

**Environmental Committee Meeting
December 9, 2008; 3:00 PM
Kiawah Island Municipal Center
Upstairs Conference Room**

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order:** Mr. Lipuma called the meeting to order at 3:00PM.
- II. FOIA:** Notice of this meeting has been published and posted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of Kiawah Island.
- III. Roll Call:**
Present: Charles Lipuma, Chair
Dale Anderson
Jim Chitwood
Jim Jordan, TOKI
Aaron Given, TOKI
Norm Shea, KICA
Dave Achey, KICA
Liz King, KIGR
- Also Present: Catherine Wilson, Town Clerk
Scott Fister, KICA
Lois Bryant, ARB
- Absent: David Elliott
Tumiko Rucker, Town Administrator
- IV. Minutes:**
A. Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes of November 18, 2008
- Mr. Jordan moved to approve the minutes of November 18, 2008. Mr. Chitwood seconded the motion. Mr. Lipuma inserted the word “likely” and struck the words “to reduce their times” from Old Business, B Green Initiatives. With those changes, the minutes were approved unanimously.**
- V. Old Business**
A. Beach Parking Update
Mr. Lipuma stated that he spoke with Mr. Roger Warren, KIGR, on December 8, 2008 and that Mr. Warren apologized that correspondence is taking longer than expected and explained that he would have a response to Mr. Lipuma by the end of the week. Mr. Lipuma stated that the proposal will include 30 beach parking spots in the area of the Ocean Course and the location may be the Ocean Course parking lot.

B. Green Initiatives

Scott Fister, KIGR, stated that the Resort's 31st annual marathon was a green success. Mr. Fister explained that the Resort participated in various recycling initiatives during the event including: shoe recycling, composting, and co-mingled recycling. Mr. Fister stated that the Resort collected two heaping truck loads full of shoes that will be donated to rubber recyclers or "Soles for Souls" an international organization that donates used shoes to those in need. Mr. Fister stated that the Resort composted between 660-680 lbs of fruit during the event. Food that was prepared but not eaten was donated to Crisis Ministries. The Resort used event recycling containers, obtained from Charleston County Recycling services, throughout the course. The event also had a successful "bring your own bag and bottle" campaign.

VI. New Business:

A. ARB Representative

Mr. Lipuma introduced Mrs. Lois Bryant who will be replacing Nancy Jackson as the ARB representative on the Environmental Committee. Mrs. Bryant is a property owner and the developer appointed member of the ARB Board. She has been with the ARB for the past three years. Mr. Lipuma stated that when the ARB hires a new landscape architect, Mrs. Bryant will step down from the Environmental Committee.

B. Environmental Education Outreach Program

Mr. Shea stated that he has been working with SCDNR for quite awhile in order to do environmental research and analysis on the Island. Mr. Shea stated that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has a current grant opportunity that could be coordinated with the current nature field trips. Mr. Shea stated that he would like for the Environmental Committee to offer their financial support as part of the matching grant requirements. Mr. Shea explained that the grant deadline for submission is December 18, 2009.

Dr. Dianne Greenfield with Hollings Marine Lab presented the Committee with the grant concept. Dr. Greenfield explained that the grant is a small grant that will be used for environmental stewardship and education. Dr. Greenfield stated that she is focusing on the sixth graders at Haute Gap School on Johns Island and proposing a series of field trips to the Nature Center. The field trips would focus on water quality testing and conservation. Dr. Greenfield explained that the matching grant amount is a promise of \$6,250, or 25% of \$25,000. Dr. Greenfield stated that salaries, time, and space are all considered toward matching funds.

Mr. Lipuma asked Dr. Greenfield to submit a one page summary stating the role of the field trips and the amount of funding requested from the Arts Council. Mr. Lipuma explained that he will meet with Mr. Ken Gunnells, the Town Treasurer in order to review possible funding.

All Committee members voiced favor for the grant opportunity and explained that it will be beneficial to expand the field trips to middle schools.

VIII. Committee Member Comments:

Liz King, KIGR

Mrs. King stated that the marathon volunteers helped expand KIGR's community outreach and that KIGR donated \$25, for every resident that volunteered, to the Nature Conservancy.

Jim Jordan, TOKI

Mr. Jordan stated that the wildlife calls are low during this time of year and the only call was for a juvenile deer with a broken leg at 99 Golden Eye. Mr. Jordan stated that the deer was unable to be located at the property.

Piping Plover surveys are ongoing and area averaging 18 birds per survey. The west end numbers are lower than 2007.

GPS Bobcat Trapping is set to begin in January 2009.

Aaron Given, TOKI

Mr. Given stated that he and Mr. Jordan are working on a bird proposal that will add to the current bird surveys on the Island. Mr. Given explained various trapping and counting strategies and expressed enthusiasm about the proposal. Mr. Given will be adopting the National Marsh Bird monitoring protocol.

Norm Shea, KICA

Mr. Shea stated maintenance was performed on Beachwalker and Canvasback Ponds. After the heavy rains and flooding in October, KICA determined it was necessary to conduct elevation surveys on all drainage boxes along Governors Drive. They also installed a new water level monitoring device in Pond 53. Mr. Shea is in the process of working with the Nature Placards along the Island and encountered problems when the company they were working with went out of business. Divers inspected the drainage and pipes along the Governors Drive area and discovered 78 sandbags in a major catch basin of the major pipe that drains all of Governors Drive. The sandbags reduced the size of the pipe from 48" to 8" in diameter. The sandbags were left after a contractor fixed damage to the pipe and failed to remove the bags. November rainfall is below average and remains under the annual average.

Dave Achey, KICA

Mr. Achey announced that Kiawah Island is officially the 29th community in the nation to receive National Wildlife Certification. Tallow Tree work is also beginning and Mr. Achey thanked Mr. Given for his help.

Mr. Lipuma asked if it is necessary to contact the ARB before removing a Tallow Tree. Mr. Achey stated that he always does. Mrs. Bryant stated that it is a requirement.

Dale Anderson

Mr. Anderson stated that it is important for Turtle Patrol members to learn how to spot Least Tern nesting sites when relocating turtle nests. Mr. Anderson presented a letter from SC DNR explaining that 374,280 turtle eggs were monitored during the season. Mr. Anderson also presented a thank you letter from Kelly Stewart, PhD, for the Kiawah Island Turtle Patrol’s assistance in collecting loggerhead hatchling samples. Mr. Anderson reminded attendees of the Turtle Patrol Dinner at the Sandcastle, November 19, at 6:30pm. Mr. Anderson recommended that people read the “Survey of the South Carolina Coastline” as it is very interesting.

Jim Chitwood

Mr. Chitwood stated that the Bobcat Management Guideline booklet is a great document and that they are trying to implement it as much as feasible. The Conservancy is also focusing on purchasing of additional lots. Mr. Chitwood stated that the Conservancy has had great success with Cougar Point Golf Course and their habitat creation and improvements. Mr. Chitwood is meeting with Mr. Roger Warren on December 15, 2008 to discuss habitat improvement possibilities on the other courses.

IX. Citizen Comments:

None

X. Adjournment:

Mr. Chitwood motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:15pm. Mr. Jordan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by,

Catherine C. Wilson, Town Clerk

Approved by,

Charles R. Lipuma, Chairman

Date