

**Minutes  
Recreation Committee  
January 4, 2016  
6:00 PM  
4th committee meeting**

**Members present were Chairman Terry Merritt, Committee members Taft Matney and Carol King. Recreation Director Van Brannon and City Administrator Trey Eubanks were also present.**

1. Call to order.- Chairman Merritt
2. Public comment.
3. Reading and approval of minutes.- Councilman Matney made a motion to approve the minutes with Councilwoman King seconding. The vote was unanimous (3-0).
4. Reports or communications from city officers.- None  
Chairman Merritt asked about page 2 of the financials under 450-150 employee expenses. There are two items of \$12.50. Those are piloxing monthly. Those fees should be under Sports Center rather than Recreation. A \$440.26 charge for K9 training should not be under Recreation. 451-150 under Sports Center, there is \$76.09, a purchase by Amanda Duffie. That was part of the piloxing giveaway, not an employee expense.

If there are two city events on the same day- one attracting 3,000-5,000 people and the other attracting 100, would we try to move one of the days instead of having two recreation events on the same day? Trey said we might be able to accommodate both with the public safety staff. We have a special event permit, so that might be rescheduled before approved if needed.

5. Unfinished business
  - a. Sports Center Survey- Van said we received 35 surveys online and a lot of hard copies. He is starting to sort through them. Hopefully by the end of the month, everything will be inputted into the computer so we can get some good data.
  - b. PR Consultant Status for Recreation Programs- Council approved MPA

Strategic PR firm. There was a meeting between them and staff. They toured our facilities and met in Van's office. Information is being received from them and they will be at the staff meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup>. Also on the 26<sup>th</sup>, there will be further discussion on Sports Center membership. Rates will be compared with other entities' rates. Chairman Merritt said we have done a rate comparison before and he hopes this time something will be done with the information. They said we will get input from council on a draft plan as well.

- c. Review of Facilities- The roof replacement is scheduled for March. Chairman Merritt asked about the parking ordinance signs. Van will check with Chief Turner. The blue signs are up, but Chairman Merritt asked to see if the notices can be seen when people are sitting in their cars. The signs are tall and very close to the roadway. Chairman Merritt asked about timers on the lights. Don Upchurch has Carolina Power coming out to look at the system. One concern is getting power to a timer that would stay on all the time. The current lights are photocell and come off and on that way. The timer requires constant power.

Springfield Park bidder A1 only has one reference for ball fields. The other bidder had more experience with ball fields. Chairman Merritt asked if he feels comfortable with A1. Van said he talked about it with A1 and thinks they can handle the job.

Concession stand next to Hyde Circle- Chairman Merritt asked if we feel good about the fencing around the concession stand and still allowing people to be able to go to the restroom. Van said he thinks that has been worked out.

Sunset Park- Van said we are waiting on word on a repair for the Miracle League playground, which is the hold up on Sunset Park playground equipment. The company is doing the Miracle League repair under warranty, and then we will get quotes for playground equipment. Councilman Merritt asked if the company couldn't multi-task. We multi task all the time.

The cultural center renovations and sprinkler system. Trey said we will meet with Dean around the 19<sup>th</sup> of the month, prior to the Cultural Council meeting on January 21<sup>st</sup>. We should have a report from him and some initial input from the Cultural Council by the February committee meeting. Chairman Merritt said he understands the green room can be done, because it doesn't require a sprinkler. Putting two classrooms together increases the square footage of an assembly area which requires a sprinkler. Councilman Matney said we need to consult with our fire chief, who has experience on these things. Fire Chief Stewart said he knows some sprinkler companies and it might be possible to do this job in phases. Chairman Merritt said council has approved two campaigns for fundraising and we have some money but nothing is being done. George needs additional rooms to rent out. Let's do something.

Chief Stewart said if that building catches on fire, it will be horrific.

Hallway repair- the cultural center hallway looks great. The old and new have blended very well.

- d. Status of last months committee discussions
  1. Ray Hopkins
    - a. Sub-standard equipment in exercise area
    - b. New TV- donations might be possible for a new tv.
    - c. Monitoring exercise room when occupied- Chairman Merritt said we need to look at options on monitoring the room in case something happens.
  2. Sports Center
    - a. Playground Area- A playground area could be put in near Murray Drive. Chairman Merritt would like to begin a discussion on that . Trey said the engineering firm has come up with the plan for parking and playground options. They did not put an option in the area to the right of City Center Drive past the Sports Center parking where the wooded area is. The Rotary Club is looking at maybe naming rights for a playground. Janice Holcombe is facilitating some discussion with the club.

- b. Undeveloped Land to the right of Center City Drive Options
- 3. Cultural Center Parking Lot Options
- 4. Sunset Park Future Development- There is a lot of potential there. Chairman Merritt asked if the Cricket people are doing anything. Van said he thinks they are done right now because of the season.

6. New business

- a. Springfield fencing- 10 bids were received. A1 Fencing is the low bidder at \$141,506. They should start at field 3 and 4, which are the lower two for baseball. The fencing project is being funded through hospitality and accommodation funds.

Councilman Matney made a motion to forward this item to council with a second by Councilwoman King. The vote was unanimous (3-0).

Mayor Raines asked if we decided to expand the football field. Councilman Matney said not now, we are going to keep it at the same size.

Ray Atchinson commented that Ms. King was not a committee member back in December. Can she approve the minutes? Mayor Raines said he thinks it is not an issue because she seconded the motion, she didn't make it.

Councilman Crosby said on the lights, you can pull out the connection to the solar switch and put in the timer switch and it is a done deal.

Councilman Black asked if redevelopment money would help with the exercise room. Chairman Merritt said the ladies are too busy to monitor the room, so even if we had a camera, they might not see it. Councilman Black said the monitoring system could be somewhere else. Trey said we could look into that possibility.

Councilman Black said he was asking about the redevelopment money to help buy exercise equipment and possibly the tv. Chairman Merritt said the

substandard exercise equipment was donated by people who did not want it anymore. Councilman Black asked the exercise room was recarpeted when the other was done. Chairman Merritt said no. Van said he could check on the possibility of using redevelopment money for new carpet. Chairman Merritt said 2800-3000 people a month go to that building.

7. Public comment.
8. Committee concerns.- Welcome Carol King to the Recreation committee.
9. Adjournment.- Chairman Merritt adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cindy Miller  
Municipal Clerk