

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
MAY 13, 2008; 3:00PM
KIAWAH ISLAND MUNICIPAL CENTER
2ND FLOOR 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 Jordan, TOKI
Norm Shea, KICA
Dave Achey, KICA
David Elliott
Liz King, KIGR
Nancy Jackson, ARB
Bill Connellee
Eric Rice, TOKI

Also Present: Catherine Wilson, Town Clerk
Sarah Latshaw, KIGR
Scott Fister, KIGR

Absent: Jim Chitwood
Tumiko Rucker, Town Administrator

IV. Environmental Committee Minutes of April 8, 2008

Mr. Elliott motioned to approve the minutes of April 8, 2008. Mr. Connellee seconded the motion. Mr. Lipuma made changes to the minutes. With those changes, the minutes were approved unanimously.

- V. Mr. Connellee motioned to hear KICA Community Bonfire on the Beach, Item A, New Business first. Mr. Elliott seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

VI. New Business:

A. KICA Community Bonfire on the Beach

Mrs. Kay Narmour and Mrs. Cindy Feldman, representatives of KICA and the Sandcastle, presented a request to host community bonfires on the beach. Mrs. Feldman explained that the event would take place on the first night of each full moon and would begin at dusk and last until 10:00PM. Mrs. Feldman and Mrs. Narmour explained that a group on Seabrook currently host full moon bonfires every month and that it is very simple. Mrs. King stated that the Town already has a bonfire permitting process in place and charges administrative costs of \$100.00 for permitting. Mrs. King explained that the Resort had hosted bonfires for a number of years but stopped due to the permitting cost. Mr. Lipuma stated that he would research the bonfire permitting policy. Mr. Jordan explained that the beach on Kiawah has been through a renourishment process and that there are areas in the process of becoming dunes. Mr. Jordan stated his concern that the area of the proposed bonfire site (between the old and new clubhouse at the Ocean Course) is sensitive dune area. Mr. Connellee asked if there had been any issues with “lights out” concerning the nesting turtles. Mr. Lipuma stated that this idea should be given more thought by the Committee after more research is done and he has discussed the policy issue.

VII. Old Business:

A. Going Green, Follow-Up

Mr. Jordan stated that the Town has switched to all compostable kitchenware and the new composter should arrive within the next few weeks. The Town also installed a new nature sign along the parkway with a trashcan and a fishing line recycling bin.

B. Jewels Brochure

Mr. Jordan stated that the brochure is in the final design and print stages and is waiting on final approval.

C. Glass Receptacles on Beach

Mr. Lipuma stated that Ordinance 2008-1, an ordinance prohibiting the use of glass containers on the beaches of Kiawah Island had its second and final reading at the May 6, 2008 Town Council meeting. Mr. Lipuma noted that the use of glass bottles and baby food jars will continue to be allowed; provided there is proper (safe) disposal.

VIII. Committee Member Reports:

Jim Jordan, TOKI (Report Attached)

Mr. Jordan presented the wildlife report for April 1, 2008-May 13, 2008. He noted that during this time two alligators and a deer were hit and killed by cars. On May 8, 2008 a dead leatherback sea turtle was discovered on the beach. There have been 80-90 reported cases of raccoon on the Island and numbers have continually slowed down in the last several weeks. Eight bobcats have been collared to date and the final two collars will be deployed in fall of 2008. On May 2, 2008, a bobcat den was discovered which had 2 male kittens between 2-3 weeks in age. The 2008 bobcats will be added to the website during the month of June and Piping Plover surveys will resume in August 2008.

Nancy Jackson, ARB

Mrs. Jackson reported that the Town's new nature sign on the Parkway is under review by the ARB and does not seem to meet regulations. She also discussed her tour of the green roof inside of the Ion Development.

Sarah Latshaw, KIGR

Ms. Latshaw reported the Nature Center's animal calls and stated that two northern gannets were reported in two subsequent days. These birds were possible migratory fallouts; one bird survived and was transported to the Raptor Center. Several school groups attended the Nature Center's education tour including Angel Oak Elementary which was sponsored by the Town. The bluebird box has 5 hatchlings and can be viewed at the Nature Center and Cornell University's website. She is involved with a Painted Bunting survey and has launched 11 trackers to date; 22 tracking bands will be launched by mid-June 2008.

Bill Connellee

Mr. Connellee had no comment.

David Elliott

Mr. Elliott discussed his written report (attached) and noted that points 1, 2 and 5 are for information only. Point 3 is for consideration in 5-7 years. Mr. Elliott discussed his concern that yard debris is being hauled off of the island when it could be used as quality, organic material on the island. Mr. Elliott also suggested that the Town's consultant should consider possible options for the disposal of the debris. Mr. Lipuma stated that he will review where the debris is currently taken.

Norm Shea, KICA

Mr. Shea had no comment.

Dave Achey, KICA

Mr. Achey stated that the landscape renovation project for 2008 has been finalized and KICA will be hosting a meeting on June 17, 2008 from 4:00PM-6:00PM at the Sandcastle for member comments. The landscape department is hoping to increase native vegetation and natural habitat areas by committing 10% of common property that is maintained to natural vegetation. KICA currently has 50 private properties registered as Back-Yard Habitats. Mr. Achey also discussed KICA's Plant Rescue Efforts.

Eric Rice, TOKI

Mr. Rice distributed the Habitat Improvement Initiative brochure and stated that the rollout was very successful and received in a positive manner.

Liz King, KIGR

Mrs. King discussed www.kiawahgreen.com, the Resort's new "green" website. Mrs. King stated that a lot of their corporate guests have requested that they provide them with a list of Resort environmental goals before they make reservations. This website will be used as an easy way for the Resort to promote their green initiatives while educating others on Kiawah Island environmental issues. The Resort will be advertising their new website in the activity guide along; with other publications. The annual terrapin research project will continue during the month of May and the Resort will be hosting a research update on Wednesday, May 21, 2008. Mrs. King explained that KIGR used bikes are not available for re-sale due to past litigation.

Scott Fister, KIGR

Mr. Fister discussed the Resort's green initiatives; specifically noting, E-Waste (Electronic Waste), bicycle recycling, and Resort Composting. E-Waste recycling is available at the Nature Center from 10:00AM until 4:00PM and scheduled pick-ups on Wednesdays. The collected E-Waste will be recycled or re-used in the Goodwill Industry. The Resort's Fisher Recycling contract is in the final stages and they are working on island-wide oyster shell recycling.

Dale Anderson

Mr. Anderson stated that he had spoken with Shannon White, KICA Chair of Covenant Compliance Committee, and she suggested that the Covenant Compliance Committee could offer a list of properties that fit the requirements of the Sweetgrass Habitat Award to the Conservancy. Mr. Lipuma stated that a list of recommended homes should be provided to the Conservancy and to the Environmental Committee. Mr. Anderson also reported that two turtles arrived on Mother's Day to lay their eggs and that Turtle Patrol is regularly monitoring the beach.

Members discussed at length concerns over lighting on the beach and turtle nesting problems. At this point, lights are not a major problem for Kiawah Island Turtle nesting habits.

IX. Citizen Comments:

Mr. Curt Sheffer, Turtle Point Golf Course, and Mr. Andy Steele, Cougar Point Golf Course, introduced themselves and stated that they are always available for any questions that the Committee may have on what the golf course is doing to remain environmentally conscious.

X. Adjournment:

Mr. Connellee motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:43PM. Mr. Elliott seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by: _____
Catherine Wilson

Approved by: _____
Charles R. Lipuma

Date: _____

CC: William Wert, Mayor
Tumiko Rucker
Town Council