

**Environmental Committee Meeting
June 3, 2009; 10:00 AM
Kiawah Island Municipal Center
Upstairs Conference Room**

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order:** Mr. McHugh called the meeting to order at 10:00AM.
- 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 Jordan, TOKI
Jim Chitwood
Liz King, KIGR
Norm Shea, KICA
- Also Present: Scott Fister, KIGR
Catherine Wilson, Town Clerk
- Absent: Dale Anderson
Lois Bryant, ARB
Aaron Given, TOKI
Dave Achey, KICA
- IV. Minutes:**
A. Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes of May 4, 2009
Mr. Jordan motioned to approve the minutes of May 4, 2009. Mr. Elliott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- V. Old Business:**
A. Green Initiatives
Scott Fister, KIGR
Composting equipment is in place at the Sanctuary and will begin soon. A dinner waste audit found that 27% of the waste was recyclable, 37% was trash and 36% was prep scrap compost. From one dinner with 84 diners, 100 lbs of recycling, 141 lbs of trash, and 136 lbs of compost. They hope to gather 1/3 of the food preparation waste to compost.

Mr. Jordan and Mr. Fister discussed various composting equipment that the Resort would have to use due to the amount of materials.

Harry McHugh

Liz and Scott were instrumental in working with Robbie Crawford and getting the Kiawah Island Club involved in recycling. Town has also attempted to bring recycling to condominiums and regimes and success is spotted at the moment. Issues are being worked out and three regimes will begin July 1 and others will hopefully come on board as questions are answered. Mr. McHugh and Tumiko Rucker will continue working with individual regimes.

Mr. McHugh discussed a meeting with various island entities involved. Mr. Chitwood stated that he noticed people from the Resort, KICA, the Town, and the developer. Mr. Mark Permar and Mr. Leonard Long conducted the meeting to discuss conceptual ideas for development. Discussion revolved around the Piping Plover, terrapins, and bobcats on the island and Mr. Chitwood stated that he felt the discussion was very open and honest.

Mr. McHugh stated that from the Town's perspective they are obligated to be supportive of the efforts based on the Development Agreement. It is Trenholm Walker's stance that the ordinance does not require a building permit and the Town's attorney has agreed. The Town has no basis for objection.

Mr. Elliott stated that in the past, Mark Permar has been reluctant to discuss any details. However, they are conceptually talking about a pervious road, lots that are accessed by side roads. Mr. Elliott stated that the current concept looks pretty good.

Mrs. King stated that she hopes Mr. Shea and Mr. Jordan are invited to the future meetings because no matter how many experts the developer brings to the table, that Mr. Jordan and Mr. Shea have a base of knowledge of the island that cannot be gathered in a few months. She stated that she remembers irrigation and manicured landscaping was part of original design but it seems the plan has evolved. She stated that people from the EC committee should inform and educate people on the island, especially KDP, about the environmental impacts of development. She stressed educating both sides of the development project in an open and cooperative manner. She stated that she wants to make sure they are involved in future educational meetings.

Mr. Chitwood stated that the Conservancy has tried to stay with their historic position in trying to get access to the developer's decision making. They are not against development but in past dialogues between the Developer and the Conservancy, the Conservancy has been promised and opportunity to influence the final decision. Mr. Chitwood discussed the Cypress Point development and that a lot of the concepts that Mr. Laplante talked about were also discussed by KDP and he hopes that all future development decisions will be made collectively. The Conservancy has observed that the vision of building and living with nature is not being implemented very well.

Mr. McHugh stated that he will commit to involving Mr. Jordan and Mr. Shea in the future discussions.

Mr. Jordan stated that three weeks ago he had a meeting with a group of environmental consultants that are working with KDP. Mr. Jordan explained that the wanted information on Piping Plovers. Mr. Jordan provided them with all of the Piping Plover data that they have collected over the past three years as well as all of the bobcat data. Mr. Jordan stated that he feels that information was utilized during their meeting on Monday. He stated that it is interesting how the consultant wants to use his data but not involve him in the discussion. The goal should be to try to make all future developments as good as they possibly can be for the environment and the open discussions make the most sense. Mr. Jordan stated that his data should be taken at face value and not spun to mean something different. He said that during his ten years of work on the Island he feels they have gotten to a point where the data can make a difference in the development on the Island.

David Elliott

Backdoor recycling would be very beneficial for handicapped persons with long driveways. Mr. Elliott asked if the weekly yard debris pickup could be used on island rather than hauling it off to the landfill.

Liz King, KIGR

Mrs. King stated that the regime president from Mariners Watch stated that he is interested in recycling but does not want the large gray container like the one at Town Hall. She explained that the Resort is working on developing an aesthetically pleasing drop-off site. Currently the Nature Center employees hand sort the recycling and next month will use the 90-gallon containers incased in lattice. Mrs. King suggested that those type of container areas could be built on-island for the regimes.

VI. New Business:

None

VII. Committee Member Comments:

David Elliott,
No Report.

Scott Fister, KIGR

Mr. Fister recommended discussing taking all toxic items such as gasoline, paint cans, and propane tanks, into a secure location when preparing for an approaching storm. These items, if left out, would contaminate the environment. Mr. McHugh requested that this information be given to Mrs. Rucker for use in the Disaster Awareness Day.

He also suggested landscaping the parkway with native natural vegetation to reduce costs in upkeep and not require mowing. Mr. Fister also recommended researching solar lighting if lighting will be used along the parkway. Mr. Chitwood stated that lights are

not a good idea from an environmental perspective. Mr. McHugh requested that this information be sent to Mr. Orban.

Mr. Fister recently visited the Rhett's Bluff area and the "forest in progress" seems to have been mowed. Mr. Shea said that there has been a move to "low mow" on some of the right of ways because if you completely let it go, it becomes woody vegetation and the right of way would become overtaken by progressing woods. The "low mow" approach allows native vegetation but discourages woody growth.

Liz King, KIGR

DNR is changing the fishing license requirements to require fishing license for all fishing including from land. She asked if the Town will enforce or sell licenses. Mr. Jordan stated that the Town could enforce the regulations but that is a DNR enforcement issue and that the Town will not sell fishing licenses. Mr. Chitwood stated that the State did it because the Federal government is mandating a new saltwater fishing license. Mr. Chitwood said that it is important to set up a local place to sell licenses. Mr. Jordan said that he assumes a lot of people will not know about the licensing requirement and education is important.

A banded Oyster Catcher was photographed and it has been traced from St. Simons Island, GA. She asked if there any Oyster Catcher nests on the west end. Mr. Jordan responded that based on his knowledge, they are only on the east end.

Mrs. King stated that the pet restraint issue came up during the Town Council meeting and it was brought up by a citizen that the Resort as recently changed their pet policy. She clarified that the Resort has not changed their policy in ten years and she does not think the increase in dog incidents are a result of the Resort's change in policy. Mrs. King asked how often Dale Anderson sends the turtle numbers to DNR. Mr. Jordan stated that it is submitted daily. Mr. McHugh stated that Mr. Anderson mailed his report and there have been 22 turtle nests posted to date.

Mrs. King stated that Town Council discussed a barge that will work on the Kiawah Island bridge and asked if the barge would block waterway passage under the bridge. She requested that it be communicated to the Resort if the area would be navigable so they can plan their kayak tours accordingly.

Norm Shea, KICA Lakes Management

Mr. Shea stated that KICA has an excavating project on pond 50 to remove a large amount of sediment that has accumulated over a short amount of time. They are also working on cleaning out the pipes. Pond 002 has had a proliferation of Widgeon Grass and Grass Carp have been stocked for control. USC has been conducting pharmaceutical and chemical concentrations in fish. There are 9 active Osprey nests on the Island. He is working with SCDHEC personnel from the Stormwater and Critical Area division to continue research on a pool discharge ordinance. Investigations continue for alternative vendors for the nature placards. Mr. Shea stated that every cell tower on the Island has an active Osprey nest.

Mr. Chitwood,

Mr. Chitwood stated that the Bobcat Ball was very successful. He asked Mrs. King about he “Concentration Matters” DVDs and how they will work at the Nature Center. She responded that the Nature Center tries to keep the TV off as much as possible. Mr. Elliott suggested that the “Wildside” would also be a very good showing.

Mr. Elliott stated that when the Town’s budget comes in, that he will discuss changing the Town’s position with the Conservancy.

Jim Jordan,

Mr. Jordan presented the Wildlife Report for May 5-June 2. The Town received a call from a concerned property owner regarding a collared bobcat near her home. Mr. Jordan and Mr. Given have spent time with the property owner explaining the bobcat and listening to the owner’s concerns regarding the bobcat and her grandchildren. On May 6, received a report for an abandoned fawn at 46 Governor’s and educated property owner that it was not abandoned. Piping Plover surveys have been completed for this season and will resume August 1, 2009. There were 10 total surveys completed in March and April. These surveys will continue through 2012 and hopefully beyond that as they provide very valuable data to the Island. There have been 10 bobcats placed on bobcats. Two dens have been found with a total of 5 kittens. All kittens and adults captured have been pit tagged for future data. Wilson Plover surveys were conducted in May as part of a statewide survey; 51 adults recorded (24 males, 22 females, 5 unknown). Dr. Chris Hill and graduate student Alex Kohorst from Coastal Carolina will visit the island around June 15 to conduct a six week capture and monitor study of Least Tern Chicks. Chicks will be captured and fitted with leg band VHF transmitters. Bird monitoring program point counts began June 2. Mist netting is scheduled to begin mid-June pending permission from KDP. Annual breeding surveys will be conducted the week of June 8 by Dr. Dennis Forsythe and Aaron Given.

Mr. McHugh

Mr. McHugh read the following turtle report, from Mr. Dale Anderson, to the Committee:

False Crawls: 8
Nests: 22
Relocated: 12 (54.5%)
Eggs Counted: 1637 (0 from completed nests)
Eggs Lost: 14 (0.8%)
Mean Clutch Size: 136.4 eggs

IX. Citizen Comments:

None

X. Adjournment:

Mr. Elliott motioned to adjourn at 11:57am. Mr. Chitwood seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by,

Catherine C. Wilson, Town Clerk

Approved by,

Harry M. McHugh, Chairman

Date