

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Date: December 17, 2013

Time: 2:00 P.M.

Members Present: Kim Likins, John McCann, Marc Grant

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Scott Liggett, Charles Cousins, Jeff Buckalew, Jennifer Ray, Darrin Shoemaker, Brian Hulbert, Marcy Benson

Others Present: Bill Harkins, George Williams, *Councilmen*, Chris Darnell, J.K. Tiller Associates

Media Present: Tom Barton, 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:

Approval of Minutes: Councilman McCann moved to approve the Minutes of November 5, 2013. Chairman Likins seconded. The Minutes of November 5, 2013 were unanimously approved.

4. Unfinished Business: None

5. New Business

• **Proposed Chaplin Linear Park – Schematic Design Plans**

Jennifer Ray, Urban Designer stated staff recommends the Public Facilities Committee make a recommendation to Town Council to approve the Schematic Master Plan for the proposed Chaplin Linear Park to be used to further develop plans for permitting and construction.

Chaplin Linear Park will provide a unique opportunity for both recreation and environmental observation and education for Island residents and visitors alike. The Linear Park will connect the proposed Shelter Cove Community Park and the existing Veterans Memorial Park on Broad Creek to the existing Chaplin Park and Collier Beach Park on the Atlantic Ocean. Through an integrated system of boardwalks and observation piers and platforms, pedestrian bridges, waterfront promenades and multi-purpose trails, users will experience a variety of the Island's environmental assets, including the creek, the marsh, the maritime forest, Folly Beach and the ocean. Town

Council identified Chaplin Linear Park and Boardwalk as one of its Targets for Action as a Top Priority. In August, 2012, Town Council authorized staff to move forward with the design, permitting and construction for the Park based on a concept plan that included gateways to Broad Creek and the Atlantic Ocean. J.K. Tiller Associates has been hired by the Town to provide detailed design, permitting and construction phase services for the Linear Park. They have prepared a Schematic Master Plan to share with you. It is based on the concept plan that was approved by Town Council in August, 2012. The Master Plan that you will see represents an investment beyond the 2013 CIP Budget based on the proposed Budget Amendment of \$2.5 Million for this project. Staff recommends that the project will likely be phased and that Phase I include the paved trail, parking at each end to support the trail and other items that will likely come along as additional funds are made available.

The Parks & Recreation Commission moved to approve this Master Plan as presented on November 14, 2013. Their main comments were focused on pedestrian safety and the priority of moving pedestrians away from William Hilton Parkway, park maintenance, park naming opportunities and inclusion of harder surface at the end of Burkes Beach Road at the beach access point. Chris Darnell is the Project Manager with J.K. Tiller Associates and he is here to present the Schematic Design Master Plan to you and answer any questions that you might have.

Chris Darnell, Landscape Architect from J.K. Tiller Associates gave the Committee a detailed presentation on the Schematic Master Plan. After Mr. Darnell's presentation, he asked the Committee if they had any comments or questions.

Councilman McCann asked for clarification as to what would be included in Phase I. Mr. Darnell advised it would include the trail which would go from Veterans Park all the way down to Burkes Beach and would include the parking. Jennifer Ray advised they would also like to include the restroom building.

Councilman McCann asked what the total budget was for the project. Mr. Darnell advised they estimated the total project would cost between \$8-9 Million.

Councilman Grant questioned how much the bridge over Highway 278 would cost. Mr. Darnell advised it was right at \$1 Million. Councilman Grant asked if they could look at maybe a race track for Marsh Tacky Horses that could possibly be used during the month of February. Mr. Darnell said they could certainly consider that.

Chairman Likins stated she applauded the way that J.K. Tiller Associates have really tried to incorporate environmental, cultural and historical because I think that is what really makes something like this unique – it is not just a trail. It really adds something meaningful to the experience of it. I think for those of us who have supported this, that is something that we wanted to come out of it. Chairman Likins asked whether we would be able to permit the pier and whether the length is appropriate. Mr. Darnell stated he believed it could be permitted and approved. We have been to the joint agency review and they looked at the entire project and they didn't express a lot of concern for the fishing dock. The fact that it went out to open water was a real plus for them.

Chairman Likins called for public comment. Several citizens came forward and spoke in favor of the project.

Councilman McCann stated this is an outstanding plan and knows it can be done in phases, but I think the total cost is too high and the maintenance and replacement cost is too high and the bridge over Highway 278 is out of character and the timing isn't good with talking about spending a lot of money and energy on USCB and Coligny. Therefore, I will vote against it.

Councilman Grant stated he liked the entire plan and encourages us to follow through with it. The only question I have is the bridge going over Highway 278 and the cost associated with it and it being very out of character for the Island.

Councilman Grant moved the Public Facilities Committee recommend to Town Council they approve the Schematic Master Plan for the proposed Chaplin Linear Park to be used to further develop detailed plans for permitting and construction and also look into some issues associated with the crossover 278. Councilman Likins seconded. The motion was approved with a vote of 2-1. Councilman McCann was opposed.

- **Proposed Town Policy for Dedication and Acceptance of Private Roads**
Jeff Buckalew, Town Engineer stated he was here today to seek the Committee's recommendation and endorsement of a proposed policy for the dedication and acceptance of private road rights of way. This endorsement shall be made as a recommendation for approval of the full Town Council.

A formal policy is needed for the Town's consideration and acceptance of private roads. The Town has been approached by private road owners desiring to dedicate their roads to the Town for ownership and perpetual maintenance responsibilities. The policy strives to serve the public interest while, defending against the burden of maintaining private interests. The acceptance of more roads will have a direct impact on future road maintenance budgets, staff obligations and potentially levels of service and the Capital Improvements Program. The County has recently approved a similar policy with which we have tried to avoid conflicting philosophies.

After a brief discussion, Councilman McCann moved the Public Facilities Committee endorse a policy for the dedication and acceptance of private roads to the Town for perpetual maintenance and forward same to Town Council for their consideration. Councilman Grant seconded. The motion unanimously passed.

6. Adjournment:

Councilman McCann moved to adjourn. Councilman Grant seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen D. Knox
Senior Administrative Assistant