

**The Town of Hilton Head Island
Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting
Thursday, May 12, 2016
3:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Heather Rath, Peter Keber, Paul Boes, Mario Caballero, Fred Lowery, Mike Ray, Andrew Schumacher

Members Absent: None

Town Staff: Steve Riley, Scott Liggett, Julian Walls, Jill Foster, Teresa Haley

Town Council: David Ames

Beaufort County Council: Stu Rodman

Other: Frank Soule, *Executive Director for Island Recreation Association*
Frank Babel, *Bicycle Advocacy Committee*

1. **Call to Order**
Chairman Rath called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**
3. **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.
4. **Thank you to outgoing Commissioner Andrew Schumacher.** Mr. Steve Riley, Town Manager, presented Mr. Schumacher with an award in appreciation for his service on this Commission and to the community.
5. **Swearing in of incoming Member Jerome D. Okarma.** Mr. Steve Riley performed the swearing in ceremony and thanked Mr. Okarma for volunteering his time to serve on this Commission.
6. **Approval of Minutes**
The minutes of the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting of April 21, 2016 were approved as presented.
7. **Appearance by Citizens**
Mr. Frank Babel stated there will soon be an announcement about the first bicycle friendly business in Beaufort County. Mr. Babel reported Sea Pines Resort turned down allowing bicycles access into Sea Pines via the main gate. Mr. Babel would like for the Town to write a letter to Sea Pines regarding this bad decision. Mr. Babel displayed a new promotional poster board to create excitement on social media about biking on Hilton Head Island.

6. Reports

- Discussion of Beaufort County Proposed Plan

Chairman Rath stated the Parks & Recreation Commission is here today to discuss and receive input regarding the May 7, 2015 proposed plan from Beaufort County to transfer County-owned and maintained recreational assets to the Town.

Chairman Rath stated the Town Manager has asked the Parks & Recreation Commission to deliver a proposal to Town Council that is a response to the County's proposal.

Chairman Rath read a portion of the Powers and Duties of the Parks & Recreation Commission as it relates to this agenda item.

When requested by Town Council, the Parks & Recreation Commission, as a recommending body to Town Council shall make studies of the existing facilities for parks and recreation; assess the future recreational needs of the citizens and visitors to the Town; assess requests by recreational groups or citizens for changes or additional use of facilities in existing or future parks; and make recommendations to Town Council on such findings. The actionable items that are related to today's agenda item: analysis of the operations, program delivery systems, and financial commitment of the County and to also recommend standards for the development, preservation, and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities.

The parks included in this proposed Real Property Transfer of Ownership are: Barker Field, Barker Field Ext*, Hilton Head Annex, Bristol, Chaplin, Crossings Park.

*Barker Field Ext as referred to by the Town is a different piece of property than the piece of property the County owns and refers to as Barker Field Ext – same name for two different pieces of property.

Chairman Rath stated she, Commissioners Keber and Boes met with Mr. Liggett and Mr. Walls as well as Mr. Josh Gruber, Beaufort County Deputy Administrator.

Mr. Walls composed a memo of cost analysis to maintain the County parks by securing proposals from a contractor who has the capability and equipment that would be necessary if the Town chooses to assume all of the maintenance responsibilities.

It is anticipated the Town would require additional staff to cover the extra duties that will be required. This cost estimate of \$574,456 also includes utilities.

The Commissioners discussed the level of service received from the County for park maintenance and repairs is below the standards the Town of Hilton Head Island expects and deserves. The Town has been using its own budget to maintain and make repairs that the County has neglected to do. Questions arose as to why places such as Burton Wells receives far greater service and capital dollars from the County.

Strengths of this proposal:

- Controlling our own destiny
- Owning where we set
- Rotating our sports and programming opportunities
- Control of scheduling
- Maintenance efforts and repair completed more timely

Weakness of this proposal:

- Repairs
- Ongoing utilities
- Labor
- Building facilities repairs
- Because of different agencies involved in getting something repaired, it takes an unreasonable amount of time for repairs to take place.
- Grounds labor in proposal is not enough to maintain the grounds to the standards of Hilton Head.
- The Town has no use for the lawn and field maintenance equipment. The County hires staff. The Town maintains a small staff and contract services out.
- Hilton Head Annex is half owned by the Town which reduces the value.
- Will the Island Recreation Association lose more (or all) funding from the County?

Mr. Stu Rodman stated that this came up some years back in the category of what are the things the County could do to help Hilton Head Island. It was agreed that it makes sense to transfer all this stuff to Hilton Head Island particularly in the level of services and the lack of what you want to do – there is no disagreement there.

It boils down to (1) what is the number the County is giving you; (2) what is the number you think you have to spend to do it right; and (3) how much is the County spending in other places - what is a fair number for your fair share; you are taxpayers and pay half the taxes in the County.

Councilman-elect David Ames stated the Commission needs to think about where you want this recreation program for Hilton Head Island to be in five years or further down the road. Councilman-elect Ames urged the Commission to get involved with the Visioning Process.

Chairman Rath stated this Commission's job is to serve the citizens and people of Hilton Head Island and present a proposal to Town Council and they will decide if they want to pass it on to County Council

Chairman Rath, Commissioners Keber and Boes will sort through the input received at today's meeting and will present a proposed response to the Parks & Recreation Commission at the July 14, 2016 meeting.

8. Unfinished Business - None

9. New Business - None

10. Park Updates - None

11. Park Commissioner Comments.

Chairman Rath stated Town Council voted down the sale of the Cordillo Tennis Courts and we are currently working on a game plan to move forward. Mr. Liggett stated the Town has a contractor at this site doing paving and clean up to the property. The Town is expecting to receive a report next week as to whether or not these tennis courts are able to be repaired and will then proceed with a recommended course of action.

Chairman Rath stated that Mr. Bruce Pitkin, on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Yacht Cove POA, attended the last Parks & Recreation Commission meeting asking the Town to revisit creating a neighborhood park on Town-owned land at the end of Yacht Cove Drive in Yacht Cove. At that meeting Chairman Rath requested Mr. Pitkin submit that request in writing to the Town. Chairman Rath stated she has received that letter.

The Town's Public Planning Committee will be creating a steering committee to guide the Visioning Process. Chairman Rath strongly encouraged everyone to get the word out and to get engaged in this process.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Eileen Wilson

Approved by: July 14, 2016
Heather Rath, Chairman