

**The Town of Hilton Head Island
Parks & Recreation Commission
Thursday, September 10, 2009
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: Charles Cousins, Scott Liggett, Julian Walls, Nicole Dixon, Marcy Benson

Other: Frank Soule, *Island Recreation Association*; Joe Penale, *Beaufort County Parks & Leisure Services*

Media: Daniel Brownstein, *Island Packet/Beaufort Gazette*

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. SWEARING IN OF NEW BOARD MEMBER

Mr. Heitzke, Mayor Pro Tem, performed the swearing in ceremony for new Parks & Recreation Commissioner Mr. Timothy Singleton. Mr. Heitzke thanked all the Commissioners for volunteering their time and talents to serve on this Commission.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of August 13, 2009 were approved as presented.

V. APPEARANCE BY CITIZENS

Mr. Frank Babel discussed the Bicycle Friendly Community Campaign and also requested that Mr. Shane Gould be placed on the October Parks & Recreation Commission agenda to discuss creating a mountain biking pathway.

Mr. Babel requested more bike racks at Coligny Park. Mr. Julian Walls stated that there is adequate bike parking but will investigate the bike situation and report back to the Commissioners at the October meeting.

VI. REPORTS

A. Update from Island Recreation Association. Mr. Frank Soule distributed the Island Recreation newsletter and stated that the Island Recreation Center is continuing to post the newsletter online rather than printing so many hardcopies. Fall sports are underway. Soccer games begin September 26, 2009 with approximately 615 participants ranging

from age 3 to 16 years old. The Island Recreation Center now has Lacrosse programs for boys and girls this Fall. All other programs are going very well.

B. Update from Beaufort County Parks & Leisure Services/Public Works. Mr. Penale gave an overview of Beaufort County operating and maintenance responsibilities for Hilton Head Island:

- Crossings Park: 3 baseball fields, soccer field, meadow area and playground.
- Bristol Sports Arena has a skate board park and hockey rink.
- Chaplin Park has 3 full size soccer fields, playground, dog park, basketball court and softball diamond.
- Barker Field and expansion has a soccer field, 3 ball diamonds, playground and observation deck.
- Green Shell Park has a half playground, picnic shelter, office space and half basketball court.
- Hilton Head Park is a multi use field, 2 tennis courts and a basketball court.
- Work with user groups to schedule fields. HHBA runs the Dixie Youth program; Gator Football runs the youth football teams. Island Recreation Center runs soccer and tennis programs.
- Work with Hilton Head Rugby and the Hispanic Soccer League.
- Beaufort County runs the adult softball program. Last spring, there were 28 teams – they play on Barker field and at Chaplin Park.

It was decided that any maintenance repairs or requests would be e-mailed to Julian Walls, Facilities Manager for the Town of Hilton Head Island at julianw@hiltonheadislandsc.gov. The parks are checked daily by Town staff, contracted staff, waste contracted staff and maintenance contracted staff.

Mr. Penale announced that the department was reorganized and he is now located in Beaufort as the Deputy Director. Beaufort County has hired a new Director, Christina Roberson. Mr. McCann stated that he has sent a letter (*a copy is attached to these minutes*) to Ms. Roberson inviting her to come to our meetings and will e-mail her all monthly Park & Recreation Commission agendas.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Approval of the updated Parks & Recreation Commission Rules of Procedures

Mr. Hamrick made a motion to accept the newly revised Rules of Procedures. Mr. Moore seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Chairman McCann tabled the discussion of switching to quarterly meetings until another time.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Chairman McCann stated that he assigned the Commissioners various parks to visit and provide feedback at the next Parks & Recreation Commission meeting. The intent is to help Commissioners to become more familiar with the parks.

IX. UPDATES

Recreation Center Renewal Project. Mrs. Nicole Dixon stated that last week the People for Parks and the Island Recreation Association appeared before the Public Facilities Committee regarding the proposed aquatics/recreation facility. Town Council directed them and Town staff to come back in November with a list of only the *essential components* needed for this proposed new facility.

Proposed sailing and rowing center. Ms. Marcy Benson gave a brief history of this proposal explaining that in June of 2005, a citizen group approached Town Council to construct a non-motorized sailing/rowing center using Town property. Seven Town properties were evaluated. In June of 2006, an eighth property was suggested – the former seafood coop site on Squire Pope Road - which became the recommended site for this facility. The citizen group said they would conduct fundraising and provide one million dollars to build this proposed facility. In September of 2006, the Parks & Recreation Commission approved the concept to develop the proposed center at the coop site. The Public Facilities Committee also recommended this to Town Council and in February 2007 Town Council approved the concept of the sailing/rowing center at the coop site. In April of 2009 Town staff and representatives from the sailing/rowing group and residents from the Squire Pope area met and are now in the process of revising budgets and are putting a proposal together that will go to the Public Facilities Committee next month and then to Town Council in November. The citizens have revised the amount they can raise to \$100,000 and will donate the use of equipment for programs (sailboats, paddles etc.).

Capital Improvement Program. Mr. Scott Liggett announced that the Town Council workshop will be held on November 19, 20, and 21, 2009. Prior to that time, Town staff will solicit input from the Parks & Recreation Commissioners for fiscal year 2011 of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

X. PARK COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Chairman McCann welcomed new Commissioner Mr. Timothy Singleton. Chairman McCann reported that he gave a semi annual report to Town Council at their September 1, 2009 meeting and thanked Town staff for all their support and help.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Eileen O'Brien

Approved by: _____
John McCann, Chairman