



**Town of Hilton Head Island
Circle to Circle Committee**

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

8:30 a.m.

Benjamin M. Racusin Council Chambers

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

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Freedom of Information Act Compliance**
Public notification of this meeting has been published and posted in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Town of Hilton Head Island requirements.
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
- 4. Approval of Minutes – May 4, 2016 Meeting**
- 5. Unfinished Business**
- 6. New Business**
 - A. Vision**
 - Principles
 - Character
 - Visuals
 - B. Community Forum Schedule**
- 7. Appearance by Citizens**
- 8. Meeting Summary and Topics for Next Meeting**
- 9. Adjournment**

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

Circle to Circle Committee - Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2016

8:30 a.m.

Council Chambers, Town Hall

Circle to Circle Committee Members present:	Jim Gant (Chairman), Jack Daly, David Ames, David Bachelder, Judd Carstens, Paul Crunkleton, Kyle Theodore, Tom Sharp, Tom Lennox, Carlton Dallas, Mike Thomas
Town Staff present:	Charles Cousins, Shawn Colin, Jill Foster, Scott Liggett, Darrin Shoemaker, Jeff Buckalew, Tom Paige, Eileen Wilson
Via phone:	Glenn Walters and Kurt Culbertson – Design Workshop Consulting

1. Call to Order

Chairman Gant called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

2. Freedom of Information Act Compliance

The Town has met all Freedom of Information Act requirements for this meeting.

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved by the Committee.

4. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Crunkleton stated that although they discussed reducing traffic in the Sea Pines Circle, the goal is to reduce traffic in the entire south end of the Island. Chairman Gant said he would change the sentence to read: *Enhance visibility and use of other beaches by day visitors to reduce traffic in the Sea Pines Circle and throughout the south end corridor.* The minutes of April 27, 2016 were approved as amended.

5. Unfinished Business

None

6. New Business

A. Policy Topics

Land Acquisition

Small local parks and green space within easy walking distance of residences improves the desirability of the area for long term residents and contributes to the village character.

Design Workshop presented schematics depicting normal walk zones around existing parks in the area, and noted a couple of areas without parks, but with Town owned land. The committee concluded that the Town should implement small neighborhood parks on existing Town owner land in both North Forest Beach and South Forest Beach with input from local residents on desired features.

Storm water

Proper management of storm water runoff is important to protect the islands water quality. Design Workshop presented the advantages of shared storm water retention (lagoons, ponds) both to protect watershed quality and encourage redevelopment of existing aged properties.

The committee concluded that the Town should consider shared storm water retention on Town owned land in the area as an option to encourage redevelopment. The Town should also encourage re-use of storm water wherever possible as an alternative to using potable water for landscape needs.

Open Space Requirements

Open space serves as a contributor to the character of the island and will probably be part of the island visioning process currently being directed by the Town Council.

The committee concluded that the Town should evaluate acquiring parcels in the area for green space to improve walk ability, reduce development and traffic growth. A definition of specific use should be made before land acquisition. A rigorous review of parking requirements should be made before land would be acquired for additional parking.

Zoning and LMO

The LMO re-write, completed approximately 2 years, ago seems to be addressing one of its goals: facilitating re-development of aging properties as evidenced by substantial rebuilding over the past 24 months.

Given what we have learned over the past year about current and projected traffic volumes as well as the evolving vision of "village character" of this area, the committee recommends that the Planning Commission re-assess the recent usage and density changes to the LMO to determine if changes should be considered. Some areas for review may include but not be limited to: height limitations, density, usage in Sea Pines Circle area and stronger emphasis on cross parking lot connectivity.

Redevelopment Stimulus

The committee discussed the opportunities for additional parking - recognizing that more parking must be balanced with solutions to solving traffic congestion. Additional surface parking was identified as a possibility. The committee concluded that the role of government is higher in creating infrastructure in village or more urban environments. The committee also discussed the importance of internet connectivity. Kyle Theodore pointed out that the Coligny Park will have both Wi-Fi access points as well as charging stations.

B. Coligny Circle

Design Workshop presented several graphics depicting potential road circulation and modifications to the shape of Coligny Circle. One major concept was to change the shape of the circle to connect the interior to the beach park and have Pope Ave intersect North and South Forest Beach in a "T" intersection. This concept received mixed response from the committee and will be further explored in the discussion of Vision at next week's meeting.

C. 2 Lane Rotary References

Design Workshop presented depictions of 6 other 2 lane rotaries with traffic volumes approximating Sea Pines Circle. There continues to be discussion of the effectiveness and safety of 2 lane rotaries. Design Workshop will continue to investigate opportunities to make the Sea Pines circle more effective as interim steps to a 2 lane rotary

7. Meeting Summary and Topics for Next Meeting

Community Feedback Forums

The committee intends to hold 4 community feedback sessions over June 1-June 2 to share the conclusions and recommendations of the committee before they are presented to the Planning Commission and Town Council. Current schedule is:

- June 1
 - Shipyard 8:30 AM
 - Forest Beach 7:00PM
- June 2
 - Sea Pines 2:30 PM
- TBD
 - Hilton Head Plantation

Further details and communication to the community will be defined.

8. Appearance by Citizens

Mr. Randy Tardy stated that he hopes when this Committee presents the Vision next week that it includes gain gardens along the pathways in the Pope Avenue corridor. Mr. Tardy stated he was in favor of eliminating heat islands and replacing them with concrete surface or permeable surfaces. Mr. Tardy stated his concern about emergency vehicles being able to navigate the Sea Pines Circle when it is backed up with traffic.

Mr. Frank Babel stated that many major cities are transition into bike friendly places by taking some of the roadway away from vehicles. Mr. Babel asked the Committee to consider the possibility of using the pathways for walkers and create a protected lane for bikes.

Ms. Kate Keep asked the Committee to examine very closely the evidence that is being put forward about the safety of two lane circles in general. I find it hard to believe the Town having spent a couple of million dollars less than two decades ago reducing the Sea Pines Circle from two lanes to one in the issue of safety. The circle located inside Sea Pines was recently modified from two lanes to one for the express purpose of increasing safety there. This sounds very conflicting but please look into evidence that shows two lanes are safe even if traffic is slowed a bit.

Mr. Stu Rodman stated he was in favor of a shuttle system using Honey Horn as the best location as it would intercept arriving visitors and divert them to under-used beaches and therefore ease congestion and parking issues. Mr. Rodman presented several charts depicting possible shuttle schedules, operating costs, traffic volume numbers and comparing parking structure to surface parking.

Ms. Eleanor Lightsey inquired on behalf of a newly formed group called The Forest at Forest Beach their concern is about the use of Town owned parcels (identified in materials as lots 20, 21 and 22). Asked if this park were to be passive there would not be hard surface, use of this land for stormwater retention. She asked if Coligny Circle could support a cistern to help with stormwater.

Mr. George Paletta thanked the Committee for their work and stated that the continued growth of business will increase traffic. The Committee should take one step at a time, measure success, no more ATAX for failing projects. Signage is very important. The Chamber of Commerce should promote other beaches on the Island.

9. Adjournment

Chairman Gant adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Meeting date: May 4, 2016

Approved:

Chairman: _____
Jim Gant

Submitted by: Eileen Wilson