

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
JULY 6, 2009; 3:00 PM
KIAWAH ISLAND MUNICIPAL CENTER
UPSTAIRS CONFERENCE ROOM**

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order:** Mr. McHugh 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: **Harry McHugh, Chair**
 David Elliott
 Jim Chitwood
 Dale Anderson
 Jim Jordan
 Aaron Given
 Liz King
 Norm Shea
 Dave Achey

Absent: **Lois Bryant**

Also Present: **Cathy Wilson**
 Scott Fister

IV. Minutes:

A. Environmental Committee Minutes of June 3, 2009
Mr. Elliott motioned to approve the minutes of June 3, 2009. Mr. Chitwood seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

V. Old Business:

A. Green Initiatives

Mr. McHugh stated that the Town has approved a recycling program for the condominiums and cottage type dwellings on the Island and the program officially began July 1. The traditional regimes have been a bit more complicated and it has been a learning process understanding the flow of information between the boards and regimes. He stated that KDP has agreed to enter into the Town's recycling service program. Mrs. King asked if KDP is paying a fee for service. Mr. McHugh responded that KDP will be paying for the service and will not receive any subsidy. Mrs. King stated that if pricing can be discussed, she would like for KIGR to consider using the Town for recycling pickup.

Town funding is budgeted for the expansion of recycling but not for the yard debris or solid waste.

Mr. Elliott stated that having a long driveway it is neither practical to roll either garbage or recycling bins out to curb. He stated that backdoor recycling would be beneficial to him.

B. Parkway Project Update

Mr. McHugh stated that the Town received the final permit and construction will begin within the next few weeks. Work should be completed around Labor Day. Mrs. King stated that she received a letter requesting that no kayaks be in the water near the bridge from July 1-September 30. She asked if there was a more definitive time frame. Mr. McHugh suggested working with Mrs. Rucker. Mr. McHugh requested that Mr. Dave Achey work with Mr. Orban on the landscaping of the Parkway. Mr. McHugh stated that he will arrange a meeting. The Parkway and Bike path will not have lights. Mr. Scott Fister asked if the goal of the landscaping is to have a zero mow design. Mr. McHugh stated that it is possible.

C. Draft Recycling Magnet Design

Mr. McHugh presented the Committee with a draft design of the recycling magnet. Mr. Anderson suggested putting the Town's website on the magnet. Mrs. King suggested that the Town dedicate a portion of their website to recycling. After much discussion, Mr. Jordan stated that he will work with Stephanie Braswell, TOKI, to design a recycling information meeting.

IV. Committee Member Comments:

Dave Achey, KICA Land Management

Mr. Achey stated that they have been trying to get to routine maintenance projects. He explained that the habitat transitional zone open forum meeting had good questions about the Preserve and they were able to get really good feedback. No new reforestation areas will be added for about two years to allow time to grow and feedback. They are currently working on new and improved guidelines for reforestation and land management.

Jim Chitwood,

Mr. Chitwood stated that the Conservancy has been working on a Wildlife Habitat Plan for the regimes. They will attempt to show that other means for landscaping will look good, work better, and be better in the future. The goal is trying to modify the traditional landscaping of the regimes.

Mr. McHugh stated that with his brief experience with regimes it seems hard to communicate successfully with all because of the resident's issues along with passing information between boards, managers, and owners.

Mr. Chitwood stated that originally the meetings were initiated to allow the regimes a venue to express concerns.

Liz King, KIGR

Mrs. King stated that the Regimes' main concern were about bin placement. Mr. McHugh stated that the problem that he has seen is that implementation difficulty is related to communication and cooperation.

Dale Anderson:

Mr. Anderson stated that 87 turtle nests were staked and 48% were relocated. He stated that they should see no difference in terms nest productivity. Currently there are 120-150 nests which is about half the nests compared to this time last year. He explained that last year was a record breaking abnormal year and the normal average is around 150 per year; so this year is average.

Mr. Anderson suggested that everyone take time to look at the DNR website because it tracks South Carolina, Georgia, North Carolina turtles. Currently, SC is ahead of neighboring states with the number of nests. Mrs. King stated that she sent Mr. Anderson an email concerning a turtle stranding. Mr. Anderson stated that he had heard no official report of the turtle. Mr. Anderson explained that he is not trained to handle strandings but Mr. Pezzullo and Mr. Zackrison can.

Mrs. King asked Mr. Jordan to check with beach patrol to see if it was reported because the gentlemen that found the turtle stated that he reported it to beach patrol.

Liz King, KIGR:

Mrs. King stated that the DNR Turtle write-up is a bit concerning because it states that a few golf courses on the Island are watering dunes and she does not know of any golf course that waters dunes. She stated that she does not think it is good publicity for the Island and that KIGR does not water dunes.

Kiawah Island Marathon sign-ups officially open on August 3. This year, the winners will not be given a trophy but instead have a plaque with their name on it dedicated at the newly created butterfly habitat at the park. She stated that she would like to work in creating an Island-wide wildlife website.

Jim Jordan:

Wildlife calls have been slow. There were four wildlife calls during the report time period. A deer was hit by a car at 35 Ocean Course, there was a call from a concerned PO with raccoons on their deck, a Greater Shearwater was injured and euthanized on the beach, and a fawn was hit and killed by a car at the intersection of River Course Maintenance and the Parkway. Piping Plover surveys will resume on August 1. They continue to receive monthly downloads for bobcat GPS data and monitor remaining females for signs of denning. Wilson's Plovers, Oystercatchers, and Least Terns are the primary beach nesters. Also, Skimmers are nesting now and they have not nested since 2006. Before 2006 there were no reports of nesting Skimmers. Least Tern chick telemetry study has been completed with one chick captured. Mist netting is scheduled to begin mid-July and permission has been obtained from KDP to set up nets on Captain

Sam's Spit, Cougar Island, and the Vanderhorst Plantation. The annual breeding bird survey was conducted on June 15 by Aaron Given and Dr. Dennis Forsythe. Mr. Given will conduct the surveys in the future. Fish testing was completed in conjunction with KICA and testing took place in 8 ponds and tested 29 fish. Mr. Jordan met with Jeff Stone and Stephen Younger on June 26 to discuss the Ocean Course Beach Access. The sand fencing was extended to block an alternate route.

Captain Sam's:

Mr. McHugh stated that in regards to a sheet piling application, the Town's attorney advised that ordinances do not deal with sheet pilings and he did not advise taking a stance on the application. The Town agreed in the Development Agreement that they would support development of Captain Sam's. OCRM has not made a decision on the sheet pile permit.

Scott Fister:

Mr. Fister stated that judging by the amount of recycling created during the 4th of July events, it seems that a lot of people had a really good time. Watermelon rinds were recycled again this year. Oyster shells have also been recycled. He stated that it is nice to have a big event and know that items are diverted from the landfill. They will have pallets picked up soon and he asked if KICA would like to have pallets picked up at the same time. E-Waste is also getting ready for a pickup. Mr. Fister talked about the "Green Canitizer" which is a company that pressure washes the garbage cans. They use a system that allows the water to go back in and be cleaned and filtered to wash another can. Mr. Fister suggested going to sustainabilityinsitutesc.org website for more information. Mr. Fister talked about the Green Hospitality Alliance of SC and explained that it is a free voluntary program designed to help the hospitality industry reduce the impact, incorporate environmental stewardship and promote and recognize member hotels. He will be working with the Green Hospitality Alliance and completing a self-assessment for KIGR.

Norm Shea:

Mr. Shea stated that the Island has had a few fish kills within the past month. Sparrow Pond had the following kills: June 22-a large Black Drum was found dead; June 29-an additional 6 Mullet were found dead. Dissolved oxygen has been low most likely due to the high temperature related decline of the Widgeongrass. Willet Pond had 75 lbs of dead fish including 58 Flounder, 2 Stingrays, and 2 Spotted Sea Trout. These kills are also related to the high temperature and related decline of the Widgeongrass. At the Preserve, 29 Trout, 1 Mullet, and 1 Croaker were killed. There is a planktonic algae bloom crash occurring in the pond and the DO at the surface was .25 ppm. An aerial larvicide of The Preserve, Cinder Creek, and Little Otter Island was conducted by a contractor on June 30. Adulticiding is being performed typically on a weekly basis. No alligator, bird, or snake relocations took place. General maintenance is working on the new bulletin board at Pond 093 (Ibis Pond). There were a total of 10 active Osprey nests identified for 2009. Pond 050 sedimentation project is the current big project. Rauch Construction completed the installation of the sheet piling. The area has been dewatered and the pipes are able to be viewed. The north and center pipes are relatively clear. The south pipe (the one of

concern regarding structural integrity) is approximately 50% full of sediment but there is no evidence of failure of the pipe wall. Rainfall is 6% above normal for the year. Mola Mola 40 pound sunfish reported and their average weight is around 2,200 lbs.

- VI. **Adjournment:**
Mr. Chitwood motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:28pm. Mr. Jordan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by,

Catherine Wilson, Town Clerk

Approved by,

Harry McHugh, Chairman

Date