

MINUTES
RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 5, 2022 6PM
CITY HALL - COUNCIL CHAMBERS
5 E. BUTLER ROAD
1st committee meeting

Committee Members present: Frank Allgood (Chair), Taft Matney, and Michael Reynolds
Others present: City Administrator Seth Duncan and Recreation Director Bart Cumalander

1.Call to Order- Chairman Allgood

2.Public Comment- None

3.Reading and Approval of Minutes

a. Recreation Committee Meeting: September 6, 2022

Motion: Councilman Matney made a motion to accept the minutes with Councilman Reynolds seconding.

Vote: The vote was unanimous (3-0).

4. Reports or Communications from City Officers

a. Recreation Director Bart Cumalander

i. Budget Review

Mr. Cumalander reported basketball and football are going well. The 11–12-year-old boys will be playing for the football state championship in Orangeburg.

The budgets are in good shape.

5. Unfinished Business- There is no unfinished business.

6. New Business

a. Sports Center Membership- Staff needs direction on whether or not free or reduced memberships should be offered to military members, retired employees, and people who have served on boards and commissions.

It is the recommendation of the Recreation Department staff to extend free membership to current City employees, current Council members, and active military and their dependents.

A 50% membership rate could be offered to part-time City employees, family members of full time and part-time employees of the City of Mauldin, and to retired military and their dependents.

Lifetime membership could be extended to retired employees who have 20 years or more of creditable service to the City of Mauldin and elected officials who have 20 years or more of creditable service to the City of Mauldin.

Motion: Councilman Matney made a motion to send the recommendation of the Recreation staff to Council with Councilman Reynolds seconding.

Councilman Matney said there will be some pushback with this, but the employees need to have access to the facility to participate in the wellness program. When a person is no longer employed by the City, benefits cease. Councilman Matney said he would not have an expectation to have access to the same level of service at the same price point when he is no longer in office.

Councilman Reynolds said he would like these membership rates included in the fee schedule during the budget process. He would like this issue to be sent to the City Attorney since it involves a benefit available to Council Members.

Vote: The vote was unanimous (3-0).

- b. Sunset Park Fencing- It is the request of the Recreation Department to place a black vinyl chain link fence around the rectangular field at Sunset Park. The placement of the fence would increase safety for users of the field and would be a barrier between the field and the parking lot where cars access the parking area. \$50,000 has been budgeted for the fencing in capital improvements.

Two quotes were received. The recommendation is to award the bid to Seegar's Fencing Company for \$34,280. They have completed the fencing for all three of our new playgrounds and are a local company. Option 2 would tie into the retention pond fencing and was included in the budget CIP.

Chairman Allgood asked Mr. Cumalander why the fence was taken down and not replaced. Mr. Cumalander said he did not have a good reason, except that it was the decision of the leadership at that time

Motion: Councilman Reynolds made a motion to send to Council the acceptance of Option 2 for Seegar's Fencing not to exceed \$35,000 with Councilman Matney seconding.

Vote: The vote was unanimous (3-0).

7. Public Comment

Mayor Merritt: I live at 214 Fairfield Drive. I am the former chair of Recreation, and former employee of the Mauldin Sports Center. I wanted to take the opportunity to give you a little background and Noah's son Bart knows a lot more background than I do. It was a little problematic in 2015, when we were having people trying to sign up for memberships. It was a little easier back then, because there were 5 branches of the military. We didn't count the Coast Guard, Merchant Marine, and the National Guard and those others. Things change. Today those people get deployed. Determining what is active duty is problematic for the front desk personnel because you have to have paperwork. Plus, we had recruiters from Donaldson Center, SC TAC, they would say he has taken his oath and we have his papers; can he have a membership and get in shape before he goes to bootcamp? We accepted that.

The problem was, when they are deployed, then they are active duty. Then their spouses are members of active duty, which would entitle them to 50%. Finding the paperwork to do that was always problematic for them to present. Keep that in mind as we move this thing forward. That could be a problem again; not insurmountable, but the people at the front desk need to be clear on what is required in order to do that.

The lifetime membership, to me, I have never been a proponent of lifetime memberships for anything, and that would include us. When we get to all elected officials, I would like that clarified because you have the Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, and a Cultural board. Those are not elected officials, but if that should be extended to them, it should be clarified in one way, shape, or form. I would hope to see that before it comes to full Council.

I will be glad to give you more opinions off the record, but those are the issues we ran into at the front desk from 2015- I am sorry, 2010-2014. I resigned there before I was elected here in 2015. Thank you.

Chairman Allgood: Based on the feedback we just received, when this comes to full Council, could we have the number of current members at the Sports Center that are classified currently as active military?

8. Committee Concerns- None

9. Adjournment- Chairman Allgood adjourned the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Miller
Municipal Clerk