

A workshop meeting of the City Commission was held on October 30, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in the Commission Chamber at the Municipal Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Michael S. Carter.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Christopher Lutton; Betty Wojcik; Jonathan Thornhill; Terry Y. Howell; Mayor Michael S. Carter

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

CITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Terry Leary, City Manager; Jacquie Hawkins, Deputy City Clerk

[Meetings are recorded but not transcribed verbatim]

Agenda Item 1. Discussion – Parks & Recreation Facilities [Continuation of October 2, 2012 Workshop]

The full staff memo is incorporated into the minutes.

[Begin city manager agenda memo]

Tonight's workshop is a continuation of the workshop held on October 2, 2012

Since our last meeting, we have received insurance coverage from the following: Lake Wales Little League, Lake Wales Soccer, Boys and Girls Club, Steelers.

We have revised the Boys and Girls Club Management Agreement to reflect your consensus (sign-up sheets, daily inspection sheets, 2 employees always present, and background checks.) We are awaiting signatures from Walt Hall.

We are identifying signage that needs to be replaced/added.

Staff met and has formulated a few recommendations for your consideration:

1. Amend our Code or Ordinances and remove the \$4 per player fee for league play and replace it with a flat fee for the league's season. (All Leagues)(Example: \$350 per season).
2. DEFINE Leagues with language that identifies them as organized teams whose members pay a fee to the League to participate.
3. All schools that use our fields for practice/tournaments need to pay a "maintenance fee".
4. Any group that requires lights for play will pay a fee per hour. (\$15.00 per hour).

ALSO

We are in the process of assessing our facilities including recreational facilities such as Austin Center, Tourist Club, Pier, Gazebo, Bleachers, etc. We have lost a set of bleachers at the Little League field due to deterioration. Mr. Maggard is looking for ways to replace them.

The Gazebo is deteriorating and has been patched enough times.

The Tourist Club needs a facelift and some mechanical upgrades. This facility could bring in far more revenue than it does in its present condition. We would like to look forward to improving the above in order to attract more revenues and outside of City rentals.

[End Agenda Memo]

City Manager Terry Leary reviewed Agenda Item 1.

Comments were made as follows;

1. **Should a Sliding Fee Scale be used Instead of the \$4 Per Child League Fee or Should a Fee be charged at All?**

KINDS OF FEES:

Sliding Scale Fee:

Public Services Administrator Teresa Allen gave an example of the sliding scale such as different fees for 0-25 players; 26-75 players; 76 players and up.

\$4 League Fee:

Mayor Carter said he saw little difference between the \$4 fee and the flat fee because the parents have to pay it either way.

Flat Fee:

Commissioner Lutton said if a flat fee was charged to everyone regardless of size, there would be no need to check a roster, which would cut down on paperwork and would be easier to collect.

- Commissioner Howell said the organizations would have a roster on their computers and it would be easy for them to send to the City.
- Commissioner Lutton said users could sign an affidavit saying that the list was complete and there could be a penalty if it was proven false.

Combination:

Commissioner Thornhill said the fee was not meant to be a punishment but to offset the maintenance of the fields. He suggested charging \$4 per player for organizations with thirty players or less and charging a flat fee for organizations with more than that.

No Fee:

Commissioner Wojcik said residents already pay for recreation through city taxes and the city should be grateful that volunteers are willing to give their time to keep kids active and out of trouble. She said maybe we shouldn't charge them anything.

HOW OTHER CITIES CHARGE:

Winter Haven:

- Commissioner Wojcik said Winter Haven has a large recreation department and so it can't be compared with ours. They charge \$4 per player for each seasonal sport, and soon they will be able to purchase a \$20 annual pass for unlimited league play. With the money collected the City hires the coaches and referees and pays for the background checks.
- Ms. Leary said Winter Haven also charges the leagues a \$350 maintenance fee because the City does all the maintenance including marking the fields, and we do not.

Auburndale:

- Ms. Leary said Auburndale charges a \$350 flat League fee.
- Coach Abel from the YMCA said the umpires and referees in Auburndale are independent contractors. The city hires them for league use and pays them just like other employees. The leagues are completely run by the city.

Frostproof: Ms. Leary said Frostproof charges a \$100 flat league fee.

Davenport: Ms. Leary said Davenport charges a \$250 flat league fee.

CITY FIELDS:

Kiwanis Fields:

Richard DeLoach, 4396 Dinner Lake Blvd., opposed his organization being charged a fee because they only use Kiwanis Park fields for practices. The field does not have special grass or special maintenance requirements. The city only mows that field and would have to mow it whether his group used the field or not.

- Ms. Allen said that though extra maintenance is not required at the Kiwanis fields like it is at the soccer complex, the city still has to fertilize, irrigate, and occasionally seed the fields. Mr. DeLoach said he never once saw it being irrigated and Ms. Pennington said they irrigate two nights a week, in the early morning hours.
- Mayor Carter said the football league uses the fields more than occasionally so the fee would be to cover some of that cost. Mr. DeLoach said his group does not damage the field and only use it a few months a year.

Little League Fields:

Jim Maggard, 811 Carlton Avenue, and president of Little League explained that more damage is done to the Little League fields during the months that they are not using the field than during their season. He said a maintenance fee would be alright with him as long as everyone had to pay equally.

Soccer Complex Fields:

- Teresa Allen explained the reasons for the high cost of maintaining the soccer complex fields including the type of grass which requires a lot of extra care in spraying and fertilizing and irrigating. She said they only maintain the fields to the minimum standard, enough to keep the fields playable, and still it costs more than that on any other field.
- Commissioner Lutton said that all the fields have different requirements and needs depending on the sport and so there is no way they all can be treated the same. For example he asked why the PRAM FLEET would pay a maintenance fee when all they use is the water in the lake.
- Commissioner Lutton said it wouldn't be fair to charge organized sports for field usage when many unorganized groups also use the fields and damage them as much or more.

2. DEFINITION OF A LEAGUE:

Ms. Leary read the ordinance definition as it was. The Commission discussed the following possible changes to the definition:

- A league could be defined as an organization having a president and vice president.
- A league could be defined as an organized team whose members pay a fee to the league to participate.

3. CONSENSUS:

- **Should the City charge a maintenance or user fee of any kind for use of city facilities?**
The consensus was NO
- **Should Schools that use City Fields Pay a Field Maintenance Fee:**
The consensus was NO.
- **Should schools that use our fields for practice/tournaments pay a "maintenance fee?"**
The consensus was NO
- **Should groups that use lights pay an hourly fee?**

The consensus was for staff to find out how much money the lights actually costs the city per hour.

- **Should city facilities be upgraded, repaired, or replaced?**

The consensus was for staff to make a list of repairs that need to be made and the associated cost for the gazebo, the Tourist Club, the Austin Center, and the Little League bleachers.

4. **OTHER DISCUSSIONS:**

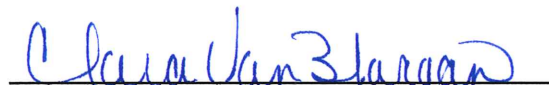
- **Signs:** Commissioner Lutton said signs need to be posted at the parks stating the rules including when the parks close, which is at 10:00 p.m.
- **YMCA Partnership:** A meeting will be set up between the Mayor, City Manager, and representatives from the YMCA to discuss ways the YMCA can partner with the city to provide recreation programs. The ideas gathered will be brought back to the commission for discussion.
- **User Agreements:** Commissioner Lutton said that an agreement template needs to be devised for all users in such a way that specific things can be added. Then all users including leagues, organizations, and schools need to sign a user agreement so that years from now there will be no questions as to what responsibilities belonged to the city and what responsibilities belonged to the users. This should be separate from the maintenance agreement that leagues have already submitted. Commissioner Lutton said he would send staff a user agreement, as a draft, that he's used in the past.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.



Mayor/Commissioner

ATTEST:



City Clerk