

VERO BEACH RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, April 5, 2016 – 4:00 p.m.
Leisure Square, 3705 16th Street, Vero Beach, Florida

AGENDA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - A) March 8, 2016**
- 3. CITIZEN INPUT**
- 4. NEW BUSINESS**
 - A) Recreation Department Staff Input for Budget Discussion**
- 5. OLD BUSINESS**
- 6. RECREATION DIRECTOR'S MATTERS**
- 7. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS**
- 8. MEMBER'S MATTERS**
- 9. NEXT MEETING DATES**
 - A) Joint Marine Commission/Recreation Commission Meeting Date – May 9, 2016**
 - B) Next Regular Recreation Commission Meeting Date– May 10, 2016**
- 10. ADJOURNMENT**

This is a Public Meeting. Should any interested party seek to appeal any decision made by the Commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Anyone who needs a special accommodation for this meeting may contact the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator at 978-4920 at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

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

Mrs. Peggy Lyon, Assistant City Attorney, said that she was at today's meeting to briefly review the Sunshine Law. She commented that a couple of months ago the Commission members were emailed a request to review a video she made called "Top 10 Sunshine Law and Public Records Law Questions". If the Commission members had a chance to review it, this would be a good time to answer any questions they might have. She said that she provided the Commission members with the current addition of the Brechner Report that is published by the University of Florida (on file in the City Clerk's office). It provides information on a lot of issues throughout the State of Florida on Public Records Law and the Sunshine Law. She recommended when they have a chance to read through it, because this is the law and they have to abide by it. She said the Sunshine Law is fairly easy. Any matters or items of business that may come before the Recreation Commission need to be discussed as a group during their meetings where minutes are taken. Any other discussions including email, facebook, text, twitter, tweet, phone conversations, or in writing is not allowed. If they look at it that way it is simple. The Public Records Law is similar. Anything they send or receive that has to do with the business of the Recreation Commission has to be retained pursuant to the State retention schedule.

Ms. Jones said they are working closely with the Marine Commission right now, so do they have to watch talking with or being around the Marine Commission members.

Mrs. Lyon replied no. She explained that the Sunshine Law only applies to members of the Commission they serve on. They can talk one-on-one with the Marine Commission members, City Council members, and City staff.

Mr. Holtan asked if every State has this same type of law like Florida. Mrs. Lyon replied no, but some have equal rules.

A member of the audience (name was not given) asked if two (2) Marine Commission members were together with a guest can they speak about anything. Mrs. Lyon replied no. They cannot discuss anything that may come before the Marine Commission as a matter of business, unless it is at a noticed meeting where minutes are being taken.

Mrs. Lyon recommended that the Commission member get a copy of the Government in the Sunshine Law Manual and read through it. They can also access it on the State Attorney General's website, which will allow them to search by key words.

Mr. Slezak asked what is the penalty for breaking the Sunshine Law.

Mrs. Lyon reported that an unintentional violation is a noncriminal infraction with a fine of up to \$500. A knowing violation of the Law is a second-degree misdemeanor, which carries a jail term of up to 60 days and a fine of no more than \$500. She said this may change because the State Legislature is in session and there are a lot of bills in front of them regarding the Sunshine Law and Public Records Law.

Ms. Pierce asked if the Sunshine Law pertains to the Recreation Commission members speaking with the Recreation Department. Mrs. Lyon replied no. The Commission members can speak individually with any City staff member without violating the Sunshine Law.

5. OLD BUSINESS

None

6. RECREATION DIRECTOR'S MATTERS

A) 57th Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Mrs. Patty Howard, Assistant Recreation Director, announced that the 57th Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be at Mulligan's Beach House Bar and Grill again this year on Saturday, March 19, 2016. There will be 3,000 candy-filled eggs for the hunt, which will take place on the beach behind Mulligan's starting at 10:00 a.m.

B) Aerial Antics Youth Circus Firefighters Fair Performances

Mrs. Howard reported that the Aerial Antics Youth Circus will be at the Indian River County Firefighters Fair. They will perform on Wednesday, March 16th at 6:00 pm and there will be two (2) shows on Saturday, March 19th at 2:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

C) Spring Break Cheer Camp

Mrs. Howard announced that the Spring Break Cheer Camp will take place on March 21st - 24th from 7:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Leisure Square. There will be no class on Good Friday, March 25th.

D) Gymnastics Registration – April 2nd

Mrs. Howard stated that the next gymnastics registration will take place on April 2, 2016. This session will not have a performance attached to it, so the attendance might be smaller.

E) Leisure Square Skate Park

Mr. Slezak reported that the City Council approved the Vero Beach Skate Park Alliance and the Vero Beach Lifeguard Association (VBLA) to raise funds for the Skate Park at Leisure Square.

Mr. Yemm commented that the size of the Skate Park will be determined on how much money they raise.

7. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

Mr. Yemm stated that they received an email from the VBLA reporting on the buoys that are being replaced along the Pep Reef in the Ocean (on file in the City Clerk's office). He asked Mr. Slezak if he knew what the difference was between the red and the white buoys.

Mr. Slezak explained that the email came from the VBLA, which is a 501-(c)(3) not for profit group that is not part of the Recreation Department. The VBLA is working with the County, which takes care of the buoys. He will find out what the different colors represent.

Mr. Yemm said the email indicates that there are two (2) different reefs, but he thought there was only one (1).

Mr. Slezak stated that he was not sure, but he will find out.

8. MEMBER'S MATTERS

Mrs. Dinunno stated that she provided some photos of the mural being done on the Racquetball building at Riverside Park (on file in the City Clerk's office). They are about half way finished and it should be done next week. Mr. Slezak is trying to put together a dedication ceremony on April 8, 2016. It will be a combined dedication for both the mural and the new playground installed by GoPlayVero.

Ms. Jones asked if the VBLA is associated with the City.

Mr. Slezak explained that the VBLA is nonprofit group and some of the members are Vero Beach lifeguards, but that are not part of the City's Recreation Department. Their goals are to educate the public on the lifeguard programs and to raise funds for lifeguard materials. They are now involved with the Vero Beach Skate Park.

A) Next Meeting Date – April 12, 2016

Mr. Yemm announced that the April meeting of the Recreation Commission meeting has been changed to April 5, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. They will be meeting with the Recreation Department staff at Leisure Square to discuss their budget items.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Today's meeting adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

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