

**Richland County Recreation Commission
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2012
6:00PM**

Commissioners in Attendance:

J. Marie Green, Chair
G. Todd Weiss, Secretary
George Martin
Weston A. Furgess, Jr.
C. Todd Latiff
Wilbert Lewis

RCRC Staff in Attendance:

James Brown, III
Curt Wilson
Ronnie Kinnett
Taurus Lewis
Tara Dickerson
David Stringer
Comilla Sampson
Tony Cooper
Leigh Cheatham
Connie Reaves
James Brown, Jr.
Kenny White
Lefunzo Wright
Ben Busbee

Others in Attendance:

James E. Bridgett, Jr. – Consultant/Parliamentarian

1. Call to Order:

Chair Green called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m. and welcomed any guest.

2. Adoption of Agenda:

Motion to adopt the agenda made by Commissioner Weiss and second by Commissioner Furgess. Motion approved unanimously by all members present; Green, Weiss, Furgess, Lewis, Martin and Latiff.

3. Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the minutes from the January 23, 2012 meeting made by Commissioner Latiff and second by Commissioner Weiss. Motion approved unanimously by all members present; Green, Latiff, Weiss, Furgess, Lewis and Martin.

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter made by Commissioner Furgess and second by Commissioner Latiff. Motion approved unanimously by all members present; Green, Furgess, Weiss, Latiff, Lewis, and Martin.

4. Executive Session:

Motion to come out of Executive Session made by Commissioner Weiss and second by Commissioner Lewis. Motion approved unanimously by all members present; Green, Weiss, Lewis, Latiff, Martin and Furgess.

Commissioner Latiff stated that there were some issues discussed and he would like to make a couple of points. First and foremost, the Commission without question recognizes that we do not have the facilities in place to meet the needs of every athletic area of the places that we serve. It is the ultimate goal of the Commission to meet the needs of masses versus the few and the Commission has faith and confidence in the management of Mr. Brown and his team to make those decisions as to how to meet the needs of the residents of our counties and communities. The Commission defers to the judgment of Mr. Brown and his team as it relates to meet those needs. The Commission also recognizes that there are some other issues and challenges in this particular situation that we discussed and the Richland County Recreation Commission has a specific format to address safety and security issues as it relates to employees. Commissioner Latiff stated

that they would be happy to make all the information and the process associated with that information available and it is public information, which will be handled through the appropriate channels and the Commission will get involved if necessary at that time. Mr. Latiff added that prior to getting there; we must first follow the proper steps and procedures.

Commissioner Weiss added that we are in the midst of a \$50 million dollar bond, taxpayer's money; if we put a gym on every corner, I guarantee you we would still have issues with scheduling. There are two very distinct issues we have discussed tonight; one is an operations issue about time and time management at one of our facilities and the other is how you all were treated. We are going to address both situations, but as far as the operations end of it, there might have been a time and a place where the seven Commissioners you see here, one absent, would get involved in the day to day operations; we don't do that. Commissioner Weiss stated that we are bound by the laws of the state of South Carolina and Special Purpose Districts to not do that specifically. Mr. Brown and his staff made a decision about the use of that facility, we can influence that decision, but according to the laws of the state of South Carolina we have one employee, Mr. James Brown. The second issue of how you were treated will be dealt with in a different manner. Commissioner Weiss stated that if any one of you feels like you were mistreated in any way and if any of the staff members feel like you were mistreated in any way, there are policies and procedures that we have in place with this Commission on what you should do. In essence this issue has come to us too early; we haven't gone through our own policies, we have to abide by our own policies and we will be doing that.

Chair Green stated that we did not receive this complaint first hand; we received this complaint through the ombudsman's office, so therefore we need to start at the beginning. Chair Green stated that they cannot get into the day to day operations; Mr. Brown and his staff made the decision but in the future we will communicate to Mr. Joel Mitchell the results of this meeting. Chair Green added that at this time we have gone as far as we can in terms of decisions, as it stands Mr. Brown is in charge and he has said that he will work with his staff to do whatever is necessary to serve the mass and again we appreciate you coming in and look forward to hearing from us in the very near future as to the resolution. Chair Green stated that the group can speak to Mr. David Stringer, Human

Resource Manager, to get instructions as needed to follow through if you feel like you have been mistreated. Chair Green added that staff should also follow through if they feel threatened for self or any of the children by following protocol or calling 911.

Commissioner Weiss stated for the record, during Executive Session that no votes were taken, no opinions rendered, no judgments; we just heard, talked and deliberated a personnel matter.

Chair Green, again thanked the group for coming and advised that we will proceed with the regularly scheduled Board meeting. Mr. David Stringer gave his contact information to Ms. Mitchell.

5. Public Input:

No Public Input

6. Financial Report: (Information)

Mr. Curt Wilson, Business Systems, stated that at last Board meeting he reported that January funding was about half of what was projected; we received February's allotment as projected and also the shortage from January's allotment and with that we are back on track with cash flow. Mr. Wilson stated that we can proceed with major expenditures and repairs that we have been putting off. Mr. Wilson reported that we have received 89% of our funding for the year.

Mr. Wilson reported other funding received in January as follows: \$18,112 for reimbursement of expenses related to the 21st Century Grant at Crane Creek and \$23,922 in the form of a credit that went against our Workman's Compensation premium for the next fiscal year. Mr. Wilson stated that our EMOD (Experience Modifier) has gone down which created the credit.

Mr. Wilson stated that we have received our budget letter from the Richland County Finance Department and the three dates that are very important are as follows: May 4th funding request due to the County Budget Department, May 23rd second reading of budgets and May 31st third reading and ordinance adoption. Mr. Wilson advised that these are tentative dates and he will keep the Board informed of any changes. Mr. Wilson added that the funding letter, as usual,

stated that we should not ask for any more money than we received last fiscal year but they also asked for mileage agencies to submit an addendum which would list the items that we would spend money on if we receive more than what we got this year. Mr. Wilson explained that we are in the budget process now and coming along pretty good.

Mr. Wilson reported total revenue for January at LinRick was 38.6% over last January and total revenue for year to date at LinRick is 14% over the same period last year. Mr. Wilson stated that rounds were the best in six years and green fees were the best in three years. Cart rentals were the best ever in January.

Commissioner Weiss stated that in the March or April meeting he would like to talk about priorities. Commissioner Weiss stated that Commissioner Lewis has brought this up in the past that a budget truly reflects our priorities and before we go to County Council he would like to talk about some ideas for putting some money towards some things that need attention. Commissioner Weiss added that regardless of how we look at it, and he knows that Mr. Wilson does a great job as far as modeling it year after year, it is a reflection of our priorities and it says something about our organization and we have to make sure we are giving County Council what we want them to hear.

Mr. Wilson stated that this is fine and he added that in the past we had a budget committee, but we can do it during the Board meeting. Chair Green stated that next Board meeting we will come prepared to discuss the budget during Executive Session.

Chair Green commented on history making at LinRick, having the best cart rentals and green fees ever for January.

Commissioner Latiff asked Chair Green if there would be opposition to questions or comments to Mr. Wilson before the next meeting with budget suggestions. Chair Green cleared with Mr. Wilson and Mr. Brown that this would not be a problem.

7. Bond Construction Update: (Information)

Mr. Ronnie Kinnett, Property Management, reviewed the Bond Update included in the Board's package.

8. Disposal of Surplus Equipment: (Action)

Mr. Ronnie Kinnett, Property Management, distributed to Commissioners a list of items he is looking to sell at State auction. Mr. Kinnett stated that he is requesting to dispose of equipment that is no longer serviceable or no longer in use. Mr. Kinnett added that this would free up needed equipment storage space and hopefully generate funds to purchase needed turf and maintenance equipment. Mr. Kinnett stated that this equipment could be disposed of thru the State of South Carolina General Services Division of the SC Budget and Control Board's Surplus Property Office.

Mr. Kinnett stated that it would be his recommendation to dispose of the requested list of surplus property thru the State of South Carolina General Services Division Surplus Property Office. In the event equipment cannot be successfully disposed of thru this process any remaining items will be sold for scrap metal, etc. and a check for such turned over to the Recreation Commission Finance Department. Mr. Kinnett added that he would also ask that the proceeds from this sale be used to purchase needed turf and maintenance equipment.

Motion to accept Mr. Kinnett's recommendation made by Commissioner Weiss and second by Commissioner Lewis. Motion approved unanimously by all members present; Green, Lewis, Weiss, Latiff, Furgess and Martin.

9. Executive Director Report: (Information)

Mr. Brown stated that he would like to first apologize for what everyone had to go through earlier in Executive Session and he added that he tried to resolve the matter before it got to this.

Mr. Brown reported Agency Updates as listed on the handout to Commissioners.

Commissioner Lewis commented on the TV news report featuring David Stringer at LinRick playing golf demonstrating the new golf cart.

Chair Green stated that she wanted Mr. Brown to know that they appreciate all his hard work and that the Board supports him in his efforts to do what he needs to do. Chair Green stated that nobody is perfect and everything is not perfect but those things that are not perfect, we have the right team in place to work things out and do things the way they need to be done.

Commissioner Weiss congratulated Commissioners Green and Lewis on their reappointments.

10. Other Business:

No other business

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Commissioner Latiff and second by Commissioner Furgess. Motion approved unanimously by all members present; Green, Furgess, Latiff, Martin, Lewis and Weiss.

11. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 7:30p.m.



J. Marie Green, Chair

Minutes approved on this 19th day of March 2012.