



Town of Hilton Head Island
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP
Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.
MEETING MINUTES

Present from Town Council: John J. McCann, *Mayor*; Bill Harkins, *Mayor Pro-Tempore*; David Ames, Tamara Becker, Alex Brown, Tom Lennox, Glenn Stanford, *Council Members*

Present from Town Staff: Marc Orlando, *Town Manager*; Josh Gruber, *Deputy Town Manager*; Shawn Colin, *Interim Deputy Town Manager*; Angie Stone, *Interim Deputy Town Manager*; Jennifer Ray, *Interim Director of Community Development*; Taylor Ladd, *Senior Planner*; Cindaia Ervin, *Finance Assistant*; Teresa Haley, *Senior Administrative Assistant*; Krista Wiedmeyer, *Exec. Assist/Town Clerk*

1. Call to Order

Mayor McCann called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. By way of roll call, attendance of all members of Town Council was affirmed.

2. FOIA Compliance: Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted, and distributed in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of Hilton Head Island.

3. Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Jennifer Ray, Interim Director of Community Development, opened the discussion of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, by providing an overview of the different steps taken to get the Town to where it currently stands. Ms. Ray continued, by explaining that the Master Plan presents a needs assessment, analyses, and recommendations for the Town to consider to increase the level of service across the community over the next ten years. She discussed the different community engagements that have taken place and discussed what the next intended steps will be. Ms. Ray stated that the purpose of the Parks Program was to (1) provide guidance and a starting point for design and planning, and (2) list to be used by staff and design consultant to develop concept plans. She reviewed various options for Town Council to consider. She spoke to the redevelopment strategy for the mid-island initiative area and conceptual planning for Chaplin Community Park and Crossings park. Closing her presentation to Town Council, Ms. Ray reviewed the steps that would take place over the next several months. Those included the receipt of Council's input from the workshop, refining the RFQ based on the direction from Town Council, posting the RFQ for six to eight weeks, providing notifications to Town Council once the consultant is selected, kick-off the design services to include Town Council and other stakeholders, and preparing the redevelopment strategy and develop park concept plans.

Mayor McCann opened the discussion to the members of Town Council to ask questions and provide feedback to staff.

The overall consensus of the members of Council was that staff has developed a well put together plan, which if executed appropriately will improve the overall quality of life for both Island residents and visitors to the Island. Mr. Ames asked, in what context are we (Council) making decisions? He went on to ask, are we making those decisions that are too small of scale? Mr. Ames said that public involvement is crucial to the ongoing process. Mr. Harkins noted that there is currently an opportunity with the mid-island tract to make the Island a special place, and make the Island more competitive. Mr. Harkins stated that the Town has to remain focused on the revitalization throughout the Island. Mrs. Becker asked that the Town keep things simple and not overstep. Mr. Lennox felt that having an outside consultant come in to review and consult on the three parks discussed is a good starting point.

Discussion Continued

Mr. Stanford said that it is important to look at focused projects, such as the mid-island tract. He said that Lowcountry Celebration Park has encouraged reinvestment and that the same could happen with this particular tract. Mayor McCann felt that the mid-island area was dying and in need of something to revitalize it. He said that the RFQ for the consultant is an important move. Mr. Brown asked about some of the other parks located on the island, such as Patterson and Taylor Park. He felt the some of the smaller parks needed to be looked at prior to looking at the mid-island tract. Mr. Brown said that there are several safety concerns with Chaplin Park. He asked that upgrades in the safety be looked at before upgrades in amenities. He asked about the type of infrastructure planned for the Chaplin area and would it address the current safety concerns. Mrs. Becker echoed Mr. Brown's concerns about safety in that area. Noting that maybe some type of traffic calming needed to be considered.

Upon conclusion of Council's discussion, Mr. Orlando addressed some of the matters discussed. He said based on the Master Plan and Council's feedback, staff has a clear path forward, and that his first priority is to have staff get the RFQ posted right away.

4. Adjournment

By unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

Approved: March 16, 2021

Krista M. Wiedmeyer, Town Clerk

John J. McCann, Mayor