

**The Town of Hilton Head Island  
Parks & Recreation Commission  
Thursday, December 13, 2012  
3:30 p.m.**

**Members Present:** Peter Keber, Fred Lowery, Janet Noonan, Heather Rath, Marc Stuckart  
**Members Absent:** Theresa Bennett, Daniel Gafgen  
**Town Council:** Mayor Drew Laughlin  
**Town Staff:** Shawn Colin, Anne Cyran, Jill Foster, Julian Walls,  
**Other:** Frank Soule, *Island Recreation Association; Frank Babel, Bicycle Advocate*  
**Media:** Brian Heffernan

---

**I. Call to Order**

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

**II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

**III. Freedom of Information 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 regular Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting of November 8, 2012 were approved as presented.

**V. Swearing in Ceremony.** Mayor Laughlin performed the swearing in of new Parks & Recreation Commissioner Mr. Fred Lowery.

**VI. Appearance by Citizens**

Mr. Frank Babel, Bicycling Advocate, distributed an outline from the HHI Bicycling Advisory Committee documenting accomplishments since being awarded the Bicycle Friendly Community Silver award.

Mr. Babel stated that recreational and commuter bicyclists are able to enjoy the pathways but a large segment of people are off-road bicyclists. Mr. Babel stated that this is an opportunity we have to create paths on easement throughout the Island that would serve the need for people who walk, jog or enjoy off-road bicycling. There are recreational advocacy groups that help communities build or carve out off-road paths in easements.

Commissioner Keber stated that the Parks & Recreation Commission would love to hear from citizens stating what they want.

Mr. Babel suggested that the Hilton Head Island Parks Guide could be improved by combining a description of all parks, bike routes and a map. Mr. Babel stated that each of our community parks needs to have a story board that would inform people about each park and the amenities each offer. Mr. Babel asked the Commissioners to provide any input or ideas for the HHI Bicycling Advisory Committee, off-road paths and marketing a more informational brochure.

## **VII. Reports**

- **Update from Island Recreation Association.** Mr. Frank Soule reported on the following:
  - The November Turkey Trot was a success with over 1,300 runners.
  - The Oyster Fest in November also went very well.
  - Resurfacing the Island Recreation gym floor, adding pickle ball to our lineup of courts and programs.
  - Resurfacing two courts at Chaplin.
  - The Island Recreation brochure is now distributed six times a year and we are providing more flyers in the schools for youth sports, using social media.

Mr. Soule and the Commissioners discussed working more with Mr. John Salazar from USCB and his students to survey the community regarding needs assessment at each of the events on the Island.

Mr. Soule stated that he will be presenting a draft report to the Island Recreation Association Board of Directors regarding County funding issues. Right now there are four elements that the Island Recreation Center needs to have resolved: 1) funding for programs, 2) pool funding, 3) manage lights on town-owned parks (and have access to the software), and 4) field maintenance.

## **VIII. Unfinished Business:** none

## **IX. New Business**

- a. **Board Training.** Mr. Shawn Colin, Comprehensive Planning Manager, provided an overview of the Town's Comprehensive Plan, the Recreation Element and how it evolved and how it fits with this Commission. Mr. Colin stated that part of the Planning Commission's authority is to develop the Town's Comprehensive Plan, Capital Improvement Program review and recommendations. The Parks & Recreation Commission refines some of those recommendations and has the added value of identifying and refining programs and community needs - this is helpful to the Town and to the Island Recreation Association. The Parks & Recreation Commission builds on the policy information in the Town's Comprehensive Plan, crystallizes programming, special uses and makes recommendations so Town staff can fine-tune the Comprehensive Plan.

Commissioner Rath thanked Mr. Colin for the informative overview and stated that it would be beneficial if he could come back occasionally and give a refresher on the Comprehensive Plan.

Chairman Stuckart stated that the Parks & Recreation Commission is an Advisory arm to the Town.

Commissioner Rath stated that she and Commissioner Bennett recently met with Town staff to discuss three issues. 1) Is there enough public input to know what the Town has in parks and community needs? The answer is yes, the Comprehensive Plan, the Capital Improvement Program and the 2009 survey all cover the information needed. 2) Could we move some of the Parks & Recreation Commission meetings to 6:00pm so the general public, the people who use our parks could attend? The answer is yes. 3) Can we coordinate with Town staff and the Island Recreation Center to do a user survey in the parks by doing the survey in person at each park to ask people what they want in the parks. Combine that data with Island Recreation Center rentals. Commissioner Rath thanked Town staff and the Facilities Management staff for the new playground at Jarvis Creek – it is great for families with young children.

Citizen: Mr. Jim Scholzy from Cincinnati stated that he loves this community, it is his third time here and hopes to become a resident. Thank you for the SHARE center, the bike paths and all that the Council does. Mr. Scholzy stated that he was disappointed that the Island Recreation building was tabled. Mr. Scholzy read a poem that he wrote about Hilton Head Island.

**X. Park Updates**

**XI. Park Commissioner Comments**

**XII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Eileen Wilson

Approved by: March 14, 2013  
Marc Stuckart, Chairman