

**The Town of Hilton Head Island
Parks & Recreation Commission
Thursday, March 8, 2012
3:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Daniel Gafgen, Jack Hamrick, Peter Keber, Heather Rath,

Members Absent: Timothy Singleton, Marc Stuckart

Town Staff: Scott Liggett, Julian Walls, Jeff Buckalew, Marcy Benson, Brian McIlwee,
Brian Hulbert, Anne Cyran

Other: Frank Soule, *Island Recreation Association*; Frank Babel, *Cycling Advocate*

I. Call to Order

Vice Chairman Hamrick 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 minutes of November 10, 2011 and special meeting of February 27, 2012 were approved as presented.

V. Appearance by Citizens:

None

VI. Reports

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

- Soccer program has over 620 children signed up – still accepting registrations.
- Winter sports ending, started playing on Sunday afternoons, Spring programs underway.
- SHARE Center programs going well
- Pickleball is becoming popular; we created a partnership with Don Wheeler to play pickleball on the basketball courts.
- Upcoming Events: St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday, March 11; a new event: Pre-Wingfest Party on Friday, March 23 from 5pm to 8pm at Shelter Cove; Wingfest is Saturday, March 24 from 11am to 6pm at Shelter Cove; Seafood Festival is April 28 from 11am to 5pm at Shelter Cove Community Park.

Commissioner Rath complimented the Island Recreation website stating that it is very user friendly. Commissioner Rath also inquired about the Mom's Group/Water Babies Program as to whether it will be expanded. Mr. Soule stated that the sign up is available online but class size is limited due to the limited number of instructors.

Cycling Update. Mr. Frank Babel reported on the following:

- Pathways Review: the pathways are much safer, Facilities Management doing a great job keeping them clean of debris, some root repairs need to be started.
- Bicycle Parking Update & Suggestion: Mr. Babel showed a picture of bicycle parking from a location in Chicago that provides a great deal of bike parking. Mr. Babel stressed that the events and festivals on the Island need to be bicycle accessible with plenty of bike parking.
- Projects: Mr. Babel listed six projects that the HHI Bicycle Advisory Committee is currently working on:
 - Creating and maintaining a website that contains “everything related to bikes, bike activities, maps etc.
 - Determine ways to “nicely enforce the laws”
 - Provide a “Safe Routes to School” Program
 - Educate visitors about bike, motorist and pedestrian safety
 - Help make all major HHI events bike friendly
 - Create a strategy to create memorable cycling experiences for visitors and residents.
- Plenty of bicycle activities are planned for National Bike Month (May 2012)

VII. Unfinished Business: none

VIII. New Business

- a. **Year End Grant Update (2011 Calendar Year).** Ms. Marcy Benson reviewed the grant summary and award activity for 2011. Ms. Benson explained the status of grants in the four categories: Grants Awarded, Grants Reimbursed, Grants Applied For, Grant Applications Denied.
- b. **Conceptual layout plan for sailing and rowing center.** Ms. Benson reviewed the history of the sailing and rowing center. Ms. Benson stated that during the past year and a half the Town Facilities Management staff conducted a site clean-up. Town Engineering and Community Development staff held various public meetings to develop this conceptual site layout for the proposed sailing and rowing center on Town owned property at 133 Squire Pope Road.

Commissioner Hamrick asked about the private funds. Ms. Benson replied that fundraising is a priority for this group and that the \$300,000 donation figure was predominately equipment. The majority of funding the one million dollars for construction would be through the Town’s CIP program that is allocated FY 14. The design part is for this current fiscal year.

Dr. Lou Strayer representing rowing/sailing stated that about \$20,000 has been raised since our kick off in November. We would like to start Phase I as soon as possible and would request that funding be moved from FY 14 to FY13. Dr. Strayer stated that the rowing program is very active with 54 kids.

Commissioner Hamrick asked Town staff how the funding could be accelerated. Mr. Liggett replied that the Town is prepared to facilitate this request by spreading expenses over a couple of years. Mr. Liggett stated he will be presenting the proposed CIP priority projects list to this Commission at their April meeting.

Mr. Paul Miller with sailing and rowing stated that the biggest part and initial part of this project is the Squire Pope Community Park. The dock and the shelter is part of a community park not just the sailing and rowing center.

Commissioner Rath made a motion to recommend approval of the conceptual layout and park components for consideration in an RFQ/RFP for professional design services for the proposed

sailing and rowing center to be located on Town owned property at 133 Squire Pope Road (the former seafood co-op site). Commissioner Keber seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- c. Island Recreation Association Proposed FY 12-13 Budget/Funding Request. Mr. Frank Soule stated that the Island Recreation Association's main objective is to provide the highest quality and greatest variety of recreational services to the community. The Island Recreation Association is requesting \$629,278 in general fund support of the Association's operations for FY12-13. This is a \$12,338 or 2% increase from last year. The steady increase in routine maintenance costs and general goods and services along with the Board's commitment to provide our employees with a 2% raise has led to an overall increase.

Program revenues will be increased by 2.4%. The Island Recreation Association budgeted \$80,000 for program support and \$60,000 for pool operations for a total of \$140,000 which is the funding amount we have received for the last five years from Beaufort County PALS. There is a concern this funding could be reduced this year. Mr. Soule reviewed with the Commission each line item.

Commissioner Rath made a motion to approve the proposed Island Recreation Association FY 12-13 Budget/Funding Request as presented. Commissioner Gafgen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- IX. Updates** – Mr. Scott Liggett stated that he would be presenting the CIP priority projects to the Parks & Recreation Commission at their April 12, 2012 meeting for their review and approval.

- X. Park Commissioner Comments** – none

- XI. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:35p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Eileen Wilson

Approved by: Approved 4/12/12
Jack Hamrick, Vice Chairman