

**The Town of Hilton Head Island
Parks & Recreation Commission
Thursday, April 9, 2015
3:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Theresa Bennett, Peter Keber, Fred Lowery, Heather Rath, Andrew Schumacher, Michael Weaver

Members Absent: none

Town Council: Mayor Bennett

Town Staff: Charles Cousins, Scott Liggett, Marcy Benson, Jennifer Ray, Shawn Colin, Susan Simmons, Brian Hulbert

Other: Frank Soule, *Executive Director for Island Recreation Association*;
Frank Babel, *Cycling Advocate*

I. Call to Order

Chairman Rath 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 the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting of January 8, 2015 were approved with corrections.

V. Appearance by Citizens - none

VI. Reports

a. **Update from Island Recreation Association.** Mr. Frank Soule reported on the following:

- Winter programs were busy; roller hockey had approximately 85 players; basketball programs had a lot of participation; basketball league (high school) had 8 teams; kids Crossfit program going well
- The pool dome came down and we are now swimming outside. Working with local swim teams; hosted a few swim meets.
- The Leaders Club is growing, there are approximately 40 kids involved. The Leaders Club is for middle school teens to receive leadership training and learn the importance of social responsibility and service to others. They recently helped at events selling t-shirts.
- Pickle ball is a big morning program.
- Senior programs: there are 580 members and continues to grow. Socials are big, card playing etc.
- SOAR Special Olympics - several athletes will go to the world games in Los Angeles.

- Community events: Snow Day was great; Easter Egg-stravaganza had approximately 800 kids – was a very busy 30 minutes; Seafood Fest in March had a record attendance; WingFest was a two-day event with approximately 4,200 people. Beer, Bacon & Music will be held on May 2 at Shelter Cove Community Park.

- b. **Update from Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC).** Mr. Frank Babel reported that the pathways are looking great. Mr. Andy Clarke, President of The League of American Bicyclists has provided positive feedback on our application for the bicycle friendly community award. The BAC will be recruiting bike ambassadors for Sea Pines as well as for Palmetto Dunes. Volunteers are prepared to park approximately 6,000 bicycles at the Heritage Golf Tournament. The BAC created a Bike Safety Improvements Committee; it is a subcommittee to the Safety Education Committee. The Committee will focus on identifying locations where we think people may be at risk and the second is issues or problems that need to be addressed and then we work on mitigation. Mr. Babel announced that there have not been any bike/car crashes this year. The Infrastructure Committee is concerned that the Town does not have any funding set aside for bike paths for the next five years. We will focus on areas that have safety and access needs. There are three projects we have identified: 1. Finish the pathway at Arrow Road and Wexford (in front of Panera); 2. The leisure trail owned by Shelter Cove POA is terrible, it needs to be rebuilt; 3. Marshland has two crosswalks that are on a blind corner, it is dangerous and needs a better line of site or be relocated.

Commissioner Bennett asked Mr. Babel what it takes to get from a silver award to a gold award? Mr. Babel stated that there are essential elements across five categories – known as the Five E’s – that are consistent in making great places for bicycling.

The Five E’s are:

Engineering: creating safe and convenient places to ride and park.

Education: giving people of all ages and abilities the skills and confidence to ride.

Encouragement: creating a strong bike culture that welcomes and celebrates bicycling.

Enforcement: ensuring safe roads for all users.

Evaluation & Planning: planning for bicycling as a safe and viable transportation option.

Mr. Babel stated that we are doing a good job in a lot of these areas. We are working with schools to create a local Safe Routes to School program.

Commissioner Bennett asked Mr. Babel if there is a place on Hilton Head Island for people to do off road biking? Mr. Babel stated that we need a facility here. The only place we have is off of Arrow Road near Crossings Park and part of the trail runs on a wetland area. Mr. Babel stated that the BAC would like to investigate creating a bike park. Commissioner Bennett asked Mr. Babel if he is able to measure economic impact to businesses. Mr. Babel stated that the BAC is creating an in-depth survey and will also request assistance from Dr. John Salazar of USCB.

- c. **Report from Sand Volleyball Organization:** Mr. Jeremy Modzelewski, a Hilton Head Island resident stated how necessary it is to have public sand volleyball courts on Hilton Head Island. Mr. Modzelewski introduced Genia Edelman, volleyball coach on Hilton Head Island. Ms. Edelman stated that volleyball is the third largest sport and the

fastest growing sport in the United States and worldwide. It is important to create strong, confident young leaders who work together as a team. Ms. Edelman stated that their program is donation based so it can become more diverse.

The best location for sand volleyball courts would be at the Bristol Complex at the Meadow site at Crossings Park. It is an underutilized space.

The club relies on the generosity of the community and has seen support from businesses such as the Beach House's Tiki Hut and Providence Presbyterian.

The EVP, which consists of a select group of volleyball professionals from across the country, will hold professional, amateur, co-ed and juniors events at the Beach House's Tiki Hut. The Tiki Hut will be hosting six volleyball tournaments throughout the summer, including East End Volleyball (EEVB) and the EVP; some of these tournaments will be nationally televised.

d. Report from Pickleball Organization

Mr. BC Huselton, spokesman for Hilton Head Island Pickleball Club stated that over the last five years, the Hilton Head Island Pickleball Community has grown from approximately 15 to 150. We started on two chalk lined courts at the Adrianna Courts owned by Beaufort County. In 2012 we were welcomed by the Island Recreation Center and we now have six permanently lined courts with temporary nets. In 2015 Beaufort County gave us permission to permanently line pickleball courts on two courts at Adrianna. These courts will be multi-use with permanent tennis nets and portable pickleball nets.

For the short term we would like to identify facilities that can be made into multi-use pickleball facilities with minimal expense and maximum return on usage. For the long term we would like to partner with the Parks & Recreation Commission and make a solid strategic investment and support all of it.

- e. Shelter Cove Community Park transition process/remaining park elements:** Ms. Jennifer Ray, Urban Designer, stated that the ribbon cutting was held on April 1, 2015 and it was a great day. This park is already being heavily used. Blanchard & Calhoun are trying to accommodate a "wish list" of items if the budget allows otherwise this list will have to be completed at a later date. The Development Agreement documentation needs to be completed and then the Town will be able to close, transfer and have ownership of the park and maintain it. Remaining park elements: Potential pier – over the past year, we have identified a channel to meet the requirement of a shorter length pier; we are checking on the cost and potential add on. Commissioner Bennett asked about the surface of the playground and who came up with original ingredients of the playground? Ms. Ray replied that it was a Blanchard & Calhoun design to mimic the Hilton Head Island beach area. The playground contains material that is picked up by children and scattered all over creating a very messy look. Commissioner Bennett asked if the Town signed off on that application. Ms. Ray replied that the application went through the DRB and Town staff. Commissioner Bennett suggested it be fixed sooner than later. Ms. Ray responded that would be ideal but budget constraints would decide that. Facilities Management will blow the surface daily – it is an ongoing issue.

VII. Unfinished Business - none

- a. **Action on park user survey:** Chairman Rath suggested setting up a meeting to talk about a park survey. The purpose of the survey would be to better understand the satisfaction of park users.
- Use online portal
 - Committee members and volunteers to gather info
 - ipads will be supplied by USCB
 - Survey 5 locations: Jarvis, baseball fields, soccer fields, sailing & rowing park, the new Shelter Cove Towne Center Park. Visit these sites on Saturdays and mid-week.
 - Would like to see this survey conducted on an annual basis
 - Survey should be in English and Spanish
 - Survey can also be sent out in an e-mail blast

Commissioner Lowery stated that doing this survey at parks may isolate parks that people don't know about. How do we include those? Chairman Rath stated that there are over 20 parks. Commissioner Lowery suggested a rotating schedule of five parks each week to cover them all. Commissioner Bennett agreed that there should be a format that works and can be applied to different parks at different times. At some point catch all parks and who is using the parks and potential future uses.

- b. **Update on Beaufort County plan to turnover maintenance to Town of Hilton Head Island:** Mr. Scott Liggett stated that since January he has extended an invitation to have a County representative come here but Beaufort County intends to submit a proposal through PALS and up to County Council before coming to Hilton Head Island. They have the same budget timeline as us.
- c. **Update on tennis court sale to HOA:** Mr. Charles Cousins stated that last year (February 13, 2014) the Parks & Recreation Commission made a recommendation to Town Council to sell the Cordillo Tennis Courts to the Cordillo Courts II Property Owner's Association and The Hedges Property Owners Association. This potential sale was due to the lack of use of the tennis courts by the public and the desire of the property owner associations to purchase this facility. There have been second thoughts on that decision. The Neighborhood Outreach Connection that provides after-school tutoring for children among other programs, would like to have those tennis courts remain and be improved. Town Council has asked the Town Manager to meet with those involved to come up with a plan to improve that facility and once a plan is agreeable to everyone, then we can decide how to fund. Mayor Bennett stated that over the last several months, the potential sale of the Cordillo Courts has become a lightning rod in the community. Those facilities have been that way for a very long time. I feel we have wronged the users in that community and the families that live in that area by maintaining that facility at that level. We have new parks; what are we saying to those people and it is not a good message. That is why there is a reversal in the direction of Town Council selling those courts.

VIII. New Business

- a. **Island Rec funding request.** *Commissioner Lowery recused himself from discussion and vote.*

Mr. Soule stated that the resources requested from the Town will allow the Island Recreation Association to continue the effective management of recreational facilities, as well as the coordination of recreational programs and community events. The Association's Board approved an operating budget of \$2,079,928 for FY2016 which is an increase of 4.87% over FY2015. The general fund support request to the Town is \$657,748, which is an increase of \$28,470 from FY2015. This is the first request for an increase in three years.

The CIP funding request is \$179,500 which is down from \$231,650. Projects in the CIP request take into account the enhancement and expansion of the Recreation Center.

Chairman Rath asked for a motion. Commissioner Keber made a motion to recommend to Town Council approval of the Hilton Head Island Recreation Association funding request as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Park Updates. None

X. Park Commissioner Comments Commissioner Lowery stated that a sports council should be created to attract sporting events to Hilton Head Island. Sporting events would have a major economic impact on the island. It is a shame that there is not a sign at Hilton Head park.

Commissioner Keber stated that we can grow economically through sports and that Hilton Head Island should embrace hosting sporting events. A subcommittee supported by staff would be fantastic.

Commissioner Bennett stated that she agrees and a centralized function would be helpful to communicate with the community. Mr. Soule stated that this is an opportunity to embrace and promote activities through a clearing house.

Chairman Rath stated that she and Commissioner Lowery would explore this more.

Commissioner Bennett reported that she was at Old School Park and was glad someone was using that park but it is in total disrepair. A starting point would be to better utilize facilities that are clearly underutilized.

Chairman Rath stated that at the next Parks & Recreation Commission meeting we need to take a look at our goals and objectives to be sure they are being met. We need a meeting prior to July.

Listed below are activities for Chamber Bike and Dine week:

- Saturday, May 2 – Island-wide Chamber Bike and Dine kickoff!
- Sunday, May 3 – Chamber Bike & Dine History Tour
- Monday, May 4 – coffee - meet at Skillet's Café, Coligny Plaza
- Tuesday, May 5 – lunch meet at Coligny Plaza
- Wednesday, May 6 – Safe Ride to School Day & Chamber After-Work Networking Ride
- Thursday, May 7 – Hilton Head Island Bike to Work Day
- Friday, May 8 – Bikes, Brews & Bites – start and leave from Captain Woody's on Target Road
- Saturday, May 9 – Community Beach Bike Ride at Coligny Plaza

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:37p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Eileen Wilson

Approved by: July 9, 2015
Heather Rath, Chairman