

VERO BEACH RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
Tuesday, February 11, 2020 – 4:00 p.m.
City Hall, Council Chambers, Vero Beach, Florida

PRESENT: Chairman, Richard Yemm; Vice Chairman, Brooke Malone Members: Judy Jones, Sue Dinunno, and Alternate member, Garrett MacMillan **Also Present:** Assistant Recreation Director, Patty Howard; City Attorney, John Turner and Senior Administrative Assistant, Rita Hawkins

Excused Absence: Greg Holtan

Unexcused Absence: Bobbi Burdick

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Yemm 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) December 10, 2019

Mrs. Dinunno made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2019 Recreation Commission meeting. Mrs. Malone seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

4. NEW BUSINESS

A) Annual Report

Mr. Yemm stated that they received a copy of the 2019 Annual Report to review. He asked if there were any questions or comments about the report.

Mrs. Dinunno made a motion to adopt the Annual Report as it is written. Ms. Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Monte Falls, City Manager, said he attended today's meeting to give the Commission an update on hiring a Recreation Director to replace Mr. Rob Slezak after his 32 years of service with the City. He explained that a Selection Committee was formed consisting of himself, Ms. Cindy Lawson, Finance Director, and Mrs. Gabrielle Manus, Human Resources Director. They interviewed eight (8) very good applicants. Three (3) were internal and five (5) were external. They are in the screening process right now and they hope to have someone selected and hired by the middle of March. They interviewed the five (5) external applicants by phone and then they invited the top three (3) to come here. One (1) pulled out and the other two (2) were interviewed again. They are in the process of making their final decision and doing background checks so they

can make an offer and get a Recreation Director hired. He thanked Mrs. Patty Howard, Assistant Recreation Director, for stepping up and taking the reins as they go through this process.

5. OLD BUSINESS

None

6. RECREATION DIRECTOR'S MATTERS

A) Recap of the 17th Annual Mother/Daughter Tea Party – February 8th

Mrs. Patty Howard, Assistant Recreation Director, reported that last Saturday, February 8th was the 17th Annual Mother/Daughter Tea Party. It sold out and it was a great event. They look forward to doing it again next year.

B) Gymnastics Registration – March 21st

Mrs. Howard stated that she did not get a chance to talk about the January gymnastics registration, but it filled up by 8:30 a.m. They had to open up more classes to accommodate everyone. The next registration is March 21, 2020. This gymnastics session will end with a performance at the Indian River County Fair on March 14th and March 17th with three (3) performances.

C) Spring Break Cheer Camp – March 23rd – 27th

Mrs. Howard reported that they are accepting registrations for the spring break cheer camp, which will take place from March 23rd – 27th. After this, they go right into summer camp.

Mr. Yemm asked how many children attend the summer camps. Mrs. Howard replied that they normally have 70 to 100 children at each of the two (2) camps along with the Junior Staff volunteers.

Mr. Yemm asked if they need more than two (2) summer camps. Mrs. Howard replied that they cannot staff more than two (2) camps. She said every year is different, but they have seen an increase in the past couple of years.

Ms. Jones asked when will they do interviews for the Junior Staff volunteers. Mrs. Howard replied after spring break.

Mrs. Dinunno asked how is she defining two (2) camps. Mrs. Howard explained that they have two (2) camps that take place simultaneously. They have a sports/aquatic camp and the Aerial Antics camp. The children all meet at Leisure Square and then go off to do their separate activities. At the end of the day, they all meet back at Leisure Square.

Mrs. Dinunno asked if parents can sign their children up for a week at a time. Mrs. Howard replied yes, they can sign up for a week at a time, the entire nine (9) weeks, or they can select what days or weeks they want.

Mrs. Dinunno asked if there is a market for more than nine (9) weeks, or does that conflict with something else. Mrs. Howard explained that going longer would create staffing issues. They try to hire college students and teachers as much as possible, but they have to get back to work or school. They start summer camp the week school gets out and it runs for nine (9) weeks. There is one (1) week between the end of summer camp and school starting and that is where they would have a problem with staffing. The teachers are normally the Camp Directors or Assistant Directors and they are very important, so it would be very difficult without them.

Mrs. Howard thanked everyone who came out to say goodbye to Mr. Slezak at his retirement party. Everyone really misses him, but he is doing well.

7. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

None

8. MEMBER'S MATTERS

Mr. MacMillan announced that this will be his last meeting as he plans to resign from the Recreation Commission. He thanked them for the opportunity to be a part of the Commission, but due to time constraints he will no longer be able to attend. He feels like he should have contributed more, but he hopes they find a good Recreation Commission member.

Mrs. Dinunno referred to the Vero Beach Life Guards Association's January beach report, and said she did not think that the City Council approved an Ordinance to allow dogs at Jaycee Beach. She thought they were allowing dogs at the hotels.

Mrs. Malone said there was an approval of dog tags. People can get a license, but there is no policing of the license. The City has not issued any citations for dogs being on the beaches in two (2) years. People get a dog permit and they go where they want regardless of the rules.

Ms. Jones announced that instead of only recognizing the Junior Staff volunteers once at the end of summer camp they will be recognizing them at the beginning and again sometime mid-way through summer camp.

- A) Goals and Objectives for new Recreation Director – Mrs. Brooke Malone**
- B) National Recreation and Parks Magazine Articles – Mrs. Brooke Malone**

Mrs. Malone stated that her agenda items are irrelevant for today's meeting, so she would like to strike them. She mentioned that they missed addressing "Public Comment" at today's meeting.

Mr. Yemm agreed that he did miss Public Comment. He asked if anyone in the audience would like to speak under Public Comment. There was no Public Comment.

Mr. Yemm said after they get a new Recreation Director, the Recreation Commission might want to consider looking at the recreational ideas that were proposed during the charrettes for the Power Plant property. The Recreation Commission could vet those ideas to see if some of them could be

recommendations for other City Parks, but they will have to give the new Recreation Director time to settle in.

Mrs. Dinunno said that people are concerned that a new Recreation Director might look at the financials and want to raise the rates, but they just had significant rate increases.

Mrs. Malone stated that there is a much bigger project dealing with the extensive finance, book keeping, and strategic planning that will need to be addressed before the new Director will even look at the rates.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

A) March 10, 2020

The next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2020.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Today's meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

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