

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Board of County Commissioners

DATE: May 5, 2021

SUBJECT: Approval of Special Rate for Use of the Fairgrounds Following Events at Sandridge Golf Club

FROM: Susan Adams
Commissioner, District 1

I would appreciate a discussion with my fellow commissioners regarding the concept of a venue package for the use of Sandridge Golf Club and the Fleetwood Center under specific circumstances as described below.

BACKGROUND:

Sandridge Golf Club hosts several charity golf tournaments throughout the year that are organized and funded by various non-profit community organizations. These events generally include opening ceremonies and golf with awards and closing events held at the Sandridge Café, which currently accommodates up to 150 people.

In recent years, the Vietnam Veterans of Indian River County Inc. have held the Mary Snyder Golf Tournament at Sandridge. This popular event has grown to over 250 participants and volunteers. It is wonderful to see this, and other successful events grow through the years. However even though this is a great problem to have, it means that Sandridge is unable to host the awards and closing events due to a limited seating capacity. In order to find a solution to the current capacity limitations, Sandridge staff in cooperation with its food and beverage concessionaire is willing and able to set up and hold the post event activities in the Fleetwood Center at the IRC Fairgrounds.

It should be noted that in recognition of the increased usage and growth of events held at Sandridge, the Sandridge Clubhouse Addition Project will be coming to the BOCC for consideration on a future agenda. This project is intended to address the limited capacity at the facility allowing IRC to help foster and grow these successful events that are so important to the viability of our community non-profit groups.

On May 4, 2021, the Vietnam Veterans of IRC Inc. approached the Board of County Commissioners to seek a waiver of the fees associated with the use of the Fairgrounds following the golf tournament. The Board discussed how to best balance the need for the event to be moved due to facility capacity, while taking into consideration that they have already contracted to use the facilities at Sandridge. Further discussion was had regarding creating a process that could be applied to other events and non-profit organizations that may be facing similar circumstances. During the discussion, the idea was proposed to create a package or special rate that would apply in the described specific circumstances.

PROPOSAL:

It is proposed that the Board of County Commissioners approve a special rate applicable to the Fairgrounds facility rental rate schedule equivalent to 75% of the non-profit rate following a charitable golf tournament at Sandridge Golf Club exceeding 150 participants. It is further recommended to sunset this special rate upon completion of the planned Sandridge Clubhouse Addition Project.

I believe that this proposal would strike a balance between protecting taxpayer dollars and supporting the role that fundraisers hold for non-profits allowing them to raise funds to put valuable resources back into our community. After speaking with staff, it is my understanding the proposal would cover the overhead cost of using the facility and coupled with some additional savings that come with using 2 county facilities and the same concessionaire, the Vietnam Veterans of IRC would bear a minimal fiscal impact for their event, which should be further offset by the generous pledges made by various individuals at the May 4th BOCC meeting.

Thank you for your consideration.