



# **The Town of Hilton Head Island Regular Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting**

**Thursday, February 10, 2011  
3:30 p.m. – Benjamin M. Racusin Council Chambers**

## **AGENDA**

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**As a Courtesy to Others Please Turn Off All Cell Phones and Pagers during the Meeting**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**
- 3. Freedom of Information Act 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**
  - a. Regular Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting of January 13, 2011
- 5. Appearance by Citizens on Items Unrelated to Today's Agenda**
- 6. Reports**
  - a. Update from Island Recreation Association
  - b. Update from Beaufort County Parks & Leisure Services/Public Works
- 7. Unfinished Business**
- 8. New Business**
  - a. Spring Break Tennis – Clint Van Aswegen
- 9. Updates**
- 10. Park Commissioner Comments**
- 11. Adjournment**

**Please note that a quorum of Town Council may result if four (4) or more Town Council members attend this meeting.**

**The Town of Hilton Head Island  
Parks & Recreation Commission  
Thursday, January 13, 2011  
3:30 p.m.**

**Members Present:** Daniel Gafgen, Jack Hamrick, John McCann, Robert Moore, P. Jeffrey North, Timothy Singleton, Marc Stuckart

**Members Absent:** none

**Town Staff:** Anne Cyran, Nicole Dixon, Charles Cousins, Jill Foster, Scott Liggett, Julian Walls, Heather Colin

**Town Council:** none

**Other:** Frank Soule, *Island Recreation Association*

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

**III. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 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.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of November 4, 2010 were approved as presented.

**V. APPEARANCE BY CITIZENS**

Mr. Frank Babel reported the pathways are in great condition but Pope Avenue is beginning to show tree roots in the pathway. Mr. Babel stated that he is continuing to work with Town staff, Chamber of Commerce and other agencies on the Bicycle Friendly Community Application and will be forming an Advisory Committee after the application is submitted. Mr. Babel also reported on bicycle/vehicle crashes on Hilton Head Island, stating that most crashes in the last three take place along U.S. 278 and Pope Avenue. There are nine locations that represent 60% of the bicycle/vehicle crashes on Hilton Head Island. There is a list of 50 improvements or remedies (for example a stop sign or post or vegetation obstructing view) that we can use to reduce crashes in this area by 50%, that would mean a third less crashes overall. Mr. Babel continues to distribute reflectors, helmets, bike lights and reflective vests to people in the community that are in need of these bike safety devices.

## VI. REPORTS

**Update from Island Recreation Association.** Mr. Frank Soule distributed the Island Recreation Activity brochure.

- Roller hockey at Bristol Sports Arena currently has 80 players.
- Youth basketball has 250 participants using the Island Recreation Center and the elementary school gym.
- Snow Day is scheduled for Saturday, 1/22/11 at Shelter Cove Community Park.

## VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

**A. Recreation Center Feasibility Study.** Mrs. Nicole Dixon introduced this agenda item by stating that staff recommends that the Parks & Recreation Commission endorse the findings and recommendations provided in the Feasibility Study prepared by Lee & Parker Architects, in a joint-venture with The FWA Group and Mission Resources Group, regarding the financial implications of the proposed aquatics center and enhancements to the recreation center, and recommend approval to Town Council.

The program elements that were identified are:

- A second gym the same size as the current space.
- Senior meeting/social and general multi-purpose space; would include Computer Club space (total 4,500 sq.ft.).
- 10 lane, 25 yards swimming lap pool with warm water tank for senior water aerobics and year-round swim lesson programs.
- Splash pad for children (bring families to the pool area).

The following support elements were also identified:

- Locker rooms designed for swimmers and pool users
- Storage

Mr. Barry Taylor, FWA Group, reviewed the Feasibility Study covering the Key Findings, Key Conclusions and Key Recommendations. Representatives from The FWA Group Architects, Lee & Parker Architects and Mission Resources Group all provided input to this presentation.

Chairman McCann stated that the Commissioners will ask questions on this portion of the proposal and will then allow Mr. Kopf to give a brief presentation on the needs of the SHARE Center and then ask questions on that portion and then the floor will be open to public comment.

Commissioner Stuckart asked about the lease and the reply was that it is a 35 year lease from 1989 with the Beaufort County School District. Commissioner Stuckart also asked about the space and the response was that all spaces are used for multiple purposes for more utilization.

Commissioner Singleton asked if other sites or other acreage was considered where everything can be done at one time. The area is tight now with the schools and the recreation center; it is very congested. The Consultants replied that other sites were examined but the problem is rebuilding the existing pool and gym would be too costly.

Commissioner Singleton suggested not abandoning the existing pool or gym, but building the updated facilities on two sites. Obviously the recreation center now is a great site accommodating a lot of things - update some things there. Find acreage on the Island to put other facilities. It might help to have new acreage and be able to expand and have all in one area. Any feasibility with that?

The Consultants replied that it was considered but we didn't get into detail. One site allows those from the elementary school to go over to the recreation center - it flows well. The Recreation Center has heavy after school traffic around 3:00 p.m. The school district is agreeable to the shared spaces. Field spaces could be improved by using a turf that would allow for year round use.

Commissioner Moore stated that the splash pad is an important feature that would draw families and is a revenue aspect as well. This community desperately needs these facilities now.

Commissioner Hamrick asked why three phases and what would be the timeframes. Phase construction impacts revenue and is disruptive. If the Town could afford to build all at once and then generate revenue rather than piecemeal over the years. The Consultants responded that by working in phases, it gives the Town the opportunity to plan for funding. Build in reasonable chunks, if the Town does not have the money, it can be spread out.

Commissioner North commended the Consultants for creating such a comprehensive and thorough plan. Phasing will give Town Council a lot of flexibility to take in factors. A big concern with phases would be the construction and inconvenience to traffic. This is located in the center of a busy school campus and traffic from construction will be enormous. The Consultants stated that the school is looking at traffic analysis now and we are working with them on the impact and layout circulation.

Chairman McCann stated that an outstanding job was done on this feasibility study although the numbers are very large. Was consideration given to a portion being privately funding rather than just the Town? The Consultants replied that the Island Recreation Center has been approached by outside organizations to help fund components also grants could be applied for especially with SHARE. The next step is to look at those opportunities.

Commissioner Singleton asked if the numbers allowed for potential growth. The Consultants stated that for now it brings us up to where we need to be.

Mr. Kopf stated that he is representing the Computer Club as well as SHARE.

- We need space now.
- Right now additional space is more important than a new building.
- Festival Center, Hollywood video or next to Food Lion (MARS)
- Our current space is inadequate and is not appealing to the public.
- Retired people will come to Hilton Head Island.
- Right now limited to 70 people to attend presentations therefore have to give them twice.
- Computer Club over 1,000 members and growing. Limited for social events. Increased parking, better layout.
- SHARE volunteers for all the special events on island. They are busy and help community.
- Rent commercial space rather than new building.

Commissioner Hamrick stated that a mid-island location would be better.

Commissioner Gafgen asked if a survey has been done of what is available. The Consultants stated that ten different sites were reviewed to that would accommodate parking, lighting and access.

Commissioner Stuckart inquired about the cost of a stand alone building versus making use of vacant space in an existing facility. The Consultants replied that the drawback to leasing space is that you do not own it and it is not expandable so the SHARE Center may have to move again.

Chairman McCann stated that the Island Recreation Center has done a magnificent job over the years handling the youth of the community. There are a lot of seniors on Hilton Head Island and we need to give the senior population a great deal of thought and they deserve to be at the top of our list for anything we do. If we are looking for people to come to Hilton Head Island and retire permanently, it is important to have a facility of this type to take care of our seniors.

**Citizen Comments:**

**Kathy Jackson**, President of SHARE Advisory Board, stated that we need to focus on a new location with more space for the senior center – preferably mid-island.

**Wesley Taylor**, member of the Computer Club for 18 years. Mr. Taylor stated that the facility that we currently share with the SHARE Center is limited for the Computer Club. The Computer Club offer classes, for a fee, for people to learn computer subjects. Many of our students are senior citizens and much of the increase in membership of the Computer Club is result of being near SHARE. We provided computers to the SHARE Center. With some increased space we could increase the amount of work stations for classes. At the present time, our computer classes have been over subscribed and we have

had to turn people away due to the limited number of workstations in our current space. Seniors are a major part of our community and many people coming to the Island are senior citizens. A central location mid island with a first rate facility will be a great undertaking for the Town of Hilton Head Island and for all of us as citizens.

**Alan Perry**, Board Member of Island Recreation Center, stated that there is a need for quality programs. The facilities at the Island Recreation Center and at the SHARE Center are not quality facilities. We try to maintain and do the best we can with what we have but it does not meet the needs of the young and the old. When you have a facility that meets the needs, then the usage of that facility increases and that results in increased revenue. We need to build for tomorrow. Lost revenue means a loss in our ability to draw people to the island. We need to drive revenue through our visitors.

**Charles Perry**, founder of the Island Recreation Center, stated that he is pleased with what the Town has done for recreation but the seniors have been left on the tail end of recreation. It is time to move forward and complete these things in a rapid fashion. I commend you all for considering this and trust you will approve this and move forward.

**Colleen Rzczycki**, Board President of Hilton Head Aquatics, stated that the staff at Island Recreation Center has helped Hilton Head Aquatics grow our team. Hilton Head Aquatics went from having hardly any kids in the winter time to having 75 kids currently swimming in the pool and this is largely because the Island Recreation Center allows us to host swim meets and a lot of younger children will stay in the water and swim throughout the whole year if given the opportunity to have competition. Hilton Head Aquatics is excited about having a competition pool. The revenue we brought in December by having people stay overnight and families came in from South Carolina and North Carolina - it brings new opportunities for our kids for competition.

Chairman McCann made a motion that the Parks & Recreation Commission conceptually recommend that this feasibility study move forward to Town Council. Commissioner North seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman McCann thanked everyone for attending this meeting and stated to the audience that as this item moves forward to Town Council, your presence at the Town Council meeting is extremely important. If no one attends the meeting, it would appear to Town Council that there is less interest in that agenda item than there really is. Everybody from Island Recreation Center to the Computer Club to SHARE has a vested interest in this project and should attend any public meetings to demonstrate your concern and interest.

## **IX. UPDATES**

**A. Grant and Award Activity for the 2010 calendar year.** Ms. Anne Cyran presented the grant information and reviewed it with the Commissioners.

**B. Sailing and Rowing Center Update.** Mr. Scott Liggett reported that the Town Council recently purchased property adjacent to the area where the proposed sailing and rowing center will located. As of now, there are no new plans for the design of that site. We are hoping with this additional property, we will be able to have more room. Earlier this year Town Council provided direction for staff to move ahead with the demolition of the existing dock at that site. Town staff has worked with OCRM with the permitting process to remove the noncompliant dock. In February 2011 the Town will have the dock removed and the site cleaned up so the public can safely come onto the property.

The Parks & Recreation Commissioners requested that as the process for the sailing and rowing center evolves, the Parks & Recreation Commission wants to be involved with the process.

Commissioner Singleton stated that both presentations were great but at the end of the day, a lot of things get lost in the shuffle such as the sailing & rowing project we heard about 4-5 years ago. I hope that a concrete plan and some agreements start coming in place and we can move forward and make sure that we plan for all of these situations. I would like to see everything at once instead of piecing everything together - I know that is an economic question. We have to make sure we have a concrete plan in place or this thing is going to get dragged out again.

**X. PARK COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner North stated for the record “as we move the motion forward to approve the findings and recommendations in the Feasibility Study, please note that it is subject to the comments made by the Commissioners here in the questions and answers with the consultants and with the citizens.”

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Eileen Wilson

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
John McCann, Chairman