

**The Town of Hilton Head Island
Parks & Recreation Commission
Thursday, July 9, 2015
3:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Paul Boes, Mario Caballero, Peter Keber, Fred Lowery, Heather Rath, Andrew Schumacher, Michael Weaver

Members Absent: none

Town Council: William Harkins, Mayor Pro Tem

Town Staff: Charles Cousins, Scott Liggett, Marcy Benson, Julian Walls, Shawn Colin

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

I. Call to Order

Chairman Rath called the meeting to order at 3:31 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 Reappointed and New Members. Mr. Harkins performed the swearing in ceremony and thanked all the Commissioners for their dedication to serving the community on this important Commission.

V. Presentation of crystal award to outgoing member. Mr. Harkins presented Ms. Terri Bennett with the crystal award and thanked her for her service to the Parks & Recreation Commission.

VI. Election of Officers. Commissioner Keber made a motion to nominate Ms. Rath to serve another term as Chairman. Commissioner Lowery seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Lowery made a motion to nominate Commissioner Keber for another term as Vice Chairman. Commissioner Schumacher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting of April 9, 2015 were approved as presented.

VIII. Appearance by Citizens - none

IX. Reports

a. **Update from Island Recreation Association.** For the benefit of the new Commissioners, Mr. Frank Soule gave a brief history and outline of the Island Recreation Center and its relationship with the Town. Mr. Soule reported on the following programs and events:

- Summer Jams on Tuesday nights at the new Shelter Cove Community Park is a great event and doing very well. It is an excellent place to watch fireworks.
- The May event – Bacon, Beer and Music was very successful and well attended.
- The rowing and sailing center is up and running; the classes are going very well; exciting programs; looking to expand.
- Summer programs and camps are well attended.
- Working on changes to the scheduling of Chaplin Tennis courts.
- The Island Recreation Center will be launching its new website soon.
- Aquatics programs: lifeguard classes, group lessons, private lessons, lap swim, water babies all have many participants.
- Adult / Senior programs are very active; this summer we are taking advantage of the new pavilion at Shelter Cove Park for cross fit classes and on some evenings the cross fit classes are held at Jarvis Creek Park.
- SOAR is doing well and looking to expand
- Afterschool programs have wrapped up.

Commissioner Caballero inquired about birthday parties at Jarvis and whether “bouncy houses” were allowed. Mr. Soule replied that they had at one time allowed them but the liability and maintenance of the park became too prohibitive. Bouncy houses are used at community events but not for private parties at Town parks.

- b. **Update from Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC).** Mr. Frank Babel reported that the May bike month activities were a big success. Last month the Town of Hilton Head Island went from a Silver Level Bicycle Friendly Community to a Gold Level Bicycle Friendly Community. This is a great achievement for the Town. It was accomplished through the efforts of many involved. Mr. Babel thanked Chairman Rath for all the work she did to promote this Gold Level Award. Hilton Head Island is recognized as the best island in the country to bike. Mr. Babel presented a map Sea Pines created which shows a trail that winds around the community of Sea Pines identifying 15 live oaks. Pedal 4 Kids will take place on September 26, 2015.

X. Unfinished Business -

Commissioner Keber stated that the Parks & Recreation Commissioners need to reexamine the goals and duties of this Commission for the coming year. Commissioner Keber suggested the Commissioners meet before the scheduled October meeting. All Commissioners should review the goals and duties and come to this meeting with ideas of what we can do and improve on for recreation on the island. Chairman Rath and Commissioner Keber will send out suggested dates for a meeting in September and prior to that all Commissioners should visit every park on the island and become familiar with each park.

XI. New Business

- a. **Update to the Parks & Recreation Commission Rules of Procedures.** Chairman Rath suggested the Commissioners review the Rules of Procedures particularly the section on frequency of meetings at the September meeting.

XII. Park Updates.

Mr. Scott Liggett stated that the Town has received a proposed plan for the transfer of county-owned and maintained recreational facilities to the Town from Beaufort County.

The proposed plan transfers over 1.2 million in real property, an additional \$25,000 in maintenance equipment and nearly one million dollars in subsidies for recurring utility and labor costs over the next five years. Mr. Liggett stated the Town has not formally responded to this proposed plan.

Mr. Liggett asked the Commissioners if they would be willing to work with Town staff to develop an extent and level of service and associated costs that are involved in the proposed transfer. Mr. Liggett also asked the Commissioners to direct Town staff to alert Town Council that the Parks & Recreation Commission is willing to take on this task.

In the next six to eight months the Town will begin to prepare its Fiscal Year 2017 budget and from that we will be able to formulate a response to the County.

Mr. Liggett suggested that at the Parks & Recreation Commission's October meeting Town staff make a presentation to work with the Commissioners to develop an initial investigation based on the long term maintenance needs and the level of service costs involved in the County's proposed plan

Vice Chairman Keber made a motion to work with Town staff to develop an extent and level of service and associated costs that are involved in the proposed plan from Beaufort County for the transfer of county-owned and maintained recreational assets to the Town. Commissioner Schumacher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Liggett stated he will alert the Town Manager that the Parks & Recreation Commission will be taking on this task and this information will be passed on to Town Council.

XIII. Park Commissioner Comments.

Chairman Rath thanked Ms. Marcy Benson for her work on the Bicycle Friendly Community Application. Chairman Rath will send Ms. Benson an e-mail asking her to forward to all Commissioners a copy of the Beaufort County proposal, suggested dates for a meeting in September, the link to Sea Pines and the Compass app from the Chamber of Commerce site.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Eileen Wilson

Approved by: Approved 9/10/2015
Heather Rath, Chairman