

VERO BEACH RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
Tuesday, June 14, 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; Planning and Development Director, Tim McGarry; City Attorney, Wayne Comment, and Senior Administrative Assistant, Rita Hawkins

Excused Absence: Christina Pierce

Unexcused Absence: 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) May 9, 2016 – Joint Marine Commission / Recreation Commission Meeting

Mr. Holtan made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2016 Joint Marine Commission/Recreation Commission meeting. Ms. Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

B) May 10, 2016 – Regular Meeting

Mrs. Dinunno made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2016 regular Recreation Commission meeting. Mr. Yemm seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

4. NEW BUSINESS

A) Vero Beach Art Club's Art in the Park - Mrs. Yvonne Steere

Mrs. Yvonne Steere, Vero Beach Art Club, explained that Art in the Park is sponsored by the Vero Beach Art Club. A portion of the Artist's commission from their art sales goes back to the Art Club to support the Club's community projects. The Art Club exhibits their creative work at Humiston Park on the sidewalk along Ocean Drive and this year there will be 10 Sundays from October through April that they will hold their Art in the Park events. She said that when Humiston Park was redesigned several years ago, the Art Club was assured that there would be space available for the artist's tents. The Art Club would like to thank the City of Vero Beach and the Recreation Department, specifically Mr. Rob Slezak, Recreation Director, and his staff for supporting their work. The Art Club is all about promoting good will on behalf of the youth

and families, so they would like to present the Recreation Department with a check for \$1,000 for the scholarship program so that children can attend Summer Camp that otherwise could not afford to do so.

Mr. Jay Kramer, Mayor, said that on behalf of the City of Vero Beach he would like to give a huge thank you to the Vero Beach Art Club. He said it is great to see so much enthusiasm for helping the children. The City greatly appreciates the Art Club helping out to support the community.

Mr. Rob Slezak, Recreation Director, reported that there are 35 children registered for the scholarship assistance program. He believes they will utilize \$12,000 – \$14,000 from this program so that children can participate this summer. This fund was set up and has been utilized for decades, because they believe that no one should be turned away from recreation. He wants to make sure this program continues and that they continue to receive community support. The Art Club has been an outstanding partner over the years and he thanks them for that.

B) Site Plan Application #MA16-000007 – Indian River Rowing Club Facility Fence – Indian River Rowing Club Representatives

Mr. Slezak announced that several representatives from the Indian River Rowing Club (IRRC) are attending today's meeting to discuss their revised plans.

Mr. Wesley Mills, Mills, Short & Associates, introduced himself and said that they have a short Power Point presentation (on file in the City Clerk's office).

Mr. Gary Marra, Rowing Club Director, and Youth Team Head Coach, stated that in the past year the IRRC has had some major accomplishments. They now have close to 50 rowers in the youth program and they had a group of 10 girls who set two (2) world records on the Concept 2 Indoor Rowers. He continued with a Power Point presentation showing pictures of the Rowing Club teams and listing their accomplishments. He said rowing keeps growing, they are in the beginning stages of starting a veterans rowing program, and they received support from a Storm Grove middle school teacher who will guide and help expand the middle school rowing program.

Mr. Mills stated that he will provide a briefing on phase 1 of the project, which includes a request for a waiver. Phase 1 will utilize approximately half an acre on the southwest corner of the proposed property. The proposed site plan for phase 1 is to construct the dock as well as a storage area with boat racks and a storage container for the oars and the shells. Phase 1 also includes a perimeter fence around the storage area with one (1) large access gate and one (1) pedestrian gate. All the fencing within public view will have landscaping or a hedge to screen the fence. The proposed plan does not include removing any of the existing Oak trees, but there are several Palm trees that will be removed and mitigated in compliance with the City's Land Development Ordinance. He showed on the Power Point presentation the area that will be enclosed with a fence. He explained that the City's Land Development Ordinance would allow a 6-foot fence along the interior sections of the property, but only a 4-foot fence along the side adjacent to the roadway. As part of the Phase 1 site plan they are requesting a 6-foot fence around the entire area for security purposes. Phase 1 also includes some proposed lighting and water service with one (1) hose bib for washing down the equipment. He showed examples of fences with shrubs and explained there are some fences along roadways within the City that are

higher than 4-feet. He believes that 6-foot fencing is regularly used around City Parks and recreational areas, so they are hoping for support on this variance.

Mr. Dinunno asked if he could provide more information about the lighting.

Mr. Mills explained that they are proposing three (3) overhead lights within the storage area for security purposes. He showed pictures of the items that will be kept on sight, which include a temporary storage container, boat racks, and oar racks.

C) Code Compliance Certification Application #CC16-000173 – Indian River Rowing Club Facility Boat Dock – Indian River Rowing Club Representatives

Mr. Mills continued with the Power Point presentation and discussed the proposed floating dock, which is across the road from the storage area. Safety features that are in compliance with Federal and State regulations for crosswalks are part of the plan, which includes road markings and signs.

Mrs. Burdick asked if the dock will be available to the public.

Mr. Mills replied yes, because that is a requirement of the lease. He said they resubmitted the plans to the City today that will hopefully satisfy a few minor technical items that were pointed out. They are also working with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for the dock permit. He continued with the Power Point presentation.

Mr. Holtan asked if this will be a large enough area to accommodate all the rowers.

Mr. Mills replied that it should be sufficient, so they are going to make it work with the space they have.

Mrs. Dinunno asked what is going to replace the ugly trailer.

Mrs. Shotsi Lajoie, Indian River Rowing Club, replied it will be replaced with the big beautiful boathouse. The items that are currently stored in the trailer will go in the boathouse along with their boats and oars. The racks will remain there and the existing phase 1 storage site will turn into an area for visiting teams.

Mr. Mills stated that the design team for phase 2 has been assembled and the architect is in the process of creating building plans.

Mr. Yemm asked if there is going to be any improved parking for phase 1.

Mr. Mills replied that with phase 1 they plan on constructing two (2) parking spaces along the street, but phase 2 will include a significant amount of parking.

Mr. Tim McGarry, Planning and Development Director, stated that they are still reviewing the parking and it is the minimum needed, but phase 2 will take care of the parking. There are still a few issues to work out, which include a variance for the fence and the storage container will need

to be elevated above the flood level to meet the flood plain regulations. It will be very difficult to meet all the requirements for a variance. He suggested having a change in the regulations. If there are problems with the City Code then they need to deal with the Code and not just give variances. He said that his staff will be recommending denial of the variance.

Mrs. Dinunno made motion to approve the plan for the boat dock. Mrs. Burdick seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Yemm asked what access does the public have to these areas.

Mr. McGarry explained that the storage area is gated off and not accessible, but there is a license agreement that allows the public to use the dock. When the rowing club is using the dock the public will be more restricted.

Mrs. Burdick asked if they thought about any other type of security at night.

Mrs. Dinunno suggested that they use motion sensing lights instead of having them on all the time, because she thinks that will be intrusive to the natural environment.

Mr. Todd Young, President of the IRRC, explained that their intent is to use motion-sensing lights. The purpose of the fence is to try to protect their property as much as possible, because they have close to \$180,000 worth of equipment.

Mr. Yemm stated that he would like to go back to the discussion on the site plan application for the fence. He said his understanding was that the Rowing Club's equipment would be stored in the boathouse once it is built and the area around the building would be accessible to the public.

Mr. Wayne Comment, City Attorney, explained that the lease specifically states that the IRRC is in possession and their duty is to control access to this property, with the exception of the dock. The public will have use of the dock when the IRRC is not using it.

Ms. Dinunno asked if they can make a motion to move the site plan application forward for the fence, or do they have to wait on the ruling for the variance.

Mr. Yemm suggested that they table it, because there might be changes in the regulations.

Mr. McGarry stated at this time it is just conceptual, but he believes that there is enough information for the Recreation Commission to approve the concept.

Mrs. Dinunno asked if the hedge will be as tall as the fence.

Mr. Mills replied that he believes it will be as tall, or even taller than the fence.

Mr. Jim O'Connor, City Manager, said as Mr. McGarry stated, his department will oppose the 6-foot fence if there is variance requested, but if the Planning and Zoning Board wants to change the Code to allow 6-foot fencing for recreational type uses then they might have a different outcome. The main question to the Recreation Commission is if there are any objections to a landscaped chain link fence in that area, and does it matter if it is a 4-foot or 6-foot fence. This

will only be a recommendation and not a final decision, but the Recreation Commission's input would be taken under consideration.

Mr. Yemm asked if this will go before the Planning and Zoning Board.

Mr. O'Connor said that it will go to the Planning and Zoning Board as well as to the City Council. Since this is on recreational property they wanted to make sure the Recreation Commission had input on it.

Mrs. Dinunno made a motion to accept the concept of the Indian River Rowing Club's Phase 1 site plan. Mrs. Burdick seconded the motion.

Mr. Yemm said that realistically this will be in the hands of the Planning and Zoning Board.

The motion passed unanimously.

5. OLD BUSINESS

None

6. RECREATION DIRECTOR'S MATTERS

A) Family, Fun, and Fireworks - July 4th – Mr. Rob Slezak, Recreation Director

Mr. Slezak reported that the Family, Fun, and Fireworks event will take place on July 4th at Riverside Park starting at 4:00 p.m. There will be five (5) bands performing, food vendors, beer and wine sales, and a nice children's area. The Fireworks start promptly at 9:00 p.m. They appreciate the great sponsors for this event, which includes Mulligan's, Treasure and Space Coast Radio, the City, and the County.

Mrs. Patty Howard, Assistant Recreation Director, announced that the Areal Antics Circus will take place on August 4th, 5th, and 6th at St. Edwards School. Each show will be at 7:00 p.m. The theme this year is love and it is titled Cirque de L'amour.

Mr. Yemm asked how is the registration going for summer camp. Mr. Slezak reported that the numbers are higher than they thought they would be.

7. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

None

8. MEMBER'S MATTERS

Mrs. Dinunno stated that she was at the Dog Park and noticed that the gate on the big dog side of the Park was not locked. She thought it was going to be locked.

Mr. O'Connor explained that locking the gate is the responsibility of the Dog Park group. The City is responsible for the no parking signs and the parking enforcement. He commented that the

Dog Park group's plan for an improved parking area was approved and work on it should start in a couple of weeks.

Mrs. Dinunno reported that the Pirate Fest will take place in July at Riverside Park and Royal Palm Pointe. During this event the Vero Beach Art Club will have an Art Show on July 30th at Royal Palm Pointe.

Ms. Jones suggested that it would be nice for the Recreation Commission to send a note of condolence to the Able family for the loss of Mr. Sabe Able.

Mrs. Burdick said that she read that the trashcans on the beaches are over flowing. She asked if this was addressed.

Mr. O'Connor explained that it is being addressed and the City will be recommending changing the trash pickup schedule from five (5) days a week to seven (7) days. The holidays are overwhelming and the activity on the beaches is up. They are going to place more garbage cans on the beach and they may see if Keep Indian River Beautiful will provide any recycling containers. During turtle nesting season they cannot have big motorized vehicles on the beaches, so they will continue to use the swivel type cans that can be dumped out easily. They have also had to increase the size of the dumpsters at some of the Parks.

Mr. Slezak reported that an ATV is in the budget for next year. An ATV was also given to them from the Power Plant and they are still having discussions with Shark Bait about utilizing their ATV.

Mr. Yemm asked if there was a full time maintenance worker in this year's budget. Mr. Slezak replied no, but they have hired a part time maintenance employee who will be starting next week.

9. NEXT MEETING DATES

A) Next Recreation Commission Meeting Date– July 12, 2016

Mr. Yemm recommended canceling the July meeting and possibly the August meeting, unless something comes up that they need to discuss.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Today's meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

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