a lot.

Mr. Slezak said that he agrees, but parking is an issue.

Mr. Yemm suggested that they post a sign at Sexton Plaza directing people to the guarded beaches.

Mr. Slezak explained that as people are heading over to the beaches there are signs directing them to the guarded areas. He explained that he met with GoPlayVero in April and they have selected Troy Moody Park for their next playground project. The major request by the staff was for a full-time maintenance person, but they are in the process of hiring a part-time maintenance worker. It may be hard to get a full-time worker on a flat budget, so they are starting with a part-time position to see how it goes. He believes that down the road they will need a full-time maintenance person. He said they are looking at a possible lease agreement on a software program for booking their rental facilities, programs, etc. He thought it was more of a lease and for a lot less money than the \$10,000 that was mentioned. He thought it was approximately \$1,000 - \$1,500 for the program and \$90 - \$100 per month. He is still interested in it, so he will sit down with Mr. Jeff Matthews, Leisure Square and Facility Manager, to see if it is possible to implement that by the end of the year. The suggestion for a gazebo to be built on the property south of the Bethel Creek House has been placed in the 2020-2021 budget. It would be like the grand pavilion at Riverside Park, but just a single gazebo. This project would also include landscaping and some way for people to access it.

Mrs. Burdick asked what is in the long-term budget for the rental buildings because they are in such bad shape.

Mr. Slezak reported that this year the Community Center, Bethel Creak House, and Riverhouse are having exterior work done. This includes pressure washing, painting, stucco work, etc. and the Community Center will get long window shades. Next year will be the windows, floors, and doors for those facilities.

Mrs. Burdick asked if any changes will be made to the Community Center's kitchen, especially the sinks and cabinets.

Mr. Slezak replied not yet, but he can probably include it for next year. They are also working on a public private partnership with a group who might be willing to put in a dance floor at the Community Center. The staff requested that some work be done at the Riverside Racquet facility and that has been scheduled for the 2020-2021 budget. The request for shirts for all the Recreation staff should be possible this year, but the request for pay increases is something they will have to look at. He said that he informed Riverside Racquet that they can purchase a sign and he will also be looking at some signs to be placed along the walking trail. In the future he would like to try to get volunteers to do some of the projects like pressure washing the playground equipment, benches, etc.

Mr. Slezak stated that he will be turning in his budget information next week, but he is not sure on the date he will be meeting with the City Manager. The budget hearings with the City Council are July 13th – 15th.

Mrs. Dinunno asked if they will have an opportunity to look over the Recreation Department's revenue.

Mr. Slezak replied yes. He explained that a while back the City Council approved maximum rates and a lot of the rates they are currently charging are way below the maximum that is allowed. He would like to increase some of the fees as they get the updates and repairs done on the facilities.

Mr. Yemm asked where are their greatest demands.

Mr. Slezak replied that the community events are growing, there are a lot of not-for-profit groups raising funds, and they all like to use City property. The performing arts and gymnastics programs are growing incrementally and now that they have a little more staff it allows them to accept more students. The rental facilities are seasonal, but Saturdays are always booked. The Community Center is a popular location and is used all year long. He also explained how the scholarship program works and how it makes a huge difference with families in the community who need help so that their children can attend summer camp.

Mr. Slezak reported that the Parks, beaches, playgrounds, and the fountain are packed and the attendance is growing like crazy. Based on his observation over Mother's Day weekend they will need to add another dumpster at Jaycee Beach and Humiston Beach.

Mr. Yemm asked how do people get access to the pavilions.

Mr. Slezak explained that the two (2) rental pavilions are the grand pavilion and the picnic pavilion. All the rest of the pavilions are first come first serve and people get there very early to claim them especially on Saturdays and Sundays.

6. RECREATION DIRECTOR’S MATTERS

None

7. CHAIRMAN’S MATTERS

None

8. MEMBER’S MATTERS

Mrs. Dinunno stated that she attended the Pirate Fest planning meeting and they are expanding it this year. They will be holding the event at Royal Palm Pointe and they asked the Vero Beach Art Club if they would be interested in holding an art show during the event. The businesses along Royal Palm Pointe will all be holding an open house on Saturday, but Sunday will be optional for them. If they can get a pontoon boat they will transport people from Riverside Park to Royal Palm Pointe. The Vero Beach Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the event and the dates are July 29th-31st.

Mr. Slezak reported that last year the Pirate Fest was held in late July or early August and 10,000 – 15,000 people attended the event. They hold this event at a time that is relatively quiet here, so it is an ideal time.

Mrs. Burdick asked if the City will have the July 4th event this year.

Mr. Slezak replied that the Family, Fun, and Fireworks event for July 4th is going to take place. He said that Mulligan’s and the Treasure and Space Coast Radio are again the big sponsors.

Ms. Jones asked if the City has anything to do with the Hibiscus Festival, because she said it keeps getting better every year. Mr. Slezak replied that the Recreation Department only helps guide them.

Ms. Jones also congratulated the Recreation Department for putting on a great performance at the Relay for Life event.

9. NEXT MEETING DATES

A) Next Recreation Commission Meeting Date– June 14, 2016

The next regular Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for June 14, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. in the City Hall, Council Chambers

10. ADJOURNMENT

Today’s meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

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