

**The Town of Hilton Head Island
Parks & Recreation Commission
Thursday, July 11, 2013
3:30 p.m.**

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

Members Absent: Janet Noonan

Town Council: William Harkins, *Mayor Pro-Tem*; Lee Edwards

Town Staff: Scott Liggett, Marcy Benson, Nicole Dixon, Bryan McIlwee, Teri Lewis

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

I. Call to Order

Vice 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. Swearing In of New Commissioner. Mayor Pro-Tem William Harkins performed the swearing in ceremony of new Commissioner, Andrew Schumacher.

V. Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. Commissioner Bennett nominated Commissioner Rath for Chairperson. Commissioner Rath accepted the nomination. The Commission voted unanimously to elect Commissioner Rath as Chairperson for the term July 2013 to June 2014. Commissioner Rath nominated Commissioner Keber for Vice Chairperson. Commissioner Keber accepted. The Commission voted unanimously to elect Commissioner Keber as Vice Chairperson for the term July 2013 to June 2014.

VI. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the regular Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting of June 13, 2013 were approved as presented.

VII. Appearance by Citizens – Mr. Frank Babel, Cycling Advocate, gave an update on the following:

- Pathways are in great shape – they are being refurbished.
- There is a new pathway at Leg ‘o Mutton and at Wexford to Fresh Market.
- Three new crosswalks were installed for safety purposes.
- The kiosk project is complete; a collaboration of the Bicycle Advisory Committee, Town of Hilton Head Island, Rotary and the Women’s Auxiliary.
- Currently have 30 volunteer bike ambassadors who provide direction, safety tips, first aid and more.
- Upcoming Events: Pedal 4 Kids in September and then the 350/30 Celebration.

Chairperson Rath stated that the new crosswalk near Yacht Cove is getting a lot of use but the problem is visitors are riding bicycles on the opposite side of the street facing traffic and in the Yacht Cove turn in lane. Bike pathways need to be built there as soon as possible.

Chairperson Rath stated that the kiosk located near Pineland Station is a great location and receives a lot of use.

Chairperson Rath stated that she has witnessed a lot of spandex riders in the street not going with the flow of traffic and inquired as to what other communities are doing about this. Mr. Babel replied that the spandex riders are permitted to ride on the street, with the flow of traffic, as far to the right as practical. There are too many obstacles (pedestrians, strollers etc.) on the pathway for a "spandex rider". If they are riding against the flow of traffic, that is an enforcement issue.

VIII. Reports

- **Update from Island Recreation Association.** Mr. Frank Soule reported on the following:
- Moving into the new Senior center located at 58 Shelter Cove Lane. Hope to have a grand opening in September.
- The new parking lot is underway.
- Overview of the parks survey – received 139 opinions on our parks – all good.
- July is National Parks and Recreation month – received a proclamation from Town Council. For National Parks and Recreation month, we received a donation to plant flowers at Jarvis Creek Park.
- Working with Alex Brown and Councilman Marc Grant as a way to reach out to native communities about various programs such as Gator Football by sending updates to churches and POA leaders.
- Working with the Boys & Girls Club for a transportation grant for next summer.
- Beaufort County is in the process of doing a budget amendment due to a technical error so that the \$75,000 will be included in the coming fiscal year on top of the \$140,000 that was budgeted.

Commissioner Lowery asked how many public pools are in Beaufort County. Mr. Soule replied that there are five: a part-time pool in Beaufort then three year-round pools and the Island Recreation Center. Commissioner Lowery asked about usage based versus allocation of funds by Beaufort County. Mr. Soule replied that the County funds its pool a little over \$300,000, the Island Recreation Center operates at a little over \$200,000. Our participation levels are equal to the three pools in Beaufort and almost all three pools together we do about 64,000; they do 65,000.

Mr. Soule stated that the Island Recreation Association will continue to apply pressure to Beaufort County to not only continue funding but for a much needed increase in funding. Mr. Soule stated that citizen involvement is necessary in moving forward with requests for funding.

Chairperson Rath stated that old tournament signs at Chaplin Community park need to be removed. Mr. Soule replied that they would be removed.

IX. Unfinished Business: none

X. New Business

Grant Updates: Ms. Marcy Benson reviewed the annual mid-year summary of grant and award activity for the 2013 calendar year. Ms. Benson is in the process of applying for three new grant applications. Two are from the SC Department of Parks & Recreation & Tourism for their Recreational Trails Program. The Town is applying for the Pembroke Drive pathway and the Gardner Drive pathway – for the full grant amount of \$100,000 each; construction is intended for later this year. The third grant application is to SC DHEC for a watershed based plan at the headwaters of Broad Creek in the amount of \$50,000.

Proposed Park Name Approval: Ms. Dixon and Mr. McIlwee presented this agenda item. Town Council purchased a tract of land for development as a neighborhood park and water access facility located at 133 Squire Pope Road. The property sits along the waters of Skull Creek. The goal and intent of the park name is to provide a clear and brief name that emphasizes the park's function, location, physical features, or association with Hilton Head Island. Staff recommends the name of Skull Creek Community Park and Dock.

Commissioner Lowery has recommendation for the name: “Rowing and Sailing at Skull Creek Park”

Chairperson Rath: open for comments.

Councilman Edwards: At the Town Council retreat we discussed why this park was being developed. There were two main motivators: teach young people how to row and sail and how to compete. The other is for neighboring citizens to have access to fish, crab, and have community gatherings. The Town currently has seven beach parks, seven community parks, and seven recreational or athletic parks. We do not have a Town paid for park that provides access to the water. To name this park anything other than “rowing and sailing” would be a missed opportunity.

Mayor Pro-Tem Harkins stated he was in support of Councilman Edwards position. This park is a unique site that provides opportunity to access water for everyone. It is critical that rowing & sailing be included in the name of the park.

Mr. David Erdman, President and Coach of Hilton Head Island H.S. Rowing Team, stated that one of the objectives for the rowing community is to attract universities, colleges and prep schools in the Northeast and the Mid-West to come to Hilton Head Island and row in February, March and April to boost tourism during a slow time here tourist wise. Mr. Erdman agrees that rowing and sailing should be included in the name of the park.

Dr. Lou Strayer stated that this park is for non-motorized vessels and so the word dock should not be in the name of the park but rowing and sailing should be included in the name.

Mr. Frank Soule stated that rowing and sailing needs to be in the title as a key component for marketing.

Commissioner Lowery made a motion to recommend to Town Council the name Rowing & Sailing Center at Skull Creek Park - park says it is for the community; the word community should be eliminated because it makes it too long. Commissioner Schumacher seconded. Chairperson Rath stated "I would like to add the word community when it gets to Town Council if you would consider that." The motion was approved unanimously.

XI. Park Updates - none

XII. Park Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Bennett complimented Town staff on the new Xeriscape sign located on the pathway.

Commissioner Lowery thanked Facilities Management for clearing shrubbery that intruded on the pathway in the South Forest Beach area.

Chairperson Rath stated the swing at Jarvis Creek Park is great and getting a lot of use. The next scheduled Parks & Recreation Commission meeting is Thursday, August 8 at 6:00 p.m. at the Island Recreation Center to encourage more community involvement in our meetings.

XIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Eileen Wilson

Approved by: October 24, 2013
Heather Rath, Chairman