

**CITY OF VERO BEACH RECREATION COMMISSION WORKSHOP MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2022 4:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.**  
**LEISURE SQUARE, 3705 16<sup>TH</sup> STREET, VERO BEACH, FLORIDA**

**PRESENT:** Brooke Steinkamp, Chairman; Len Markir, Vice Chairman; Member Rick Gillespie **ALSO PRESENT:** Jim O’Connell, Recreation Director; Jenny Flanigan, Assistant City Attorney and Tammy Bursick, City Clerk

**THIS WORKSHOP IS BEING HELD FOR THE PUBLIC TO ATTEND AND TALK TO THE RECREATION COMMISSION AND CITY VERO BEACH RECREATION DEPARTMENT ABOUT ANY CURRENT OR FUTURE RECREATION COMMISSION PROGRAMS THAT THEY WOULD LIKE THE CITY TO OFFER.**

Ms. Joan Clark said that the City should do a long range plan and decide what to do with the whole area the City owns. She said there are no good launching ramps on this side of the river. She thought the Three Corners property would be a good place for a launching ramp.

Mrs. Steinkamp explained that Youth Sailing is located on the Three Corners property and they will have a space that is open to the public and there will be a small space for personal watercraft.

Ms. Clark said that they could use the big building located at the Power Plant site for boat storage.

Mrs. Steinkamp said that would be something for Council to decide.

Ms. Clark commented that in Brevard County they have a place to play horseshoes and she does not see that here in Indian River County.

Mrs. Patty Howard, Assistant Recreation Director, stated that there used to be a horseshoe station at Charles Park, but it was removed because of safety reasons.

Ms. Clark asked if there were any plans for refurbishing the racquetball courts at Riverside Park.

Mrs. Howard said that the courts were damaged from the hurricanes and there has never been enough money to refurbish them.

Mr. Jim O’Connell, Recreation Director, noted that there is one (1) racquetball court at Leisure Square. There has been talk about what to do with the racquetball courts at Riverside Park. He said what has been discussed is tearing them down, using it for storage, etc.

Mr. O’Connell commented that he is in the process of putting their budget together. There are no drastic changes to the budget. Just making the needed repairs on many things that have had years of neglect. He said there are many items located under the Five-year plan.

Mrs. Steinkamp asked if they have looked into obtaining grants.

Mrs. Howard said they are in the process of doing that now.

Mr. O’Connell mentioned a grant that they recently asked for through the Tourist Development Council (TDC). He said they were asking for grant money to build a new lifeguard station. They were turned down

because they were a government agency. He said if the Lifeguard Association becomes active again then they could apply for the grant through the TDC.

Ms. Clark mentioned on 16<sup>th</sup> Street there are no bike lanes.

Mr. Nick Liguori reported that on Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup> USTA will be having an open workshop for questions from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Vero Beach Community Center. It will be a Town Hall meeting and everyone is welcome to attend.

Mr. O'Connell added that he spoke with the Representatives from USTA and they said they wanted to hold this Town Hall meeting before making a proposal and presenting it to City Council.

Ms. Clark asked if there were any plans for more Pickleball courts.

Mr. O'Connell said they are not considering anything at this time. He commented on how Pickleball University has doubled in membership since they began their program. He said that there are other places to play Pickleball throughout the community. He would be surprised if Pickelball University would leave Pocahontas Park after spending over \$250,000 on upgrades.

Mr. Ellis Copeland suggested having a place to play bocce. He said that it would need to be a flat surface.

Ms. Clarke asked about the proposed Skatepark.

Mrs. Steinkamp said that there is a new Skateboard Park Association and they are moving forward with their plans.

Mrs. Steinkamp was happy to hear about the new pee-wee tennis program being offered at Riverside Park for 4 to 5 years olds.

Mr. O'Connell said that the Tennis Coordinator at Riverside Park is working on trying to provide more tennis youth programs.

Mr. O'Connell mentioned that their summer camps are all full.

The fees charged for programs in the City and the County were discussed. It was explained that the City charges different fees for their programs depending if you are a City or County resident. The County charges the same rate regardless if you are a City or County resident.

Ms. Clark asked if there were any basketball courts in the City.

Mrs. Howard said that there were some basketball courts at Leisure Square.

Ms. Clark wondered if children were allowed to use the basketball courts at the different schools when the schools are closed. She was told no because of liability and safety reasons.

Mrs. Steinkamp wondered if the Recreation Department could look at different programs to offer such as soccer, fishing, and organizing a Senior walk at Riverside Park. Also, parents who are home chooling would like to have different programs offered even if it is just a social hour.

Mrs. Angie Holshouser, Recreation Supervisor, said she would be happy to speak with someone about starting a gymnastics program for homeschoolers. She has tried in the past, but it never goes anywhere.

Mr. O'Connell explained that staff puts together programs based on needs and renting out facilities.

Mrs. Steinkamp asked Mr. O'Connell if he planned to ask for a Request for Proposal (RFP) from other organizations to operate the Riverside Tennis facilities. Mr. O'Connell said he had no plans to do that.

Today's meeting adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

/tb