

**TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND**  
**Planning Commission**  
**Minutes of the Wednesday, June 21, 2017 – 3:00p.m. Meeting**  
**Benjamin M. Racusin Council Chambers**

Commissioners Present: Chairman Alex Brown, Vice Chairman Peter Kristian, Todd Theodore, Jim Gant, Bryan Hughes, Barry Taylor, Judd Carstens, Caroline McVitty

Commissioners Absent: Lavon Stevens (excused)

Town Council Present: David Ames

Town Staff Present: Shawn Colin, Deputy Director of Community Development; Anne Cyran, Senior Planner; Greg DeLoach, Assistant Town Manager; Brian Hulbert, Staff Attorney; Sally Krebs, Sustainable Practices Coordinator; Teri Lewis, LMO Official; Scott Liggett, Director of Public Projects and Facilities/Chief Engineer; Jennifer Ray, Planning & Special Projects Manager; Jayme Lopko, Senior Planner; Teresa Haley, Senior Administrative Assistant

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**1. Call to Order**

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

**3. Roll Call**

**4. Freedom of Information Act 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.

**5. Presentation of Crystal Award to Planning Commissioner Jim Gant**

Shawn Colin, Deputy Director of Community Development, presented the Town's Crystal Award to departing Commissioner Jim Gant. Mr. Colin stated his appreciation to Commissioner Gant for his service to the community on behalf of Town Council and the Town of Hilton Head Island.

**6. Approval of Agenda**

The Planning Commission approved the agenda as submitted by general consent.

**7. Approval of Minutes – Meeting of May 17, 2017**

The Planning Commission approved the minutes of the May 17, 2017 meeting as presented by general consent.

**8. Appearance by Citizens on Items Unrelated to Today's Agenda – None**

**9. Unfinished Business – None**

**10. New Business**

a) Election of Officers

Vice Chairman Kristian reported that the Nominating Committee's unanimous recommendation is to reappoint Commissioner Alex Brown as Chairman and Commissioner Peter Kristian as Vice Chairman of the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Gant made a motion to approve the Nominating Committee's recommendation. Commissioner Carstens seconded and the motion passed unanimously with a vote of 8-0-0.

Chairman Brown asked for a motion to appoint Teresa Haley to serve as Secretary. Commissioner McVitty moved to approve. Vice Chairman Kristian seconded and the motion passed unanimously with a vote of 8-0-0.

## **11. Commission Business**

### **a) Discussion on plastic bag use**

Chairman Brown stated this discussion is for educational and informative purposes. The Commission will not formally act upon this matter today. Chairman Brown invited Rikki Parker, South Coast Project Manager with the Coastal Conservation League, to make her presentation.

Ms. Parker made a presentation on reducing plastic pollution on Hilton Head Island. Ms. Parker pointed out that a plastic bag ban pertains to only single use plastic bags. Ms. Parker presented statements regarding the economic impact of ocean based tourism; data from the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup and local data regarding plastic pollution and cleanup; statistics from the Outside Foundation Broad Creek Cleanup; challenges from the State House; jurisdictions with a bag ban or fee; jurisdictions where bans and fees are working; and the Town's Comprehensive Plan includes a goal to explore the opportunity to implement a plastic bag fee for shopping establishments.

The Commission discussed and made inquiries regarding the following: the basis for rejection of a plastic bag ban in other jurisdictions; results in areas that have approved plastic bag bans; how ban areas educate residents and visitors; economic impact to vendors; study on reusable bag promotion; signage promotion; educational opportunities; and no communities have a ban without a law enacted.

Chairman Brown opened the meeting for public comment. Ten members of the public presented statements in support of a plastic bag ban. Public comments related to beach cleanups; beach renourishment; the ties between the ecosystem and the environment; environmental leadership; various jurisdictions that have passed a plastic bag ban; challenges with education, particularly for visitors; current educational efforts and future opportunities; wildlife affected by plastic products; in addition to eco-friendly, a ban can be profitable; alternatives to plastic bags (e.g. biodegradable, and cloth bags); and fee implementation for plastic bags.

The Commission talked about fairness in inviting all stakeholders, vendors, and those affected financially to be heard at a future meeting. The Commission discussed and emphasized the importance of an education process for visitors and residents. It was noted that all trash that is picked up in the County goes to the same landfill. The landfill requires a tipping fee for household garbage which is paid for by the County through taxpayer dollars. Therefore, the trash hauler pays nothing. However, the hauler has to pay a fee for depositing recycling materials. A disincentive exists and needs to be changed. It was also noted that the Town's previous trash and recycling initiative failed in part because all condominium and hotel rooms had to be cleaned every Saturday/turnover day and trash had to be picked up between 10am-4pm. It is an impossible task to deal with that amount of trash in that amount of time. There are many factors that should be considered to help remedy this.

Chairman Brown presented closing remarks regarding plastic bag and recycling issues that the community faces now and in the future. Chairman Brown asked that everyone follow the Vision project Hilton Head Island – Our Future and communicate matters like the ones discussed today at the Vision project’s community engagement sessions. More information of the Vision process, community engagement sessions, and VPMT meetings can be found on the Town’s website. Chairman Brown then asked the Comprehensive Plan Committee to take on this project and report back to the Commission at the first meeting in August.

**12. Chairman’s Report**

Chairman Brown reported the Vision Project Management Team will be holding a Think Tank on Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8am-4pm at the Beach House. Chairman Brown also reported that the Town Council recently approved the Gullah-Geechee Land and Cultural Preservation Task Force. Commissioner Stevens will serve as the Chair. Commissioners McVitty and Theodore will serve on the committee as well. Jayme Lopko will be the Staff liaison. The committee’s meeting dates/times and scope of work are still to come.

**13. Committee Report**

Based on today’s meeting, the Comprehensive Plan Committee will be planning an upcoming meeting.

**14. Staff Reports**

Mrs. Lopko reported that Town Council has appointed Glenn Stanford to the Planning Commission.

**15. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 4:28p.m.

Submitted By: Teresa Haley, Secretary

Approved: July 19, 2017

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Alex Brown, Chairman