

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Date: November 3, 2009

Time: 2:00 P.M.

Members Present: John Safay, George Williams, Drew Laughlin

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Scott Liggett, Julian Walls, Charles Cousins, Susan Simmons, Teri Lewis, Heather Colin, Jill Foster, Nicole Dixon, Jayme Lopko

Others Present: Bill Ferguson, Bill Harkins, *Councilmen*, Frank Soule, *Island Recreation Association*, Joe Kopf, *Parks & Recreation Commission*

Media Present: Josh McCann, *The Island Packet*

1. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 P.M.

2. FOIA 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.

3. Committee Business:

1. Approval of Minutes

- October 6, 2009 Regular Meeting: Councilman Williams moved to approve the minutes of October 6, 2009. Councilman Laughlin seconded the motion. Councilman Williams asked that the tape of the minutes be reviewed and ad in what the Committee had asked the Island Recreation Center to bring back at the November 3, 2009 meeting.
- October 13, 2009 Special Meeting: Councilman Williams moved to approve the minutes of October 13, 2009. Councilman. Laughlin seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

4. Unfinished Business:

Recycling Program Research and Recommendations

• **Proposed Aquatics/Recreation Center Enhancement**

Nicole Dixon, Community Development Department advised the Committee that at their September 1, 2009 Meeting, the People for Parks group and the Island Recreation Association appeared before the Committee to present the survey results and concept plan for a new or renewed Island Recreation Center and Aquatics facility. After the presentation and discussion, the Island Recreation Association was asked to scale back their concept plan and really look at what the facility needed and concentrate more on expanding the current

facility and come back with some usage numbers as to why that facility needs to be expanded and report back to the Committee.

Mr. Frank Soule, Executive Director, Island Recreation Association stated the current Recreation Center was opened in August, 1988. At that time, our year round residents totaled 17,500. Today we have over 35,000 people who live in our community. We measure our participation by participant visits. After our first year of operation we anticipated we had about 75,000 people participate in programs. We measure those by daily visits. If you come and participate in the after school program, you are counted five times. We have 75 children that come to the after school program. As of today, we average about 280,000 participant visits annually to the Island Recreation Association. On an annual basis we provide almost \$91,000 in scholarships. Those scholarships are used to help people who cannot pay the program fees. We are a fee driven program and we help roughly 200 families with those fees.

When developing our programming, we break it down to two elements throughout the year – forty weeks throughout the school year and twelve weeks during the summer months. The senior programs are broken down into two sessions, one is a summer session and the other is October-April which is our busiest time of the year. Throughout the year when we are planning our programs, we take in mind the space restrictions that are in front of us and also at the SHARE Center during the high use periods. All this has impacts on all the users and people that participate in our programs at the Association.

A quick review of what is at the Island Recreation Center – at the Center itself inside the building we have a multi-purpose gym with bleachers, a year round room that is dedicated to a pre-school program, two small meeting rooms and one mid-size meeting room, a pool which is eight lanes and 25 yards long and a small area that we use for swim lessons. The pool is covered from November-March. The SHARE Center right now is 2,200 square feet. There is space for the computer club, a common area where we hold socials, a card playing room and a small meeting and program room.

Mr. Soule called the Committee's attention to a photo of their Athletic Coordinator who was in the process of teaching kids basketball. In the background you can see kids in their after school program doing their homework. That shows you how tight their space is. We run an after school program five days a week with approximately 75 kids participating on a daily basis. In the winter months they have a winter basketball program with 300 kids in that program. We have to provide the after school kids with something to do along with trying to get basketball programs going. A unique program that they offer on Sunday evenings is a Hispanic basketball league. That program has 18 teams playing in the league and it has been well received. Unfortunately Sunday evening is the only time they have available for it. We also have a karate program for kids and adults. It is a program that we would like to expand on.

One of the two multi-purpose rooms has been dedicated to a state licensed full time day care for children ages 3-5 years old. This program has stayed at the same level because we are limited by the space for 22 people. We do not

anticipate increasing this program, but it is something that has taken away a space that could be used for other things. The other part of their multi-purpose room is used for after school homework sessions. This is also used for AARP taxes, dance classes, birthday parties, boy scouts and girl scouts and other programs.

Mr. Soule advised the Committee they would like to expand upon their 3v3 basketball program and youth basketball program and would like to add an evening session for jazzercise which we cannot do now. We would also like to expand upon the karate program and we would like to do an all grade intramural program and be able to expand upon that and provide additional services after school and on weekends.

Mr. Soule stated that Island Recreation swimming lessons is one of the biggest programs that they provide especially in the summer months. Every year they do between 500-700 kids through our Red Cross lessons. Water aerobics is one of their bigger senior plans and that is in the morning hours along with open lap swim. We provide the pool for the Fire Department and also the Sherriff's Department for training. Also through our partnerships, Boys and Girls Club is there for a swim in the summer months. The Island Recreation Center opens at 5:30 a.m. and that is when the Master Swim Team comes in. H2H Swim Team comes in at 2:30 p.m. and they are in the pool until 6:00 p.m. At 6:00 p.m. we reduce some lanes and bring in some other programs at that time and also we host elementary school and provide swim lessons to them.

Throughout the year, we would like to expand our swim lessons and believe with a warm water tank that will help us. We reduce our swim lessons this time of year as the weather gets colder. It is not conducive to have children swimming and taking lessons at this time. We would like to expand our water aerobics program. We would also like to expand our open swim time.

We would like to expand upon are health related programs such as yoga classes and dance classes for seniors, create an outreach program for older islanders with general services, create a year round social event calendar, create intergenerational programs with current Recreation Center programs, expand aquatic programs for older islanders to interact with current recreation programs and utilize the new Recreation Center gym for basketball and volleyball.

Mr. Soule proceeded to review the program elements for the renewal

- A second gym the same size as the current space.
- The expanded program elements were created with the assumption the current Recreation Center facilities would be part of the overall renewal plan.
- 10 lanes, 25 yards swimming lap pool.
- Warm water tank for senior water aerobics and year round swim lesson programs.
- Splash pad for children bringing more families to the pool area.
- Support element of locker rooms for aquatic facilities.
- Active adult meeting/social area and general multi-purpose space; which includes the Computer Club.

- The current SHARE Senior Center would move to the renewed Island Recreation Center.
- By 2015, those aged 50 and older will represent 45% of the U.S. population.
- We use the National Parks and Recreation Facilities Standards, along with the Town's Parks and Recreation Plan to guide us through the process.

Mr. Soule advised the Committee that this is an investment in the future and will reflect the high standards we have for facilities and services provided to the community, while maintaining the quality of life and values we take great pride in providing to our residents.

The space boundaries prevent the Association from reaching our full potential in providing residents with multiple recreational opportunities throughout the year. The renewal of the Recreation Center will meet the needs of our residents while providing modernized first class facilities.

Chairman Safay thanked Mr. Soule for his very thorough presentation. Chairman Safay stated Town Council has already budgeted \$95,000 for a study to start breaking the ground on any changes and improvements that we are going to have. Chairman Safay wanted confirmation staff is asking the Committee to essentially approve the outline of this program to Town Council for the expenditure of that money. Nicole Dixon stated that was correct. \$95,000 is broken up into two different steps – the \$45,000 is for a feasibility study and business plan and the additional \$50,000 is for a Master Plan once a site is picked out.

Councilman Williams questioned what the purpose of the business plan was. Ms. Dixon said that all the financial implications that would be involved with an expanded facility would fall under the business plan. Councilman Williams mentioned the County has built several county pools off Island and we haven't seen any of that. He questioned if Mr. Soule had a feel how many off Island people are using the facilities. Mr. Soule stated that probably 10-15 percent is off Island residents. Mr. Soule mentioned the County does subsidize their budget with \$80,000/year for programming and another \$60,000/year for operations of the pool.

Councilman Laughlin moved the Public Facilities Committee recommend Town Council endorse at least in concept the elements of these enhancements and approve the expenditure of the funds for the study. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Williams wanted to make sure they take a look at the Cordillo space. Chairman Safay stated it was just not the Cordillo space, but it is keeping an open mind and spreading a wide net and utilizing whatever facilities there are on the Island that may become a part of this.

5. New Business
None

6. Adjournment:

Councilman Williams moved to adjourn. Councilman Laughlin seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen D. Knox
Senior Administrative Assistant