

**The Town of Hilton Head Island
Parks & Recreation Commission
Thursday, November 12, 2009
3:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Daniel Gafgen, Jack Hamrick, John McCann, Robert Moore, P. Jeffrey North

Members Absent: Timothy Singleton, Marc Stuckart

Town Staff: Charles Cousins, Scott Liggett, Julian Walls, Nicole Dixon, Susan Simmons

Town Council: Bill Ferguson

Other: Frank Soule, *Island Recreation Association*

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. 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.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of September 10, 2009 were approved as presented.

IV. APPEARANCE BY CITIZENS

Mr. Frank Babel gave an update on cycling and pathway maintenance on Hilton Head Island (his presentation is on file with the minutes). The following concerns were raised:

- Bicyclists are required to have lights at night. Law enforcement should pull over those riding without lights and warn them of the danger of vehicles not being able to see them.
- Coligny Beach Park area: more parking for bicycles have been installed but there is a definite need for more – many bikes get stolen.
- Marshland Road needs to be a high priority.
- US 278 shoulder and pathways need to be wider.
- Need to have pathway connectivity to Bluffton.

Mr. Garrett Hamilton, Hilton Head Rugby Club representative presented some background information on this club to the Commissioners. Mr. Hamilton stated that for the past several years the rugby club has been scheduling and paying for practice and game fields through Beaufort County PALS but it has become too costly to continue to pay these fees. The Hilton Head Rugby Club is requesting to use the fields at no charge.

Mr. Julian Walls replied that Barker Field Expansion is owned by the Town of Hilton Head Island and is maintained by Beaufort County and managed by PALS. PALS collects the fees for the use of the fields.

V. REPORTS

A. Update from Island Recreation Association. Mr. Frank Soule reported on the following:

- The Fall season is wrapping up and soccer ends this week.
- Winter sports will soon begin which includes basketball and other activities.
- The dome will be up the first week in December for year round swimming.
- Upcoming special events: Hilton Head Oyster Roast this weekend and then the Turkey trot on Thanksgiving Day.

B. Update from Beaufort County Parks & Leisure Services/Public Works. No report

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Capital Improvement Program (CIP) – Mr. Scott Liggett stated that every Fall Town staff solicits the input of the Planning Commission and the Parks & Recreation Commission for the purpose of providing guidance and input to Town Council as they embark on their annual goal setting workshop. Mr. Liggett asked the Commissioners to focus mainly on Fiscal Year 2011 items and projects. Mr. Liggett described the line items under Pathways and Park Development and items in the Park Upgrades category. Mr. Liggett pointed out to the Commissioners that the Planning Commission recommended an additional project be added to FY11 and given high priority and that change is *to increase priority of the short section of pathways on US 278 pathway between Southwood Park Drive and Mathews Drive*. Mr. Liggett mentioned that there is a new park on the list which is the Chaplin Linear Park with proposed funding of \$100,000. Mr. Liggett also mentioned two items that are in active discussion at the Town Council level:

- The Sailing & Rowing Center is proposed for use on Town property. This project was originally going to be funded by donations but that has changed.
- Recreation Center Enhancements: this consists of 4 components: a Swimming pool (smaller than originally proposed); expansion of the gymnasium; a SHARE center component; and an outdoor water feature.

Mr. Liggett stated that budget preparation will begin in January 2010.

Mr. Gafgen made a motion to approve the CIP presentation as Mr. Liggett has presented including the recommendation by the Planning Commission. Mr. Hamrick seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Discussion on mountain bike trails – Mr. Shane Gould showed photos of the Crossings Park area and the trails located inside and around the park, Arrow Road and Palmetto Bay Road. Mr. Gould proposed the following:

- That these trails be used as mountain bike trails.

- Permission to manicure these trails; move back some brush so the trail is a little wider.
- Permission to create some teeter-totters for elevation changes.
- Remove fallen trees.

Mr. Gould stated that he has a group to provide the labor for fixing up the trails but is asking the Town to fund \$2,000 for supplies.

Commissioner North stated that although he is in support of this proposal, this Commission does not originate or initiate funding. This funding request of \$2,000 must get into a Town budget before it comes to the Parks & Recreation Commission. Commissioner North also recommended that Mr. Gould speak with Mr. Frank Soule for possible suggestions.

Commissioner Moore stated that his children said those mountain trails at Crossings Park are dangerous because they are too narrow. Commissioner Moore stated that he is in favor of wider and safer trails and that there needs to be a way of connecting the Town of Hilton Head Island parks and pathways.

Chairman McCann stated that this discussion of mountain bike trails will be placed on the December Parks & Recreation Commission agenda. Chairman McCann stated that the next steps are for Mr. Gould and Mr. Walls to meet and walk the trail and to find out who owns the property, what it is intended to be used for and where do we want to go from here.

Mr. Gould stated that the skateboard park is still in need of some repairs. Mr. Walls replied that the repairs are done by Beaufort County and that Town staff forwarded pictures to them and Town staff also initiated the painting of graffiti in-house just to get it completed. The skateboard park repairs should be completed this week. Mr. Walls asked Mr. Gould to let him know whenever he finds repairs that need to be done and he would alert Beaufort County.

C. 2010 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Dates – approved as presented

VIII. UPDATES

None

IX. PARK COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

It was suggested that bushes on the bike paths be cut back and pruned.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Eileen O'Brien

Approved by: _____
John McCann, Chairman