



The Town of Hilton Head Island Regular Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting

Thursday, June 9, 2011

3:30 p.m. – Benjamin M. Racusin Council Chambers

AGENDA

As a Courtesy to Others Please Turn Off All Cell Phones and Pagers during the Meeting

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**
- 3. Freedom of Information Act Compliance**
Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted, and mailed in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Town of Hilton Head Island requirements.
- 4. Approval of Minutes**
 - a. Regular Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting of April 14, 2011
- 5. Appearance by Citizens on Items Unrelated to Today's Agenda**
- 6. Reports**
 - a. Update from Island Recreation Association
- 7. Unfinished Business**
- 8. New Business**
- 9. Park Updates**
- 10. Park Commissioner Comments**
- 11. Adjournment**

Please note that a quorum of Town Council may result if four (4) or more Town Council members attend this meeting.

**The Town of Hilton Head Island
Parks & Recreation Commission
Thursday, April 14, 2011
3:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Daniel Gafgen, Jack Hamrick, John McCann, Robert Moore, P. Jeffrey North, Timothy Singleton, Marc Stuckart

Members Absent: none

Town Staff: Scott Liggett, Anne Cyran, Darrin Shoemaker, Julian Walls, Marcy Benson, Brian Hulbert

Other: Frank Soule, *Island Recreation Association*; Frank Babel, *Squeaky Wheels Cycling Advocacy Group*

I. Call to Order

Chairman McCann called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

III. Freedom of Information Compliance

Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted and mailed in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Town of Hilton Head Island requirements.

IV. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of March 10, 2011 were approved as presented.

V. Appearance by Citizens - none

VI. Reports

- **Update from Island Recreation Association.** Mr. Frank Soule distributed the Island Recreation Center summer brochure and reported that online registration is up and running. Shelter Cove Community Park has been busy with Wingfest (March 19, 2011), Earth Day (April 2, 2011), Easter Eggstravaganza (April 16, 2011) and Seafood Fest (April 30, 2011). The dome over the pool has been taken down and Spring Swimming has begun.

Chairman McCann complimented the Island Recreation Center on a great job of providing online information as well as printed brochures. Mr. Soule stated that approximately 75% of registration for programs is completed online.

- **Pathway Safety Needs Identification Efforts.** Mr. Darrin Shoemaker presented a report that covered collisions on Hilton Head Island, the locations having the most collisions, new pathway signs and safety improvements for pathways as well as rules for safe bicycling.

Commissioner Singleton applauded the efforts of the new signs on the pathways but stated that he was disturbed by the statistics – injuries and fatalities that occurred mostly in the Ward 1 area. Commissioner Singleton stated that the Town needs to revisit and prioritize safety zones in the Ward 1 area. Commissioner Singleton suggested distributing the bicycle safety rules to hotels and to the schools.

Commissioner Moore asked if there were statistics showing that the collisions and fatalities were a result of distraction (talking on phone/texting) or poor judgment (no reflective gear). Mr. Shoemaker did not have that information but agreed it is probably a combination of factors.

Chairman McCann complimented Mr. Shoemaker on his presentation and suggested that bike safety should focus on our full-time residents ensuring that they are taken care of.

- **Bike Safety.** Mr. Frank Babel stated that he continues to work with others to distribute bike reflectors to people that ride at night. Mr. Babel's presentation covered the following items:
 - The need for more funds for pathway maintenance.
 - Anticipation of Bike Friendly Community announcement.
 - A bike advisory committee will soon be assembled and will include Commissioner Stuckart as a member.
 - Bike events for May 2011.
 - CIP suggestions.
 - Bike rental shops are the first contact with visitors and could make a big impression on educating visitors about bike safety.

Chairman McCann asked Mr. Babel to come to the May Parks & Recreation Commission meeting to present the bike safety public service announcements. Chairman McCann asked Mr. Babel to come to the June Parks & Recreation Commission meeting to report on the results of the bike advisory committee.

VII. Unfinished Business - Proposed FY 12 Capital Improvements Program.

Mr. Scott Liggett reviewed the six Pathway items identified for funding listed under the Fiscal Year 2012 – Proposed Priority Projects. Mr. Liggett briefed the Commissioners on the items listed under Town Parks Upgrades.

Commissioner Singleton asked if the Town was going to upgrade Jarvis Creek Park because it is a beautiful location but the access to it is difficult. Commissioner Singleton stated that the grill area at Jarvis should be expanded so more families and civic organizations could utilize it. Mr. Liggett replied that through the efforts of Mr. Julian Walls and Facilities Management staff an aggressive plan to clean up and re-establish Jarvis Creek Park was implemented and the same is planned for other facilities. Mr. Liggett stated that due to the high amount of use, additional grills at Jarvis Creek Park is on Facilities Management's list.

Commissioner Singleton made a motion to recommend that Jarvis Creek Park improvements be given a higher priority and be added to the Town Parks Upgrades list near Shelter Cove Veteran's Memorial. Mr. Stuckart seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. New Business

IX. Updates

Audubon International Green Communities Program – Ms. Marcy Benson described the requirements of this program and what steps have been completed to date:

This program assists communities with assessing natural resources and environmental concerns and identifies steps which can be taken to move closer to community sustainability. Participation in this program will emphasize the Town of Hilton Head Island's commitment to green initiatives and sustainability.

The Green Communities Program is the first stage of Audubon International's Sustainable Communities Program and encompasses four action steps, which include (1) forming a steering committee; (2) completing a community baseline survey & site assessment; (3) conducting a treasuring home survey & pledge; and (4) completing a demonstration project. Once the four action steps have been completed a community receives the Audubon International Green Community designation and can move forward to the next stages of the Sustainable Communities Program.

Early in 2011 Town staff formed a green community steering committee comprised of representatives from local public service organizations such as the Island Recreation Association, Hilton Head Public Service District, Palmetto Electric, Beaufort County School District, Hilton Head Regional Medical Center, Property Owners Associations and the Hilton Head Island Chamber of Commerce.

The steering committee completed the community baseline survey and site assessment, covering 15 focus areas. This information was reviewed by Audubon International and a response, in the form of a Green Community Status Report, was returned to the steering committee. This status report from Audubon International included an assessment of current sustainability practices and recommendations for long term sustainable opportunities.

To complete action step three the steering committee distributed the Audubon International Treasuring Home Survey and Pledge via a variety of electronic formats, including posting the survey on the Town of Hilton Head Island website for easy access by Town residents. The survey takes a few minutes to complete and will help show support for green initiatives. Town residents are encouraged to complete the survey and pledge at: <http://www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov>. Survey results are currently being tabulated and the targeted response rate is ten percent of the Town's households.

The final action step is to officially designate an Audubon International educational demonstration site. The site should provide educational information about sustainability themes and issues. The steering committee has selected the installation of four interpretive signs at the Town's Jarvis Creek Park as the demonstration project. The signs will describe how the elements of the park work to process stormwater runoff and provide water habitat. The signs will be in the style of the interpretive signs located at the Town's Fish Haul Park to provide a consistent format among signs at Town parks.

As the Town moves forward with a commitment to green initiatives and sustainability the Island will welcome an international eco-tourism conference in September. This will provide a great

opportunity to showcase the natural beauty and environmentally sensitive practices of Hilton Head Island. Obtaining the Audubon International Green Community designation will serve as further support of the Town's commitment to "going green".

X. Park Commissioner Comments - none

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Eileen Wilson

Approved by: _____
John McCann, Chairman

DRAFT