

**The Town of Hilton Head Island**  
**Regular Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting**  
**Thursday, January 11, 2018**  
**3:30 p.m.**

**Members Present:** Paul Boes, Ray Kisiah, Fred Lowery, Jerry Okarma, Mike Ray, Caroline Rinehart,

**Members Absent:** Mario Caballero (UE)

**Town Staff:** Marcy Benson, Jennifer Ray, Charles Cousins, Shawn Colin, Chris Darnell

**Other:** Frank Soule, *Executive Director for Island Recreation Association*; Frank Babel, *Greater Island Committee*; Ed Boring *Deputy Fire Chief*; Cathy Jones-Gooding, *Communications Manager*

---

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Ray 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. Approval of Minutes**

The Parks & Recreation Meeting minutes of October 31, 2017 were approved as presented.

**5. Appearance by Citizens on Items Unrelated to Today's Agenda** – Mr. Rich Thomas, with the Youth Lacrosse Program on Hilton Head Island, stated his issue and concern is with the lack of field availability. Mr. Thomas stated that they no longer have access to the Island Recreation Center field due to construction. They have been using the field at Crossings Park but that field is so overused that it is becoming unsafe. Mr. Thomas asked what is the Town's field maintenance plan and is there an opportunity for additional field space for this program?

The following items came from discussion:

- There is a limited amount of fields on Hilton Head Island
- Various fields are shut down a couple of times a year for approximately three months for maintenance and to give fields a chance to rest and for the grass to grow.
- There are not enough fields for all the programs.
- Next steps: what can the Town do in relation to creating a different maintenance plan; research different turf – turf fields may be cost effective in the long run.
- Mr. Soule stated he would reach out to the high school for possible use of field.
- Mr. Soule will contact Beaufort County about Barker Field.
- Take a look at scheduling and perhaps put adult programs on a later time.

## 6. Reports

- Island Recreation Association Update. Mr. Frank Soule played a video showing the progress of the Recreation Center Expansion. Mr. Soule reported that the following programs were all doing well: Senior Programs, Aquatics, and Youth Programs. Upcoming special events: Daddy Daughter Dance January 20 at Hilton Head Beach and Tennis; Hilton Head Snow Day and Seafood Fest
- Bike Advisory Committee Update. Mr. Frank Babel reported on the levels of a Bicycle Friendly Community (Bronze/Silver/Gold/Platinum). Mr. Babel also reported on the growing concern of bicycle and pedestrian safety.

## 7. Unfinished Business - none

## 8. New Business

- **Proposed Park Name Approval.** Mr. Chris Darnell, Urban Designer, stated the Town of Hilton Head Island owns a tract of land in the Coligny area for redevelopment as a community park. This parcel is located at 80 & 90 Pope Avenue and is currently referred to as the “boneyard” and includes dumpsters and recycling containers, construction staging and material storage, and overflow parking. Staff recommends the name of Forest Beach Community Park.

The goal and intent of the park’s name is to provide a clear and brief name that emphasizes the park’s function, location, physical features, or association with Hilton Head Island.

Town staff worked with the neighborhood property owners association throughout the development of the project and the Forest Beach Owners’ Association POA has asked that the following names be considered:

1. Forest Beach Family Park
2. Forest Beach Community Park
3. Forest Beach Park

The name Forest Beach Community Park is consistent with the Town’s current park naming conventions, consistent with the LMO requirements, and is one of the names the local POA recommended. Coligny Community Park was eliminated from consideration due to concern from Hilton Head Island Fire Rescue to avoid potential confusion with Coligny Beach Park, Coligny Plaza, and Coligny Villas.

Several Commissioners stated they prefer having Coligny in the park name; it designates that great beach area.

### **Public comment:**

Ms. Heather Rath stated the Coligny Redevelopment Project and Master plan are located on the Town’s website. This park ties into the current Coligny Beach Park. Coligny is a great example of outstanding branding. We should capitalize on what has been invested in recognition of Coligny.

Mr. Babel stated as a bike ambassador, he sees a lot of lost tourists asking “where is Coligny?” Not “where is Forest Beach?” This is the Coligny District - must have Coligny in the park name.

Mr. J.R. Richardson stated his family has been involved with Coligny for 63 years. A large amount of money has been spent in promoting Coligny; I implore you to keep Coligny in the park name

Ms. Mira Scott of the Forest Beach Association thanked Town staff for including the Forest Beach Association with the naming of this park. Our group voted on Forest Beach Community Park.

Commissioner Ray stated Coligny is a destination on this island and we owe it to Coligny to have Coligny in the park name to help identify that area. I understand the concerns of Fire & Rescue and feel they are capable to find the correct park in an emergency. Commissioner Ray said he is not ready to vote on this.

Deputy Chief Boring stated Fire & Rescue follows the process in the Town's Land Management Ordinance for park naming as well as a National Standard Best Practices for addressing. We make sure there are no duplicate or similar names that would cause confusion in getting to an emergency as quickly as possible. Our concerns are from visitors who call with an emergency. Dispatchers work with the caller to get the proper location, there is triangulation of cell phones but that delays response time - minutes really do save lives.

Commissioner Kisiah made a motion to recommend to Town Council the name Forest Beach Park at Coligny. There was no second to this motion. The **motion failed**.

Commissioner Kisiah made a motion to recommend to Town Council the name Coligny Park at Forest Beach. There was no second to this motion. The **motion failed**.

Commissioner Boes made a motion to recommend to Town Council the name Coligny Community Park. Commissioner Kisiah seconded the motion. The motion failed 1-3-2 (1 in favor of the motion; 3 opposed to the motion and 2 abstentions)

Commissioner Kisiah made a motion to recommend to Town Council the name Forest Beach Community Park. There was no second to this motion. The **motion failed**.

Commissioner Kisiah made a motion to recommend to Town Council the name Forest Beach Park at Coligny. Commissioner Okarma seconded the motion. The **motion passed** with a vote of two in favor and four abstained.

## 9. **Parks Updates**

- **Discussion of Bankshot Playcourt.** Ms. Marcy Benson, Sr. Grants Administrator, stated the National Association for Recreational Equality (NARE) provided information to Town officials on Bankshot Playcourts. NARE advocates for inclusion and socialization of the mobility impaired, autistic community and others who are differently able.

The Bankshot Playcourt was developed by Reeve Robert Brenner as a way to encourage non-aggressive, non-body contact sports and playground facilities. These courts promote play alongside, not against each other creating equality for everyone. There are a variety of layout options to customize the design of a court and it can be installed indoors or outdoors. Ms. Benson provided the Commissioners with a website they can visit for additional information.

- 10. Park Commissioner Comments** – Commissioner Okarma requested when possible send presentations to the Commissioners ahead of time in order to be prepared with questions or comments.

Commissioner Kisiah requested for the next Parks & Recreation meeting Town staff present a report that includes the schedule of maintenance of athletic fields, what is in the maintenance plan of the fields on Hilton Head Island, and who maintains the athletic fields.

Commissioner Kisiah stated this Commission needs to determine next steps for a master plan and working with the Greater Island Committee's Parks & Recreation Committee. We need to determine how we will proceed with advocacy to be sure when decisions are made as far as the use of funding for parks that we receive notification to comment and advocate for position we want to take as a Commission. We need to look at user groups in the community banding together and contact Town Council to reinforce the need for a master plan.

Mr. Cousins stated as the Visioning project is developed, there should be a recreation element that encourages recreation on the island and this is where the Parks & Recreation Commission would provide input.

**11. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Eileen Wilson

Approved by: March 15, 2018  
Michael Ray, Chairman