

**Richland County Recreation Commission**  
**Regular Board Meeting Minutes**  
**January 26, 2015**  
**6:00PM**

**Commissioners in Attendance:**

J. Marie Green, Chair  
G. Todd Weiss, Vice Chair  
Wilbert Lewis  
Barbara Mickens  
George Martin

**RCRC Staff in Attendance:**

James Brown, III  
Kenya Bryant  
Ronnie Kinnett  
Tara Dickerson  
Taurus Lewis  
David Stringer  
Robert Hickman  
Andrea James  
Kasey Wilson  
Tony Cooper  
Connie Reaves  
Debra Jacobs  
Bryan Crider  
Cornelia Watts

**Others in Attendance:**

James E. Bridgett, Jr., Consultant/Parliamentarian

**1. Call to Order:**

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

**2. Adoption of Agenda: (Action)**

**Motion to adopt the agenda made by Commissioner Lewis, stating that his request from the last Board meeting to discuss the Nepotism Policy, which is a personnel matter be addressed**

**in Executive Session, second by Commissioner Mickens. Motion approved unanimously by all members present: Green, Weiss, Lewis, Martin and Mickens.**

**3. Approval of Minutes: (Action)**

**Motion to approve the minutes from the December 15, 2014 Regular Board Meeting made by Commissioner Mickens second by Commissioner Martin. Minutes approved unanimously by all members present; Green, Martin, Lewis, Mickens and Weiss.**

**4. Public Input:**

Rev. M. Henry Pawluk, Pastor New Hope Lutheran Church, presented to the Board his concerns of RCRC's recent decision to increase the costs for religious organizations renting County facilities.

Mr. Don Byers, Treasurer New Hope Lutheran Church stated that with one months' notice the Church has been hit with a 40% increase in rental cost to pay for having a staff member present at all times. Mr. Byers presented two request to the Board:

- (1) Do not make this change or give us at least one years' notice before implementing it.
- (2) If for reasons we do not understand, this change must be made and made now then Grandfather us and RCRC pay for it with part of the funds we pay.

Mr. Byers asked the Board to make a decision tonight to delay this increase until it can be studied further and a compatible solution determined.

Mr. Taurus Lewis, Division Head Facility Operations, reported that a certified memo was sent to all churches using RCRC facilities on December 15, 2014 notifying them of the decision made to staff our facilities. Mr. Lewis stated that all RCRC rentals are staffed and per our policy any rentals during nonoperational hours a staff person must be present. Mr. Lewis stated that the decision was made so that RCRC is consistent across the board countywide with all facilities. Mr. Lewis added that this is not new and RCRC should have had this in place but have neglected to do so.

Commissioner Lewis stated that it is his understanding that for 16 months we have operated under one standard, and this is not a new policy but an effort to try and bring everyone into compliance with a policy that is already in place. Commissioner Lewis stated that for 16 months this has not been an issue and it has not been brought to the Church's attention that this is something that they would be required to do. Mr. Taurus Lewis stated that this is correct. Commissioner Lewis stated that he understands that we gave them notice last month on the 15<sup>th</sup> that effective within 30 days that they would have to come into compliance with the policy that was already in place. Mr. Taurus Lewis stated that it would be effective February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Commissioner Lewis asked how many other Churches and organizations do we have that we have not brought this to their attention prior to December. Mr. Taurus Lewis stated that all Churches and organizations that were currently using our facilities were notified at the same time. Commissioner Lewis noted that this will not only be an issue for this Church but also for other Churches operating under the same standard without the policy being carried out the way that it should have been carried out when they first started to operate.

Chair Green responded stating that the concerns and requests expressed will be taken into consideration and discussed and the Staff will contact them with the decision.

Mr. Byers added that he wanted to emphasize that they do appreciate where they are and are thankful for that.

Mr. Julian Shabazz, addressed the Board as a private citizen and as a former employee of RCRC. Mr. Shabazz's public statement is attached to official minutes for reference.

Mr. Shabazz thanked the Board for allowing him to address them in this public forum.

Commissioner Lewis requested a copy of the statement.

**5. Financial Report: (Information)**

Ms. Andrea James, Financial Operations, reviewed financial reports included in the Board's packet.

**6. Bond Construction Update: (Information)**

Mr. Ronnie Kinnett, Property Management, reviewed Bond Projects listed on the Bond Construction Updates included in the Board's package.

**7. Disposal of Above Ground Fuel Storage Tanks: (Action)**

Mr. Ronnie Kinnett, Property Management, requested permission from Board to sell two old above ground fuel storage tanks with fuel pumps that were located at 5819 Shakespeare Road Office. Mr. Kinnett stated that the tanks have not been used in over 10 years. Mr. Kinnett reported that calls were made to Blythewood Oil, Eastover Oil and Southern Pump and Tank to see if anyone was interested in purchasing and the only reply was from Blythewood Oil with an offer of \$1500 delivered to their site. Mr. Kinnett requested permission to sell the tanks to Blythewood Oil for \$1500.00.

**Motion made by Commissioner Lewis to accept the recommendation of administration, second by Commissioner Weiss. Motion approved unanimously by all members present; Green, Lewis, Weiss, Martin and Mickens.**

Commissioner Weiss questioned concern for contamination around where they were and Mr. Kinnett stated that they were tanks inside tanks and totally self-contained.

**8. AD HOC Resolution: (Action)**

Commissioner Weiss presented Resolution included in the Board's packet.

**Motion made by Commissioner Lewis to adopt the Resolution as presented in the Board's packet, second by Commissioner Weiss. Motion approved unanimously by all members present; Green, Mickens, Lewis, Martin and Weiss.**

**9. Executive Director Report:**

Mr. James Brown, III, reported Agency Updates as outlined on the handout.

**10. Other Business**

None

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

Chair Green allowed public input from Rev. Dr. Johnnie Cordero.

Rev. Dr. Cordero addressed the concerns of the Pine Grove Community concerning the change in leadership at the Center and expressed his feelings on the great job that the present Center Leader is doing.

**11. Executive Session**

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

No actions were taken in Executive Session.

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

**12. Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45p.m.

  
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J. Marie Green, Chair

Minutes approved on this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February 2015.