

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

PRESENT: Chairman, Richard Yemm (arrived at 4:03 p.m.); Vice Chairman, Sue Dinunno; Members: Judy Jones (arrived at 4:06 p.m.), Bobbi Burdick, Brooke Malone, and Alternate Member, Greg Holtan; **Also Present:** Recreation Director, Rob Slezak, Assistant Recreation Director, Patty Howard (Arrived at 4:08 p.m.), Assistant City Attorney Stefanie Beskovoyne, and Senior Administrative Assistant, Rita Hawkins

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Vice 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) December 12, 2017

Mrs. Burdick made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2017 Recreation Commission meeting. Mrs. Malone seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

4. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business for discussion.

5. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

6. RECREATION DIRECTOR'S MATTERS

A) Facility Tours

Mr. Rob Slezak, Recreation Director, stated that they have not done tours of the Parks, playgrounds, and recreation facilities in quite a while, so he would like to put that offer out there for any of the Recreation Commission members. He asked them to email him at Rslezak@covb.org and he will schedule individual tours.

B) Gymnastics Registration January 20, 2018

Mr. Slezak announced that the gymnastics registration will be held on January 20, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. at Leisure Square. This program is heavily attended, so they recommend that parents get there early.

7. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

A) Recreation Staff Meeting in March

Mrs. Dinunno stated that their meeting with the Recreation Department staff will take place in March. She asked if it will be held at Leisure Square. Mr. Slezak reported that the meeting will be on March 13, 2018 at Leisure Square. This is the time that the staff will come forward with their ideas of what they would like to see included in the budget and even future wishes. He will confirm the location of the meeting and notify the City Clerk's office. He will try to schedule it indoors if possible.

Mrs. Malone asked if this meeting normally takes place after the approval of the budget in February. Mr. Slezak explained that normally in late March or early April he will start getting information from the City Manager and his packet from the Finance Department, which is a line by item budget. Before he submits the information back to the Finance Department they hold the Recreation Department staff meeting to gather their information.

Mrs. Malone asked to confirm that in February Mr. Slezak will present to the Recreation Commission his plans for the Recreation Department's budget, the Recreation Commission approves it, he will submit it to Finance, and then he will come back to the Recreation Commission with his plans on what he is going to do with what the City gives him in his budget.

Mr. Yemm clarified that the Recreation Commission does not approve the proposed budget. They are an Advisory Commission and they make suggestions to Mr. Slezak.

Mr. Slezak stated that he will provide the Recreation Commission with any special details or information regarding the budget. He can provide the Recreation Commission with an update in April to discuss any additional thoughts or ideas on the proposed budget. The City Manager and the Finance Director will meet with Mrs. Patty Howard, Assistant Recreation Director, and himself sometime in June to go over the budget. In July they will present the budget to the City Council for their approval, so there will be plenty of time to evaluate and assess what they are doing.

8. MEMBER'S MATTERS

Mrs. Malone asked if they have a City Council representative that is a sponsor specifically for the Recreation Commission. Mr. Slezak replied no. Mr. Yemm said that to his knowledge no other Commissions have someone that works with them.

Mrs. Malone stated that there are a few boards that have City Council sponsors. Mr. Yemm explained that if they have anything of significance then they will ask to be placed on the City Council's agenda.

Mr. Slezak explained that the City Council members can also recommend items for the Recreation Commission to discuss or research.

Mrs. Malone stated that she met with Mr. Jeff Matthews, Leisure Square Manager, and she noticed that they already started their facebook page. At the end of their meeting she told Mr. Matthews that he just needs to get out there and kind of flirt with the community and entice

them. Mr. Slezak said that Mrs. Howard has been working hard on developing the facebook page and he agrees that is a good conduit for getting the word out. He said there is a lot of positive feedback, but there are also a few negative comments. They can approach the individuals about the negative issues, but the positive feedback always reinforces what they do and what they are all about.

Mrs. Malone asked if a sign was put up at Royal Palm Pointe explaining why it is closed. Mrs. Howard explained that a sign was put up on December 13, 2017, but then the area was opened up that weekend for the boat parade. Now the sign is down and the gates are open, but they are just waiting for the water to be turned on for the fountain.

Mrs. Malone asked Mrs. Howard if she has put any thought into what kind of posts they will put on the facebook page, because it takes a lot of work. Mrs. Howard replied that she spent a whole day gathering information about the Recreation Department and the events that are taking place. If Mrs. Malone looks at the City of Vero Beach's Recreation Department facebook page she will see all kinds of new information out there.

Mrs. Burdick asked for an update on the grant for the Community Center. Mr. Slezak reported that their number was kind of low, but it was not due to any fault with the grant. He thinks a lot of it was due to the building not being a historic site, because it was a historical grant. He said that the grant application was moved forward and they should be notified in March or April if it was chosen.

Mrs. Dinunno commented that at their last meeting the topic of painting murals was discussed. A suggestion was made about the possibility of using dumpster enclosures for murals. After a survey of the downtown area they could only locate one (1) and that did not represent the kind of project they were looking for.

Mrs. Dinunno said she would like an update on the parking issue they discussed a while back. She asked if the City Council is going to bring it back up, because it seems to have gone by the way side. Mr. Slezak asked her what area she was referring to.

Mrs. Dinunno said she is talking about the Riverside Park area for the Art Museum, the Riverside Theater, etc.

Mr. Slezak replied that he has not heard of any discussions other than it being a shared use area. The Recreation Department tries not to have more than one (1) community event at the Park at any time, so that they are not overusing that area. They try to mark the parking areas for the different events and they notify the museum and the theater, so that they know what to expect.

Mrs. Dinunno said she is specifically referring to the weekend for the Art by the Sea event at the Art Museum, which brings in about 1,000 people per day. The Riverside Theater has matinees, and Bark in the Park will also be taking place that weekend.

Mr. Slezak commented that this area continues to thrive, so they will have more and more of these issues. Down the line they might have to look at other sites, or other ideas, such as shuttles to make these events happen.

Mrs. Dinunno said there was a big discussion last year about the parking along Ocean Drive as well. There were a lot of ideas being kicked around, but the discussion just died. Mr. Slezak said that the parking along Ocean Drive is a hot topic and he suggested that she speak with Mr. Jim O'Connor, City Manager, about the status of that area.

Mr. Slezak said that down the line he sees where they will need to provide a shuttle service, or send people away. He hates to send people away, because he loves special events and they are great for the community.

Mr. Holtan asked as things expand in Riverside Park will it be required that people apply for their events several months in advance. Mr. Slezak stated that right now groups apply up to a year in advance. If it is a new event they try to make sure that the traditional annual events have their paperwork in for the dates they want first, so that gets a little tricky. He sees a lot of new, creative, and awesome event requests being submitted. It is impressive and they try to accommodate all that they can.

Mr. Slezak announced that he will be coming back to the Recreation Commission to discuss rates and rate increases. He explained that some of the rates have maximum amounts set on them. Some are reaching their maximum amounts and some need to be raised above the maximum, so they need to make some adjustments.

Mrs. Malone asked if he is also referring to rates on facility rentals and for events like Art in the Park. Mr. Slezak replied yes. Events like Art in the Park pay a processing fee for the use of the area, which includes an events committee that makes sure everything is set up and it runs smoothly. Several City Departments can be involved with the larger events.

Mrs. Burdick asked if the independent contractors that conduct classes pay the same rates that an individual renter would pay. Mr. Slezak replied yes, but the rates can vary depending on the size of the unit.

Ms. Jones stated that she will start sponsoring a gymnastic student each year. Mr. Slezak said the number of students who need sponsors increases each year. They are trying to get the word out about needing sponsors. Mrs. Malone said that will be a great post for the facebook page.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

A) Next Recreation Commission Meeting Date – February 13, 2018

The next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2018.

Mr. Slezak stated that he will bring the rate change proposal to the February 13, 2018 meeting.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Today's meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

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