

**VERO BEACH RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2022 1:30 P.M.
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VERO BEACH, FLORIDA**

PRESENT: Vice Chairman, Christopher Woodruff; Members: Leonard Markir and Jackson Stewart **Also Present:** Recreation Director, James O’Connell; Assistant Recreation Director, Patty Howard; City Attorney, John Turner; Assistant Public Work’s Director, Richard Mutterback and Senior Administrative Assistant, Rita Chartier

Excused Absence: Rick Gillespie and Brooke Steinkamp

1. CALL TO ORDER

Today’s meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. and the Senior Administrative Assistant performed the roll call.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) July 12, 2022

Mr. Markir made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2022 Recreation Commission meeting. Mr. Stewart seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

4. NEW BUSINESS

This item was discussed after item 4-B).

A) FRDAP Grant for Charles Park Playground – Assistant Recreation Director

Mrs. Patty Howard, Assistant Recreation Director, reported that they are in the process of applying for a Florida Recreational Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) grant for the complete removal and renovation of the playground area at Charles Park. Part of Charles Park is already funded through a FRDAP grant from 1986. They believe the playground equipment was installed there in the mid 1990’s, so it is time for a face lift and to make it American Disability Act (ADA) compatible. They are asking for a match of \$175,000, so the total cost would be \$350,000. They would like to include a tot lot, a 5-12 year old area, a children’s fitness area, some ADA features, and the surface would be upgraded to an ADA material. They will add ADA swings and Expression Swings, which are swings that allow adults and babies to swing together. She announced that on August 17, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. there will be a meeting at the Community Center where they will get the public’s input on what they would like to see at the playground. After that meeting they can revise the plan based on everyone’s ideas.

Mr. Markir asked if they plan on doing any renovations to the tennis courts.

Mrs. Howard replied no, they were just resurfaced last year.

Mr. Markir asked if the \$175,000 from the City is in the budget for next year.

Mrs. Howard replied yes.

Mr. Markir asked what if the grant does not come through, or if it is not for the full amount.

Mrs. Howard explained that they can still use the \$175,000 from the City, but the playground might not have all the features she mentioned.

Mr. Markir asked if they do not get the grant, will they be able to apply for it again next year.

Mrs. Howard stated she believes they can. She is working closely with the grant writers, so she will ask that question.

Mr. Stewart asked if there is a cost breakdown for the amenities they are wanting to add to the playground.

Mrs. Howard replied yes. She will send it to the City Clerk's office who will forward it to the Commission members.

Mr. Woodruff asked when will the grant be announced.

Mrs. Howard said the grant application process closes on August 31, 2022, but she is not sure when the grant will be announced.

Mr. Markir asked how accurate is their estimate of \$350,000 for this project.

Mrs. Howard explained that she has been working closely with the representative from Game Time Playgrounds and they have revised their plan a few times, but the latest estimate was close to \$300,000. However, that estimate is without public input and other features that people might like to see added in.

Mr. Markir asked if they get the full funding will it be done all at once, or in stages.

Mrs. Howard stated most likely it will be done all at once since they have to remove all the equipment and the sand. Game Time Playgrounds normally does it as an entire project, but it could take a month or two (2) before it is complete.

Mr. Markir asked if they do not get any money from the grant, when would they expect to start the project.

Mrs. Howard replied that if they only have the \$175,000 from the City she would like to see it start in October.

B) How Recycling is handled in the City – Public Work's Director

This item was discussed before Item 4-A).

Mr. Richard Mutterback, Assistant Public Work's Director, explained that residential recycling within the City is handled by Waste Management and is part of the solid waste assessment fees. Everyone gets a recycling can and it is picked up. Commercial recycling service within the City limits is offered through Waste Management and Treasure Coast Refuse for a fee. All of the City buildings recycling is handled internally. The City's Solid Waste employees make their rounds every week or every other week and then they take it to the Public Work's compound. Once the bin is full at the compound then it is taken to the recycling center at the County landfill. They have tried on two (2) occasions to initiate recycling in the City's Parks, downtown, and in public areas, but they ran into contamination issues. They placed recycling bins next to the trash bins, but both were filled with trash. The City does not have enough staff or time to separate it, so they did away with the program. He explained that they have been working with Mrs. Sue Flak, Indian River County Solid Waste District, because the County was having the same contamination issues in their County Parks. About a year ago the County did a test with using locks on the recycling lids so people could not open them. They have to purchase the locks and install them, so it is an expense to the County. He said the City met with Mrs. Flak and she showed them a couple of their Parks and Mrs. Flak said she was amazed at how much the locks helped with the contamination. The City has since met with Waste Management and they are determining if a program like this would work in the City Parks and what it would cost.

Mr. Markir asked if this would have to be done at all of the Parks, or can they just select a few.

Mr. Mutterback said they talked about doing a trial period at Jaycee and South Beach Parks, which are the busiest locations. They talked with Waste Management and for a fee, their employees will collect all the bins, dump them, and return them to their locations in the Parks. The City does not know what the cost per container is yet, but they are working on it. He said the County has found that the locks are not lasting as long as they thought due to being exposed to the elements, so they are looking for alternate manufacturers. The locks cost about \$50 to \$60 including installation.

Mr. Stewart asked if they have thought about using a smaller can for recycling and a larger can for trash.

Mr. Mutterback replied no, they have not tried that.

Mr. Markir asked if they are intending to put it in the budget for next year.

Mr. Mutterback stated it depends on what the cost looks like, if it will affect staffing, etc.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A) USTA Update

Mr. Jim O'Connell, Recreation Director, announced that he has been in touch with the United States Tennis Association (USTA) Florida and they are currently in the process of writing up a proposal. USTA Florida indicated that the City should have it by the end of August. As soon as he has it, he will get it to the Recreation Commission members. If they get the proposal it will be placed on the September Recreation Commission meeting agenda for their review and then it will go to City Council.

6. RECREATION DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Mr. O'Connell reported that the lifeguard stands have been ordered. They are expecting them to be delivered some time in December, 2022 or January, 2023. Their plan is to have them installed before turtle season. There could be delays with shipping them because they are coming from California.

Mrs. Howard said that the Aerial Antics Circus took place last week. They had about 200 participants and the shows were filled each night. They received some good press coverage from the 32963 Newspaper, TC Palm, and Vero News. Their representative from Circus for Youth attended the show and he is part of the American Youth Circus Organization (AYCO), which is the governing body for youth circuses. She gave a special thank you to Mrs. Angie Holshouser, because she oversees all of the City's summer camps and the circus.

Mr. O'Connell stated that he had the honor of being the Master of Ceremonies for the shows. The staff did a great job. He also thanked St. Edward's School for the use of their facility.

Mr. Woodruff asked if the Aerial Antics Circus had more performers this year, because it looked like there were more than normal.

Mrs. Howard said it has increased compared to the last couple of years, but before COVID the participation levels were similar to this year.

7. MEMBER'S MATTERS

Mr. Stewart said that Vero Ballet has been very successful in everything they have been doing recently. A while back he saw where a permit was pulled to possibly build a nice new facility. He was curious if there would be any chance the City would coordinate with Vero Ballet.

Mrs. Howard asked if he was talking about shared use of the facilities or shared performances.

Mr. Stewart said he was thinking about shared use of their facility if they build it.

Mr. O'Connell stated this has not been brought to the Recreation Department at all.

Mr. Stewart said his understanding is that the building would have a training space as well as an exhibition area.

Mrs. Howard said it is possible they would inquire about utilizing the exhibition space.

Mr. O'Connell announced that they are getting ready to start the expansion project of the Center Stage building. They are adding a multipurpose/parent viewing room.

Mrs. Howard stated that they are working on the permits, so it should be starting within a month.

Mr. Markir stated that they received a letter from the public asking if there could be Sunday hours at Leisure Square.

Mr. O'Connell replied that is not something they are considering or budgeting for at this time. He said this subject came up before, but there was not a demand to warrant it.

Mrs. Howard explained that the Sunday hours were the first to be cut when they had budget cuts, because Sunday was the day Leisure Square was used the least.

Mr. O'Connell stated they could add it back if the demand was there. It was not budgeted for the coming year, but they could look at the cost to include staff hours and a lifeguard for the future.

A) Lifeguard Operating Guidelines – Christopher Woodruff, Member

Mr. Woodruff thanked Mrs. Howard for sending out the Lifeguard Operating Guidelines. He looked through it and confirmed that there were no restrictions.

Mr. Woodruff announced that they have a new member on their Commission. He asked him to introduce himself.

Mr. Jackson Stewart said he works for Stewart Materials in the geological and exploration side of the business. He was born and raised in Vero Beach and attended the University Miami. He returned back to Vero Beach in late 2019 and wanted to be involved in something with the City and he thought recreation would be a good thing for him.

Mr. Turner said he would like to recommend that the Commission goes back to holding quarterly meetings until the amount of items they need to discuss increases.

Mr. Markir said the only thing is that USTA is scheduled to make a proposal within the next month and that is the large project they have in front of them.

Mr. O'Connell stated he agrees that unless there are pressing issues, quarterly meetings are allowed as a requirement of the City Charter.

Mr. Woodruff said he is fine with quarterly meetings, but it is hard to say when they will get the proposal from USTA.

Mr. O'Connell said he feels that they will have it by the end of August, which is before their next scheduled meeting. If for some reason they don't get it, they can cancel the September meeting.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Recreation Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. in the City Hall, Council Chambers.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Today's meeting adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

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