

The Town of Hilton Head Island
Regular Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting
Thursday, March 15, 2018
3:30 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Mario Caballero (UE), Caroline Rinehart

Town Staff: Marcy Benson, *Sr. Grants Administrator*; Julian Walls, *Facilities Manager*

Other: Frank Soule, *Executive Director for Island Recreation Association*;
Frank Babel, *Bicycle Advisory Committee, Greater Island Committee*

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 January 11, 2018 were approved as presented.

5. Appearance by Citizens on Items Unrelated to Today's Agenda – Mr. Jack Daly stated his two sons play baseball and soccer. There is a shortage of fields for baseball; they play at the Meadows field which has several holes from dogs digging. Mr. Daly stated the Town needs to update the Parks & Recreation Master Plan in order to capture what is needed now and in the future.

Chairman Ray replied that this Commission has made a request to Town Council for an updated Parks & Recreation Master Plan. Chairman Ray stated they will follow up on Mr. Daly's request. Commissioner Lowery stated we have so many more programs now, a shortage of fields and we should have more multi-purpose fields to maximize opportunities to bring in youth and collegiate events.

Commissioner Kisiah stated we need to be on Town Council's priority list. We need a task force to look at recreation on Hilton Head Island and users need to come together in one room to discuss what the issues are and an analysis of the condition of our parks. Take that information to Town Council for justification to do this master plan.

Commissioner Kisiah made a motion to request Town Council to allocate funds in the amount of \$250,000 in the Fiscal Year 2019 budget for a new Parks & Recreation Master Plan. Commissioner Lowery seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Ms. Judy Bastion appeared before the Commission requesting more pickleball courts and the need for maintenance on existing courts. Ms. Bastion stated the courts on Hilton Head Island are just marginal. Ms. Bastion stated that a committee will be formed to do fundraising, marketing etc. and asked if some of the Commissioners would be involved and provide input.

Many residents addressed the Commission emphasizing the need for dedicated pickleball courts as well as a complex to hold pickleball events. They spoke of other cities that have had a positive economic impact from hosting pickleball events.

Chairman Ray stated there has been a lot of push for pickleball courts for years. Chairman Ray asked for a motion to put 20 pickleball courts on Hilton Head Island. Commissioner Lowery suggested conducting an inventory and talk to interest groups involved.

Commissioner Boes made a motion to recommend to Town Council to build 20 designated pickleball courts on Hilton Head Island. Commissioner Kisiah seconded the motion. Commissioner Lowery suggested amending the motion to build 10 to 12 courts as a compromise so that other sports are given a chance. The original motion was not amended. The motion passed 4-1.

6. Reports

- **Island Recreation Association Update.** Mr. Frank Soule presented a video showing the senior center programs, benefits of the scholarship program and the renovations and expansion taking place at the Island Recreation Center. Commissioner Kisiah asked if the Island Recreation Association has enough funds to maintain the expanded and renovated recreation center? Mr. Soule responded that they submitted a funding request to the Town.

Commissioner Kisiah made a motion this Commission go on record supporting the funding request submitted by the Island Recreation Association to Town Council for additional funds for the maintenance of the Island Recreation Center as it is being improved and expanded. Commissioner Boes seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-1 (Commissioner Lowery recused himself).

- **Bike Advisory Committee Update.** Mr. Frank Babel reported on the success of the Bike Ambassador programs, anticipating a large amount of bicyclists at the Heritage. Mr. Babel invited the Commissioners to attend the 2018 Southeast Biking Symposium on March 22 – 24 at The Beach House on Hilton Head Island. Mr. Babel suggested the Commissioners attend the Planning Commission's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Meeting on Wednesday, March 21 at 10:00 a.m. at Town Hall.

7. Unfinished Business - none

8. New Business - none

9. Parks Updates

Mr. Julian Walls stated the County maintains the athletic fields at Barker Field, Barker Field Extension and Crossings Park. The Town maintains Chaplin Community Park. Both the Town and the County use the same maintenance practices.

Mr. Walls explained what was causing the delays at the Island Recreation Expansion Project: the new roofing that was going to go on had to be modified for wind code; framing system to be installed over the old roof; after demolition of a part of that building structural differences were discovered that was unknown to the architect; had to redesign electrical to code in that building. The delays have been very frustrating.

- 10. Park Commissioner Comments** – Chairman Ray suggested the Commission consider revising the meeting schedule to go back to meeting every month.

Commissioner Kisiah made a motion recommending this Commission resume meeting monthly rather than every other month. Commissioner Boes seconded the motion.

After some discussion, Commissioner Kisiah amended his motion recommending this Commission resume meeting the second Thursday of each month beginning with May 10, 2018 (skipping April due to the Heritage golf tournament). Mr. Lowery seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Eileen Wilson

Approved by: May 10, 2018
Michael Ray, Chairman