

RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING

May 2, 2013

The Recreation Committee of the Sullivan's Island Town Council met on Thursday, May 2, 2013 at Town Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss recreation department expenditures for FY14, as well as the July 4th celebration.

Present were: Councilwoman Watson and Councilman Kaynard; Administrator Benke; Comptroller Blanton, and resident Diana Browder. Mayor Smith was absent. There were no members of the media present.

Town Council asked the Recreation Committee to review the FY14 budget and make recommendations at the next Council meeting.

There is currently \$14,500 remaining in the FY13 budget. The budget for FY14 is currently \$92,500. Councilwoman Watson stated the budgetary items will be prioritized, and also include funds that the Park Foundation and private donations might be able to provide.

1. Tennis Courts – replace tennis courts at “Poe Park” (at Citadel and Artillery); consider relocation to Stith Park. There was discussion concerning the alignment of tennis courts for players not to look into the sun and also not look at moving traffic. Mr. Benke reported that normally they are aligned with magnetic north so the players are not looking east to west. The new Stith Park courts are a few degrees off, and the Poe Park courts are currently also close. A wind screen could be used to block out moving traffic. The Poe Park courts are on Town-owned property. The area includes four Town lots, probably about 1/4 acre each, although the Town does not have a plat of the property. The tennis courts actually encroach into the Middle Street side lots approximately 8-10 feet. There is a tree on the back side of lot that is causing root damage to the courts. It will need to be removed.

The Committee agreed to recommend to Council to keep the courts at Poe Park, and there would be no lights at the courts. Councilwoman Watson stated she has a quote estimate from Thomas & Hutton of \$130,000: \$20,000 for engineering; \$10,000 for site improvement; and \$100,000 for court replacement. The site improvement includes adjusting any playground equipment and removing tree and possible placement of new tree if needed. The estimate does not include a possible subsoil issue, as occurred with the new Stith Park courts. Councilwoman Watson stated the current FY14 Town budget for courts is \$50,000; and with \$40,000 combined from the Park Foundation and private donations, \$40,000 more would be needed to build the courts.

2. Conceptual Master Plan – The Committee recommended to include \$14,500 in the FY14 budget for the conceptual master plan. Thomas & Hutton had prepared a scope of work; Mr. Benke stated to include the feasibility of terracing the mound. Councilman Kaynard suggested adding the Island Club into the study with possibly no change in price. Diana Browder stated that because the Town already paid for the new roof and other work, she is trying to make all improvements through

private donations. Items discussed were a deck off the front of the building, to possibly include a grill. Mr. Benke stated because the club has typically had indoor activities, they need to be mindful of the nearby residents. Mr. Benke will prepare a scope of work and contract for Thomas & Hutton.

3. Equipment – Committee recommended to order the shade structure and the benches from the FY13 budget, costing approximately \$14,000. Other equipment included in FY14 budget.

4. Landscaping – Landscaping mentioned as possible part of the scope for the new Town Hall.

There was discussion of the funding of the FY14 Recreation budget, and that it is partially funded through partially projected business license revenue from the school. It is not yet fully calculated as more financial information is needed from the contractor.

The next agenda item, the Fourth of July celebration, will be discussed at another meeting. Diana Browder left the meeting at this time.

Mr. Benke stated he needed to add one item of new business: requested use of Town property for sports activities. A request was received from a developmental soccer league to teach young children; and the Lacrosse league also wants to use the field. The Committee recommended:

Lowcountry Lacrosse – Practice at Station 19 Street dump two nights per week not later than 7 pm through the end of June. Same stipulations as last year apply. The organization will be required to purchase a business license and pay a \$50.00 fee per night. Participants can park at the hill or Battery Gadsden and walk.

Soccer Shots – Practice at Stith Park Wednesday only. Business license and general liability stipulations required. The organization will pay the Town a fee of \$50.00 per practice session.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm.