

**Minutes
Recreation Committee
September 10, 2015
6:00 PM
3rd committee meeting**

Members present were Chairman Terry Merritt and Committee member Taft Matney . Van Brannon, Recreation Director and Trey Eubanks, City Administrator were also present. Committee member Bob Cook was not present due to illness.

1. Call to order.
2. Public comment.
3. Reading and approval of minutes.- Councilman Matney made a motion to approve the minutes of August 3, 2015 with Chairman Merritt seconding. The vote was unanimous (2-0).
4. Reports or communications from city officers.- Van reported things were going well. Seniors are continuing to be very active.
5. Unfinished business
 - a. Sports Center Survey Options- Our sports center has not had a fee adjustment in a while. Councilman Matney recommended that we talk to our members to find out their thoughts on that and other issues. Clemson University will do our survey. They were the ones that did the county-wide recreation survey.
 - b. Publicizing Recreation Programs

Sports Center- The sports center membership is declining. The City Administrator has a contact in public relations. He will talk to him about a campaign for the City. Councilman Matney said it is a good idea to have an outside entity look at this impartially.

Recreation- We have made tremendous progress through Mr. Matney's program. The addition of Willie to our staff is helping bring our recreation program back to the top.

Seniors- 2900 people go through the center every month. A monthly newsletter is sent out with the activity schedule.

c. Ray Hopkins Senior Center Parking- Chief Turner drafted some language for this. The City Attorney has reviewed it and tweaked the wording a little bit. We have a simple and straightforward amendment to the language to allow the police department to do the enforcement they need to on city property.

Councilman Matney made a motion to send this to council with Chairman Merritt seconding, The vote was unanimous (2-0).

d. Facilities Maintenance/Upgrade Status- The lighting at the sports center should be installed in about two weeks. It will be two light posts direct buried.

Chairman Merritt asked about Springfield Park improvements. Van said we are waiting on a third bid for removal of poles. A topo survey is being done and Van has also been working on an RFQ for an architect. Councilman Matney said people are parking on the sidewalks at Hyde Circle. The parking situation is out of control. People are having verbal confrontations because of parking. Councilman Matney also said it is dark out at the park.

Chairman Merritt asked about adding portable lighting. They said we could look at that.

6. New business

a. Future Religious Use of Recreation Facilities- Chairman Merritt asked if we should get out of the church business. Councilman Matney said we are renting to them. If we say that we can't rent to churches, that brings up a 1st amendment violation. If we have churches that abide by the rules just like any other tenant, we need to meet those needs. Chairman Merritt said churches are more susceptible to violence. We are opening up a recreational facility that isn't actively pursued for tenants. The City has security issues when we have them there.

7. Public comment.

Joel Ann Chandler: You can't single out churches as places that attract violence. There is violence everywhere.

Rollin Hyust: Springfield Park, I think we need more Jiffy Johns. We only have two with all that activity. It think that is going to cause problems.

8. Committee concerns.
9. Adjournment.- Chairman Merritt adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Miller
Municipal clerk