



Town of Hilton Head Island
Parks & Recreation Commission

Thursday, August 8, 2019 at 3:30 p.m.
Benjamin M. Racusin Council Chambers

MEETING MINUTES

Present from the Commission: Ray Kisiah, Jack Daly, Mike Ray, Caroline Rinehart

Absent from the Board: Paul Boes, Jerry Okarma

Present from Town Council: David Ames, Tamara Becker

Present from Town Staff: Marcy Benson, Anne Cyran, Chris Darnell, Taylor Ladd, Jayme Lopko, Julian Walls, Shawn Colin, Tyler Newman, Carolyn Grant

1. Call to Order

Chairman Kisiah called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

3. FOIA Compliance – Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted, and mailed in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act and the Town of Hilton Head Island requirements.

4. Approval of Minutes – Meeting of July 11, 2019

Commissioner Ray made a motion to approve the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting minutes for July 11, 2019. Commissioner Daly seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Appearance by Citizens –

Mr. Ben Green stated there is a need to provide shelter from the sun for the children fishing off the pier at the sailing and rowing center. Mr. Green requested a gazebo be erected on the pier for shade for fishing at the sailing and rowing center.

Two residents, Francine Tobin and John Fitzgerald, stated there is a need for more parking at the Islanders Beach parking lot. Island residents with parking passes have no place to park on peak days. People without parking passes are parking illegally. Town staff erected ugly metal poles and ropes to discourage parking on pine straw. We need ample parking for Island residents who buy parking passes. Raise the fine which is currently \$20 and enforce the fine, tow away cars parked illegally or place an attendant at the entrance during peak summer hours.

Commissioner Daly asked Ms. Benson if a gazebo at the sailing and rowing center could be covered by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Ms. Benson responded the last CDBG action plan submitted to HUD a few months ago was for a playground and parking at the sailing and rowing center. There have been no designs as yet, we will start that process shortly the gazebo is something that could possibly get folded into that project.

6. Reports

- a. **Island Recreation Association.** Mr. Frank Soule reported fall registration opens August 19, 2019. Mr. Soule thanked Mr. Josh Gruber for presenting a proclamation to the Island Recreation Association Board last month to celebrate Parks & Recreation month. The playground installation will be started this month and will be handicap accessible. The Island Recreation Center has added another level of security to the lobby: visitors swipe their card and are then buzzed in by staff. Mr. Soule stated that the Recreation Center has an average of 500 to 600 visitors a day this summer. Swim lessons, senior programs and camp attendance have all seen an increase in participation. August 30 through November 1 the Island Recreation Center will host Food Truck Friday from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- b. **Update on Parks & Recreation Master Plan.** Ms. Taylor Ladd announced the LOSE consultants will be here on August 19, 20 and 21 for the Parks & Recreation Master Plan Kick Off. Ms. Ladd stated a media release will be published next week containing the final details of the Kick Off schedule. The Town will host two public open house meetings, focus group meetings and interviews.

7. Unfinished Business – none

8. New Business - None

9. Park Updates

- a. **Update on Cordillo Courts.** Ms Anne Cyran stated Phase 1 of the Cordillo Tennis Courts renovation project, which consists of removing and replacing the tennis courts, surrounding fence, and equipment, is complete.

Phase 2 would include constructing a building for restrooms and equipment storage and improving existing site features. Staff received a quote for the design and permitting work in May. Staff anticipates construction will begin this winter and complete by spring.

The Cordillo Tennis Courts property was developed as an amenity of the Cordillo Courts and the Hedges condominium developments. The Van Der Meer Tennis Center purchased the property from the condominiums in 1983. As a condition of the sale, Van Der Meer Tennis Center agreed to covenants regarding the use and maintenance of the property. Among other requirements, the covenants require that the property be maintained as a tennis facility. The covenants remained when the Town purchased it in 2002.

These potential elements included a building with restrooms, community gathering space, and an office and storage space. At that time, Town Council was negotiating with the adjacent property owners associations to modify or remove the covenants. The covenants remain on the property, and the Town has been advised that a building with a community gathering space would conflict with the covenants.

Dr. Narendra P. Sharma with Neighborhood Outreach Connection expressed disappointment about the community building not included in phase 2 at the Cordillo Courts. Dr. Sharma feels the Town should be able to change the covenants and build the community building.

b. Update on Celebration Park construction. Mr. Chris Darnell presented a detailed update on the construction progress including:

- Construction for the park is on schedule to be completed by fall of 2020.
- The path along Pope Avenue is complete but not open due to some paving at Nassau Street.
- The lagoon intersection is complete with the exception of the signal.
- The significant trees that were preserved received a deep root treatment.
- The contractor is working to open the restroom and additional parking by St. Patrick's Day 2020. (meaning more parking next tourist season before the park opens)
- The DRB approved a mural to be placed on the construction fence along Pope Avenue.
- All Town tree requirements are being followed and exceeded.

10. Park Commissioner Comments.

Chairman Kisiah stated the Parks & Recreation Master Plan Kick Off starts August 19 and we need to get as many folks to participate – more ideas will mean a better plan.

11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Submitted by: Eileen Wilson, Secretary

Approved: September 12, 2019