

**VERO BEACH RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, September 11, 2018 – 4:00 p.m.**  
**City Hall, Council Chambers, Vero Beach, Florida**

**PRESENT:** Chairman, Richard Yemm; Vice Chairman, Sue Dinunno; Members: Judy Jones (arrived at 4:03 p.m.), Bobbi Burdick, and Alternate Member #1, Greg Holtan **Also Present** Recreation Director, Rob Slezak; Assistant Recreation Director, Patty Howard (arrived at 4:03 p.m.); Assistant City Attorney, Stefanie Beskovoyne; and Senior Administrative Assistant, Rita Hawkins

**Excused Absences:** Brooke Malone and Gerett MacMillan

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Yemm called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A) **April 10, 2018 – Regular Meeting**
- B) **May 29, 2018 - Special Call Meeting**
- C) **July 12, 2018 – Special Call Meeting**

Mr. Yemm asked if there were any comments, changes, or corrections to the minutes from April 10, 2018, May 29, 2018, or the July 12, 2018 Recreation Commission meetings. There were no change requests from the Commission members.

**Mrs. Dinunno made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2018, May 29, 2018, and July 12, 2018 Recreation Commission meetings. Mrs. Burdick seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

- A) **Parks and Recreation Master Plan by Outside Consultant**

Mr. Yemm stated that there have been a lot of comments made from many people about a Master Plan of the City Parks and the Recreation facilities to be done by an outside consultant.

Mr. Rob Slezak, Recreation Director, explained that the last time the Recreation Department had a Master Plan done was in 1992. It was a very in depth study and he believes it cost between \$50,000 to \$100,000.

Mr. Yemm said that today's meeting is more of a discussion on how the Recreation Commission feels on the subject. If an outside consultant is hired what should they be looking at. He said he knows park and recreation consultants and he was told that today a basic cost would be \$80,000.

Mr. Slezak said when they do an analysis like this it is important to make sure they include the Public Works Department as part of the scope of the plan. This has been seriously discussed and brought forward by a number of people in the community who have some questions, but it would be a lot of work.

Mr. Yemm said he and Mr. Slezak went to a presentation in Sebastian a couple of years ago. Sebastian's Recreation Advisory Board was considering using outside consultants. They received proposals from two (2) consultants and the lowest cost was initially \$100,000 and they negotiated it down to \$80,000, but they did not go with either proposal. He said in his opinion the money could be better spent on taking care of the facilities they have.

Mrs. Burdick asked if the City Council would ever approve spending that kind of money.

Mr. Slezak stated that before it even gets to the City Council Mr. Yemm is asking if this is something that the Recreation Commission would recommend bringing forward. Whether it is developing a Master Plan or something else and finding out what the public wants. The Recreation Commission would be the one to start this process.

Mr. Yemm said he is following up on comments from the public and he believes a Master Plan would be beneficial, but is it worth the cost.

Mrs. Dinunno said she cannot see spending that much money. She said look at what happened with the Vision Plan. They spent all that money and it has been sitting on a shelf.

Mrs. Burdick asked Mr. Slezak what is his vision for the future.

Mr. Slezak replied that his vision for the future is kind of short. They have the budget coming up and next year is coming forward. He hopes that they can strengthen and improve all of their current facilities. He hopes that the Charles Park addition could be done in the future. After that he would like to see the community speak out on what they would like to see done with the Power Plant property. The most important thing they can do is to continue doing what they are doing, because it is important to the community. If they look to a consultant for a Master Plan it would be much bigger and involve more than just the Recreation Commission and Recreation Department. They would need to include the Public Works Department, the Planning Department, the City Manager, and the City Council. They will need to look at the Park properties and their usage.

Mrs. Dinunno stated that if it is a system wide review then maybe the Recreation Commission could be involved, as long as someone else pays for it.

Mr. Yemm said it has been suggested by members of the City Council and the citizens that a Master Plan be done. If there is sufficient support from the citizens and the City Council wants to work it in as a budget item then that would be their decision. They would need to have another meeting on this involving the Public Works Department, because they are asking about the adequacy of the Parks system, the facilities, and the utilization of them. It has been suggested that this be looked at by an outside consultant and not just internally.

Mr. Slezak suggested that they also involve the City Manager in that meeting. Mrs. Burdick said that maybe they should also involve the Marina.

Ms. Jones commented that are three (3) City Council members who need to become more active and involved with the Recreation Department, because they don't visit the facilities, attend any of the programs, or come to any of the Recreation Commission meetings. How do they know what they are representing.

Mrs. Burdick said if the City Council is interested in doing a Master Plan then that could indicate they might be interested in recreation.

Mrs. Dinunno commented that if the electric sale goes through then maybe there would be funding for this.

Mr. Yemm suggested that they add this subject to the Recreation Commission's October agenda and invite the Public Works Department and the City Manager to have a broader discussion. Based on that meeting they could make a suggestion to the City Council to move forward.

Mr. Slezak said this is a broad scope and there are so many things to look at and possibly discuss at the next meeting. They might narrow it down to a central idea that they want to look at. There might be one (1) piece of property, or all kinds of properties they will want to focus on. Once they have the expertise from the other departments they will have a better feel for how much they want to move forward to the City Council with. They can decide if they want to look at just Parks, facilities and Parks, the number of activities in the Parks, certain buildings, etc. He said consultants will make recommendations based on their opinions.

Mrs. Patty Howard, Assistant Recreation Director, said the consultant's recommendations are based on information they collect or what information is provide to them. What are the consultants comparing it to and what is the Recreation Department supposed to do with that information. She said it does not make much sense to spend that amount of money for someone to give us an opinion.

Mrs. Dinunno said that it was not long ago that City Council would not release the funds to fix the restrooms as Leisure Square. Who knows if they would spend all this money and then turn around and say they don't like any of the consultants ideas.

Mr. Slezak said that if they have other people at their next meeting and they discuss it they might decide that they should not pursue this any further, or maybe they will discuss specific areas, parks, green space, facilities, etc.

Mrs. Dinunno said that having a Master Plan is something that should be done.

Mr. Yemm said there have been questions about how many Parks the City needs and what should they provide. There are experts out there that will give their opinion and it is up to the Recreation Commission to act on it. The question is if they need outside input and is the cost worth it. He suggests that they put this on their next month's agenda.

Mrs. Dinunno said she does not believe there is anything they can do with this today. Mrs. Burdick said she is in favor of discussing it next month.

Mr. Yemm stated that this item is tabled until their October Recreation Commission meeting.

## **5. OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **6. RECREATION DIRECTOR'S MATTERS**

### **A) Gymnastics Registration – October 6, 2018**

Mrs. Howard explained that the Christmas drama is going to be later in December than normal and that left a large gap between gymnastic sessions, so they introduced a minicamp and that is what this registration is for.

### **B) Halloween Parade – October 27**

Mrs. Howard announced that the Halloween Parade is scheduled for October 27, 2018. It starts at the Women's Club and they will walk to the Community Center for the costume-judging contest. She said that Ms. Jones has volunteered to be a judge and if anyone else wants to volunteer they can contact her.

### **C) Recap of the Aerial Antics Circus**

Mrs. Howard said that the Aerial Antics Circus was a great success and the children did an awesome job. She thanked Mr. Slezak for being the Master of Ceremonies. Next year's theme will be the Centennial.

Mr. Slezak announced that there will be numerous events going on all year starting in October 2018 for the City's Centennial Celebration. The calendar of events is listed on the City of Vero Beach's website. The Recreation Department will be filling in and helping out where they are needed. They will be involved with the downtown New Year's Eve event, which will have fireworks being set off from Pocahontas Park. The Halloween parade for October 2019 will be a huge event. They will help out with other activities including the Veterans events. The Centennial Committee will have a Centennial banner dedication in downtown on October 24, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. to kick off the yearlong event. He said 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue will be closed off for this event while the banner is being hung and announcements are made.

## **7. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS**

None

## **8. MEMBER'S MATTERS**

Mrs. Burdick announced that the Women's Club voted to give the City \$100.00 towards the Halloween candy. They are waiting to hear when they will be filling the goody bags. Mr. Slezak stated that they just received the check today and he thanked the Women's Club for that donation.

Mrs. Dinunno asked for an update on the rentals of the Riverhouse. Mr. Slezak replied that the rentals are picking up.

Mrs. Dinunno suggested that the Recreation Department contact all the management companies in town, because they plan a lot of homeowner's association meetings. That would be a good place to search for rentals.

Ms. Jones asked if the Recreation Department had anything to do with the salute to the veteran who passed away and was brought back to Vero Beach. Mr. Slezak replied no.

## **9. NEXT MEETING DATE**

### **A) Next Recreation Commission Meeting Date – October 9, 2018**

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

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

Today's meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

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