

9. **OLD BUSINESS**

b. Recreation Center Issues

- i. Scholarship Assistance Funding proposal



# MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** October 20, 2008  
**TO:** City Manager Judith Zimomra  
**FROM:** Recreation Director Chris Deal  
**SUBJECT:** Scholarship Assistance Funding Proposal

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## History

As approved by the Parks & Recreation Committee and City Council, a plan is to be brought forward to address the funding of the scholarship Assistance Program/ As previously reported, the estimate of financial assistance need for the 2008/2009 Budget Year is approximately \$42,000. With the traditional donation of \$5,000 from the Southwest Florida Community Foundation, and a \$3,000 donation from the Sanibel Kiwanis Club, this leaves a balance need of \$34,000.

## Research

In review of other organizations scholarship procedures, such as the School District, YMCA and other cities, there are different sources used to cover the scholarship assistance funding. The main sources are direct donations, grants, fundraising events and a sliding fee scale so every scholarship recipient pays something for the services provided.

## Proposal

Just recently, Mr. Sam Bailey contributed \$530.00 to sponsor a child in the After School program, which shows the positive impact from one individual or business in our community. Based on the information gathered and the expectations to cover the scholarship funding, the following is proposed:

1. Implement a sliding fee scale in order to reduce the amount of scholarship funding granted, which will place a higher value on the assistance provided to the user.
2. Research grant opportunities for scholarship assistance in any category for a grant award

## MEMORANDUM

3. Parks and Recreation Committee evaluate and improve the City Golf outing into an event that generates scholarship funding.
4. Parks & Recreation Committee establish a fund raising campaign including a financial goal amount, campaign materials and identify potential donors, single individuals, companies or organizations.
5. If a Parks and Recreation Foundation is established, charge the Foundation with the challenge of raising funds for recreation program scholarship assistance. .

### Next Step

1. Implement the sliding fee scale immediately. The attached sliding fee scale was developed by using the "Feed the Children Initiative" school lunch program from the School District of Lee County. The scale shows the After School program current prices and percentages allowed by income and the number in the household. This same sliding fee scale model will be used for other program scholarship assistance within the Recreation Department. In addition, a "hardship" petition will be allowed for those families with special circumstances, such as medical bills or loss of a job. This requires City Council approval, to be scheduled for November 18, 2008.
2. Continue research of grant opportunities and apply for eligible grants.
3. Expand on the Golf Tournament by increasing corporate sponsors to increase funds raised. Review other special event fund raising options.
4. Parks & Recreation Committee establish the process for a fund raising campaign. Recommend to be in place by February 1, 2009.

**After-School Program Sliding Fee Scale**

# of Children in Household		Maximum Annual Household Income											
		\$13,500.00	\$18,500.00	\$23,500.00	\$28,500.00	\$33,500.00	\$38,500.00	\$43,500.00	\$48,500.00	\$53,500.00	\$58,500.00	\$63,500.00	\$68,500.00
1	Scholarship %	60%	55%	50%	45%	40%	35%	30%	25%	20%	15%	10%	5%
	Remaining Balance (Member)	\$212	\$239	\$265	\$292	\$318	\$345	\$371	\$398	\$424	\$451	\$477	\$504
	Remaining Balance (Non-Member)	\$253	\$285	\$317	\$348	\$380	\$411	\$443	\$475	\$506	\$538	\$570	\$601
2	Scholarship %	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%	45%	40%	35%	30%	25%	20%	15%
	Remaining Balance (Member)	\$159	\$186	\$212	\$239	\$265	\$292	\$318	\$345	\$371	\$398	\$424	\$451
	Remaining Balance (Non-Member)	\$190	\$222	\$253	\$285	\$317	\$348	\$380	\$411	\$443	\$475	\$506	\$538
3	Scholarship %	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%	45%	40%	35%	30%	25%
	Remaining Balance (Member)	\$106	\$133	\$159	\$186	\$212	\$239	\$265	\$292	\$318	\$345	\$371	\$398
	Remaining Balance (Non-Member)	\$127	\$158	\$190	\$222	\$253	\$285	\$317	\$348	\$380	\$411	\$443	\$475
4	Scholarship %	90%	85%	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%	45%	40%	35%
	Remaining Balance (Member)	\$53	\$80	\$106	\$133	\$159	\$186	\$212	\$239	\$265	\$292	\$318	\$345
	Remaining Balance (Non-Member)	\$63	\$95	\$127	\$158	\$190	\$222	\$253	\$285	\$317	\$348	\$380	\$411

After-School Program for Recreation Center Members = \$530 / year per child  
 After-School Program for Recreation Center Non-Members = \$633 / year per child  
 Same percentage used for all youth programs and scholarships