

**The Town of Hilton Head Island
Parks & Recreation Commission
Thursday, October 24, 2013
3:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Peter Keber, Fred Lowery, Heather Rath, Andrew Schumacher

Members Absent: Theresa Bennett, Janet Noonan

Town Council: Marc Grant

Town Staff: Jennifer Ray, Teri Lewis, Heather Colin, Shawn Colin

Other: Frank Soule, *Executive Director for Island Recreation Association*

I. Call to Order

Chairman Rath 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 the regular Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting of July 11, 2013 were approved as presented.

V. Appearance by Citizens – None

VI. Unfinished Business - none

VII. New Business

a. **Proposed 2014 Parks & Recreation Commission Schedule of Meetings:** In an effort to accommodate citizens that work during the day, the Parks & Recreation Commission will hold their April 10 and October 9 meetings at 6:00 p.m. at the Island Recreation Center.

b. **Proposed Shelter Cove Community Park – Conceptual Master Plan.** Mrs. Jennifer Ray, Urban Designer, presented this conceptual master plan stating that a community park is proposed to be relocated from its current location to a larger space behind the existing mall that encompasses more of Broad Creek. The Conceptual Master Plan has been developed based on the program reviewed by the Parks & Recreation Commission as well as the Public Projects & Facilities Committee, and approved by Town Council.

Mrs. Ray reviewed the key features of the park which include a park entry with water feature; a central event lawn including shade structures, seating areas, and an event plaza with potential for public art; a festival lawn promenade including arbor swings and interpretive signage; picnic shelters; a performance lawn including an elevated performance plaza and open air shelter; and a garden lawn with “back-of-house”

staging. A long boardwalk with open-air pavilion at terminus is being considered in conjunction with the event plaza. Mrs. Ray stated that OCRM has insisted that the dock be water dependent which would result in the dock being 800 feet long and a narrow 10 feet wide.

Mrs. Ray reported that cost estimates have been prepared and the Conceptual Master Plan as seen fits within the budget. The Town would prefer that the pier be much shorter and approximately 20 to 30 feet wide.

Commissioner Lowery asked about the dimensions for the lawn and stated his concern about how fundraising events would be affected if the vendor set up area was too congested. Commissioner Lowery also stressed concern for adequate parking and the impact the cost of shuttles has on fundraising events.

Mrs. Ray stated that the same events will still be accommodated; the intent was to allow maximum flexibility – the set up may be different.

Commissioner Schumacher asked if there was a parking agreement in place with all concerned. Commissioner Schumacher also inquired about a noise ordinance for those living nearby.

Mrs. Ray stated that she did not have specifics on a shared parking agreement. Mrs. Ray reported that the Town is working with the Island Recreation Association on a parking solution. Mrs. Ray stated that there will be some landscaping for aesthetic purposes as well as for a separation of sound.

Chairman Rath stated that overall she loves the park aspects and location. Chairman Rath stated that it is very important to drive the retail business with the fundraising events and the mall. A wider dock with pavilion will be beneficial for the community as a whole as well as for businesses. A long and narrow dock will not do that.

Chairman Rath stated that she thinks the Harbour Town playground is a great park and she would like to see something similar at this Shelter Cove location. Chairman Rath also suggested that this playground should have “low post” fencing and the playground should have just one entrance and one exit. This could and should be a signature playground for Hilton Head Island.

Mr. Alan Perry, of the Island Recreation Center Board of Directors, stated that the biggest concern is the parking issue; if we do not have adequate parking, our festivals – which are vital to our existence - will be diminished.

Each Parks & Recreation Commissioner stressed that they are concerned about adequate parking for all events; noise ordinance; a larger playground; in favor of a shorter and wider dock that would be less invasive into the marsh; a lot depends on cost – is it better to not have a dock at all and allocate the dock money for other items in the park such as parking?

Mrs. Ray stated that there were no compromises made in this conceptual master plan with or without the dock.

Vice Chairman Keber made a motion to recommend this proposed Shelter Cove Community Park Conceptual Master Plan move forward to the Town's Public Projects and Facilities Committee and then on to Town Council. Commissioner Schumacher seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

VIII. Park Updates - none

IX. Park Commissioner Comments

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Eileen Wilson

Approved by: APPROVED November 14, 2013
Heather Rath, Chairman