



Town of Hilton Head Island  
**Parks & Recreation Commission**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Thursday, September 9, 2021 – 3:30 p.m.**  
**MINUTES**

**Present from the Commission:** Ray Kisiah, *Chairman*; Thomas Dowling; Christina Kristian; Jerry Okarma; William Zurilla

**Absent from the Commission:** Jack Daly, *Vice Chairman*

**Present from Town Council:** Tom Lennox; Glenn Stanford; Tammy Becker

**Present from Town Staff:** Josh Gruber, *Deputy Town Manager*; Jennifer Ray, *Capital Program Manager*; Taylor Ladd, *Project Planner*; Diane Busch, *Staff Attorney*; Rene Philips, *Website Developer*; Karen D. Knox, *Senior Administrative Assistant*

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**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 distributed in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of Hilton Head Island.

**4. Roll Call** – Vice Chairman Daly was unable to attend the meeting.

**5. Swearing in Ceremony for Reappointed Commissioner**

Diane Busch, Staff Attorney, performed the swearing in of reappointed Commissioner Thomas Dowling.

**6. Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Kristian moved to approve the Minutes of July 8, 2021. Commissioner Dowling seconded. The Minutes were unanimously approved.

**7. Appearance by Citizens on Items Unrelated to Today's Agenda - None**

**8. Reports**

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

- Summer sports are wrapping up and now heading into Fall sports.
- After school programs going strong with over 100 children.
- Fitness programs going well and are now held in the gym.
- Senior programming going well. We have hired a new director. Excited to promote more fitness with the seniors.
- Youth and adult sports are underway, including a men's basketball league.
- E sports games are being offered.
- Continuing with party in the park events.

Chairman Kisiah will draft a letter to Town Council and for the Commissioners' review in support of the Town re-entering the discussions with Beaufort County at their earliest convenience to talk about the Town's request to take over Barker Field.

- b. Parks and Recreation Master Plan update** – Taylor Ladd reported the Town held several Workshops, focus group meetings with stakeholders, an Open Park Day Event at Chaplin to kick off new projects with MKSK and Wood & Partners. The input that was gathered is being used to further inform and refine the design decisions being made for the parks. Ms. Ladd advised the design teams recently held a collaboration meeting to review the carrying capacity of each park site for the various recreation needs and amenities that have been proposed. It appears there is space for the identified community needs and proposed programming. During the next several weeks they will be preparing initial concept plans which should be ready late October/early November.

**9. Unfinished Business** - None

**10. New Business** – None

**11. Park Updates** – Taylor Ladd reported on the following:

- The Islanders Beach Park Pavilion is underway. The Town issued an IFB to construct an accessible covered pavilion. It will be constructed adjacent to the boardwalk and will overlook the dunes and the ocean.
- Construction recently began on Shelter Cove Connectivity. The scope of work entails enhancing existing park areas, expanding the parking and pathway connectivity between Shelter Cove Community Park, Veterans Memorial and William Hilton Parkway at the new stop light at the Sherriff's Office.

Ms. Ladd noted that the dates for the October and November meetings will likely be revised based on the timeline for presenting initial design concepts for the three park projects. The regular meeting scheduled for October 14<sup>th</sup> will be cancelled and the November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting will start earlier in the day.

**12. Park Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Kristian inquired about parking issues with Islanders Beach Park. Josh Gruber, Assistant Town Manager advised there are approximately 160 parking spaces

within that area and approximately 6,000 parking passes have been issued. Security monitors the parking lots every weekend to ensure that users have a parking sticker in order to park. The Town's Beach Manager is drafting a program to ensure that only Island residents will have access.

Chairman Kisiah asked staff to clarify the use of Chaplin Park for a secondary debris management site. Mr. Gruber stated as barrier Island it necessitates that as part of our planning efforts the Town must have places identified as disaster recovery sites. Part of that is having the sites that are pre-determined and established with the State. The primary site is located at Honey Horn. In some storms, there may be a need to activate more than one location - Chaplin Park is the secondary location. Unfortunately, large equipment used in debris management operations would damage artificial turf. Chairman Kisiah stated this was the reason for not proposing the use of artificial turf at Chaplin and reiterated there is a desire for synthetic turf fields.

### **13. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

Submitted by: Karen D. Knox, Secretary

Approved: November 18, 2021