

VERO BEACH RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, January 9, 2018 – 4:00 p.m.
City Hall, Council Chambers, Vero Beach, Florida

AGENDA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - A) December 12, 2017**
- 3. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- 4. NEW BUSINESS**
- 5. OLD BUSINESS**
- 6. RECREATION DIRECTOR'S MATTERS**
 - A) Facility Tours**
 - B) Gymnastics Registration January 20, 2018**
- 7. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS**
 - A) Recreation Staff Meeting in March**
- 8. MEMBER'S MATTERS**
- 9. NEXT MEETING DATE**
 - A) Next Recreation Commission Meeting Date – February 13, 2018**
- 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, December 12, 2017 – 4:00 p.m.
City Hall, Council Chambers, Vero Beach, Florida

PRESENT: Chairman, Richard Yemm; Vice Chairman, Sue Dinunno; Members: Judy Jones, Bobbi Burdick, Brooke Malone, and Alternate Member #1, Christina Pierce **Also Present:** Assistant Recreation Director, Patty Howard, and Senior Administrative Assistant, Rita Hawkins

Excused Absence: Greg Holtan

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.

Mr. Yemm welcomed Mrs. Brooke Malone, the Recreation Commission's new member.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) October 10, 2017

Mrs. Dinunno made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2017 Recreation Commission meeting. Ms. Pierce seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A) Chairman

Mr. Yemm asked for nominations for Chairman.

Mrs. Burdick made a motion to nominate Mr. Dick Yemm for Chairman. Mrs. Dinunno seconded the motion. There were no other nominations and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Yemm was elected as Chairman of the Recreation Commission.

B) Vice-Chairman

Mr. Yemm asked for nominations for Vice Chairman.

Ms. Jones made a motion to nominate Mrs. Sue Dinunno for Vice Chairman. Ms. Pierce seconded the motion. There were no other nominations and the motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Dinunno was elected as Vice Chairman of the Recreation Commission.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

This item was discussed after item 9.

Mrs. Megan Hoots, City Resident, stated that there are a number of apps online that will allow them to accept payments, including the Mind and Body app. It has a calendar that shows the

classes, how many spots are open, takes their registration, and accepts their payment. Mrs. Patty Howard, Assistant Recreation Director, said she looked at that app and she does not think it will work for their needs. They schedule some of their programs for six (6) week sessions. People can't sign up for only certain days, because they have a student to instructor ratio that they have to keep.

Mrs. Hoots asked if they ever considered inviting at risk kids to design and do a mural. This might help take their creative energy of wanting to tag stuff and put it into a proper and productive piece of art. Mrs. Dinunno commented that she was asked by a City Code Enforcement Officer if the Art Club ever thought about painting dumpster enclosures. She said that might be an area for these children who like to spray paint. She told Mrs. Hoots if this is something she would like to see happen then she needs to make it in the form of a proposal indicating what dumpster enclosure, the artwork design, etc. and then they will look at it. If it is something the Recreation Commission would recommend then they would pass it on to the City Council for their review.

Mrs. Hoots explained that the pedestrian influx at Royal Palm Pointe is because it is one (1) of three (3) destinations in Vero Beach for the popular game Pokemon Go. She stated that 6,000 people are following Pokemon Go in Vero Beach.

Mrs. Hoots stated that she hopes the Recreation Commission can come up with a plan to present to the City Council, so that the Power Plant land does not turn into condos. She recommended that the Recreation Commission be prepared with a proposal to present to the City Council, so that they have something to consider. Without proposals the City Council might look at options other than a public space.

Mrs. Dinunno explained that it is a huge project and it is bigger than just the Recreation Commission coming up with a great idea. They had three (3) workshops with numerous people making proposals on what they would like to see. Whatever goes there has to have funding, because the City does not have the money to develop that property.

Mrs. Hoots stated that there are families that live two (2) or three (3) blocks away from Leisure Square that do not know that it even exists, or what programs they offer. She believes they need to make Leisure Square great, so they are able to service the community in a big way. She would like to see Leisure Square have a facebook page, because it costs very little and it will make a big impact.

Mrs. Malone stated that Leisure Square does have a facebook page, but it is rarely updated.

Mr. Ken Daige, City resident, explained the Power Plant land is listed in the City Charter. When it was added to the ballot, the residents voted to keep it as open green space. He talks with the people in the community and what he hears is that they are not interested in developing that property. He wants to make sure that the property is protected and that it is kept as open green space for the public to enjoy.

5. NEW BUSINESS

C) Review of the Annual Report

Mr. Yemm explained that the Commission members all received a revised draft of the annual report from what was previously emailed with the agenda packet. The Recreation Commission members took a few moments to review the report.

Mr. Yemm asked if there were any other questions or comments on the report.

Mr. Jim O'Connor, City Manager, explained that the staff meeting with the Recreation Department staff is unique to the Recreation Commission. It is a meeting where the Commission members will be given a presentation by the division leaders as to their expectations and what they accomplished over the year.

Mrs. Malone asked if the five (5) page Recreation Department budget that comes out of the general budget is what they discuss at that meeting. Mr. O'Connor replied that they look at the next year's budget and discuss what goes into it. He explained that each City Department Director is given a budget worksheet to complete, which is presented back to him and the Finance Director. He recommended that Mrs. Malone set up a meeting with Mrs. Howard, Assistant Recreation Director, so she can introduce her to the individuals who make the presentations at the staff meeting. This will give her a better understanding of what they do and what their needs are.

Mrs. Howard said Mrs. Malone can meet with her or Mr. Rob Slezak, Recreation Director, and they will fill her in on how the combined Recreation Commission and Recreation Department staff meeting works.

Mrs. Burdick asked Mr. O'Connor if the City has started on any of the renovations and capital improvement projects that the Recreation Commission made recommendations on and the City Council approved. Mr. O'Connor stated that if they were approved and included in the budget then the department is authorized to proceed with them, but he is not sure where they are in that process.

Mr. O'Connor stated that the hurricane set them back a bit and they need to find contractors to do some of the specialty work, like repairing the dock at Royal Palm Pointe. The 140 grates for the fountain area were also stolen and they just got all but 14 of them returned to the City.

Mrs. Howard explained that the fountain area is still closed because without all of the grates there are holes in the ground.

Mrs. Dinunno reported that that the grates that circle two (2) of the Palm Trees at Humiston Park are also missing. She emailed this information to Mr. Monte Falls, Public Works and Engineering Director.

Mrs. Dinunno made a motion to accept the annual report as presented. Mrs. Burdick seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

6. OLD BUSINESS

None

7. RECREATION DIRECTOR'S MATTERS

A) Recap of the 59th Annual Halloween Parade and Costume Judging Contest

Mrs. Howard reported that October 28, 2017 was the 59th Annual Halloween Parade. It was a great event and lots of people turned out. She thanked the individuals who volunteered to be judges and everyone else who helped out. They are hoping that next year they can go back to the longer parade route, which starts at the Freshman Learning Center and proceeds through downtown.

B) Christmas Drama

Mrs. Howard stated that on December 3rd they had two (2) shows for their 22nd Annual Christmas Drama. There were 250 children from the performing arts and gymnastics programs that participated. It was a great, fun-filled, Vero Beach traditional event.

Mrs. Howard announced that the Mother/Daughter Tea Party will be coming up on February 3, 2018. Mrs. Burdick asked if the City works in conjunction with the County on this event. Mrs. Howard replied no. She explained that the County hosts the Daddy Daughter Dance and the City does the Mother Daughter Tea Party.

Mr. Yemm asked if they will be full. Mrs. Howard replied that they always sell out to capacity. The paper work is ready, so people can start signing up now. She said this year's Tea Party will be art themed.

Mrs. Howard announced that January 20, 2018 will be their next gymnastics and performing arts registration. That group will get to perform at the Indian River County Firefighter's Fair.

Mr. Yemm asked if people are able to register for programs on line. Mrs. Howard replied no, but they have been trying to find a program that will work for all of the Recreations Department's needs. For now the people have to register in person at Leisure Square.

Mrs. Malone asked if there is anything that keeps the Recreation Department from using an outside application for registrations and payments, because there are numerous apps that organize things like that. Mrs. Howard explained that Mr. Jeff Matthews, Leisure Square Manager, looked into a program that would handle registrations, the facilities rentals, schedules, etc. She does not know a lot about it, but she believes it would have cost about \$10,000.

Mrs. Dinunno said that the Art Club does all their registrations on line and she knows they did not pay that much for it. All of their shows, memberships, and payments are all done on line.

Mr. Yemm asked Mr. O'Connor if he was working with the Finance Department on the possibility of using credit cards. Mr. O'Connor replied yes. He explained that the Marina and the Recreation Department can take credit cards now, but they have not been able to make it available on line yet.

Mrs. Malone asked if Mr. Matthews was the person responsible for trying to find a program for the entire Recreation Department, or just Leisure Square. Mrs. Howard said that it would for Leisure Square, because everything is processed through there with the exception of the Riverside Racquetball/Tennis Complex.

Mrs. Burdick stated that all of the programs at the Community Center are all subcontracted. Mr. Yemm added that a lot of the Leisure Square programs are also subcontracted out. Mrs. Howard said a lot of them are, but they still have the gymnastics, performing arts, and some swimming programs that are not contracted out.

Mrs. Burdick asked if the Riverhouse has been repaired from the hurricane damage and if it is open yet. Mrs. Howard explained that it is not open yet, but the Public Works Department has been amazing at helping to get it repaired. In three (3) to four (4) weeks their portion of the work should be done and then the floor, doors, and appliances can be replaced.

Mr. Yemm asked what was FEMA's inspection evaluation of the Riverhouse. Mrs. Howard said that she does not know if FEMA inspected it, but she walked the property with the insurance company a few times.

Mr. O'Connor stated that FEMA does come through, but the insurance company was their primary contact on this property.

Mrs. Malone asked if she could volunteer to help with the on line registration for Leisure square.

Mrs. Howard replied that would be great.

8. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

Mr. Yemm said he is looking forward to the New Year and some new agenda items. He informed Mrs. Malone that if she has anything for future agendas that she needs to submit the information to the City Clerk's office a week before the meeting, so it can be included in their agenda packet. Mrs. Malone stated that she understood.

9. MEMBER'S MATTERS

Mrs. Malone thanked the Recreation Commission for everything they have done while volunteering. She explained that she has done quite a bit of volunteering in other areas, but not in government. She has lived in this community for 20 years and raised her children here. She said she is looking forward to getting to know each of them and leaning from them. She acknowledges that she does not bring any public service experience with her, but she has been involved with a couple of successful business ventures. She loves this town and her family enjoys the parks, beaches, playgrounds, etc. She said she has learned a lot about the interworkings of City Government and the Recreation Department by attending the City Council meetings. She has read a lot of reports, stories, and articles and she has asked a lot of questions. She commented that she is here to get involved, learn, and maybe even make the Recreation Department profitable.

Mrs. Burdick asked if the City will be getting any more murals.

Mrs. Dinunno reported that the mural on the wall on Route 60 has been severely defaced. She explained that it was reported to the Police Department several times. A woman stepped up and agreed to manage the project of redoing that mural, which is a huge job. Beyond that project she is not sure if there will be any murals done in the near future. No one has asked for one.

Mrs. Dinunno explained that she is on the Centennial Committee and she thought that Mrs. Malone might like to take that position over if she wants to hit the ground running. Mrs. Malone explained that she would have a conflict of interest, because a couple of her employees already sit on the Centennial Committee and attend all of their meetings.

Mrs. Dinunno explained that she is a helper on the Committee and does not have a set task, but she reports information back to the Recreation Commission. She stated that the Centennial Committee wants to have a tree planting ceremony and involve the schools, so she put them in touch with Ms. Jo Ann Becker, who is donating 25 Oak Trees for the event. They also want to have an art show and contest with the school children, but there is no set date for it yet.

Mrs. Malone stated that she has a list of items that she wants to tackle, so she will be spending some time with the accountants and looking over some program reports. She wants to gear up for the staff meeting at the beginning of the year and she wants to take a couple of months just to learn. Mrs. Dinunno explained to Mrs. Malone that the meeting with the Recreation staff is less technical than she might be thinking. They basically look at the budget from last year and the proposed budget for the coming year. It is not an audit job by any means.

Mrs. Malone explained that she has met a lot of people who developed and are still developing assets for the City, specifically in the Recreation Department. They are involved with fishing piers, sailing piers, skate parks, alternative playgrounds, etc. and they are generating hundreds of thousands of dollars in assets that need to be managed in a way that is successful.

Mr. Yemm stated that there are two (2) different issues. They have private versus government groups with different budgets. The City would not have successful projects such as the gazebo at Leisure Square and the new playgrounds at some of the Parks if it was not for the private organizations and donations. Back in 2008 or 2009 the budget was cut substantially and the biggest cut was in personnel. They have not recovered from that yet and the Recreation Department has been working with a skeleton crew.

Mrs. Howard stated that almost all of the programs are contracted out except for the Center Stage gymnastics and the performing arts programs for the Aerial Antics Circus.

Mr. Yemm commented that the reason the Aerial Antics Circus has survived is because there are no private vendors capable of running the program. It is unique to the State of Florida with only about three (3) others like it. Mrs. Howard explained that their instructors have grown up through the program, they are the ones who know how to teach it, and they make it successful. She believes it would be a disaster if they tried contracting it out.

Mrs. Dinunno said the reason the City is not running the other programs is because they don't have enough staff or money.

Mrs. Howard said another reason they run the Center Stage and all of the programs that take place there is because those employees also run the summer camps.

Mrs. Dinunno asked Mr. O'Connor for an update on the Power Plant.

Mr. O'Connor explained that the goal is to have the closing on or before October 1, 2018. Once the closing takes place the City will be completely out of the Electric Utility business. They

structured the agreements with FMPA and the other multiple cities so that Vero Beach will not be tied to anything that may happen in the future. He continued to discuss the process of getting the agreements signed, what steps will be taken after that, and converting the customers over.

Mrs. Dinunno asked if any other parts of Big Blue will be coming down in the meantime. Mr. O'Connor said that will be up to Florida Power and Light (FPL) and when they build the substation on the old Postal Annex property. FPL is in the process of designing it now and they have to get approval for that construction. He is anticipating that FPL will start the substation construction prior to the closing, but it is a big risk for FPL and they will need to make that decision.

Mrs. Dinunno asked at what point will the Recreation Commission start getting involved with the process of determining what will happen with the property. Mr. O'Connor said he is anticipating that sometime next summer there will be more conversations started. Once the site is cleared then the community will have a better view of what asset they are working with. He continued to discuss what meetings and discussions took place in the past and their possible options.

Mrs. Malone asked how can the public get their ideas submitted on what they would like to see the property used for. Mr. O'Connor stated that they can speak either with him, or with Mr. Tim McGarry, Planning and Development Director, and they will keep records of these requests for future discussions. Once they get to the point of making decisions the City Council will have the final decision on what will go on the property and whether to sell it or keep the property.

Mr. Yemm stated that basically the City Council will decide the direction they want to go in and they will discuss it at a City Council meeting. The last referendum states that the property has to be kept for recreational uses. It would take another vote by the public to change the Charter.

Ms. Jones asked for an update on Community Center grant. Mrs. Howard reported that they completed the grant review in front of the panel and it did not rank as high as she would have liked. It has been recommended for funding and was submitted to the Secretary of State.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2018.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Today's meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

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