

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 15, 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
Lois Bryant, ARB
Jim Jordan, TOKI
Aaron Given, TOKI
Norm Shea, KICA
Dave Achey, KICA
Liz King, KIGR

Also Present: Cathy Wilson
Scott Fister, KIGR

IV. Minutes:

A. Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes of July 6, 2009

Mr. Chitwood motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Elliott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

V. Old Business

A. Green Initiatives

Mr. McHugh stated that the Town is attempting to make recycling available to all residents. This process has been a struggle to get really effective recycling implemented at the condo level due to the limited space available. As a consequence, the Town has had to take a three level approach to recycling that allows the condominiums to select from. The first is backdoor service and

applicable to very few of the high-rise type condominiums. The second choice is to get the condominiums to place collection points on their own property and that option is making process. The Town is looking into financial assistance if a cement pad is necessary but that has not been approved. The last choice is advertising the centralized locations and possibly increasing the centralized locations. The Town wants to support KIGR's recycling and possibly get another location at Turtle Point. At this point, single family homes have service provided by the Town with a subsidy of \$255 per home. The Town wants to keep the benefits consistent with the condos and single family homes. The condos will get the economic benefit of the Town paying for the collection of solid waste. Mr. McHugh stated that a revised ordinance representing the above choices will hopefully be submitted to Council in October. The high percentage of rentals is another major obstacle in implementing the condos on the island. This project continues to be worked on and attempts are being made to have it in place by January 1.

Mr. Elliott asked if backdoor subscribers received a subsidy. Mr. McHugh stated that all homes receive a subsidy from the Town.

VI. New Business:

A. Parkway Construction

Mr. McHugh stated that the Parkway landscaping project was originally budgeted at \$400,000 and due to the Parkway Construction costs coming in below the estimated price, KDP has proposed an expanded landscape program and budget. The new landscape proposal could be as high as \$700,000 or \$800,000.

Mr. Achey stated that he has not seen the landscaping plans but it would be very easy to spend that type of money on the project. He stated that the more trees they put in the better. Mass plantings of grasses, oaks, and magnolias are great selections. He stated that the trees will require little to no maintenance and that he encourages more native plantings and the reduction of turf.

Mr. Achey stated that KICA is doing a big push on the habitat transition zones and that if they can work on creating a zone on the Parkway, a lot of money can be saved.

Mr. McHugh asked if Mr. Achey has been happy with the environmental aspect of the design. Mr. Achey responded that based on what he has heard so far, that he is happy. Mr. Achey stated that he has a meeting with Mrs. Rucker tomorrow and will know more about the landscape plan at that time.

Mr. Chitwood stated that he recommends Mr. Achey's expertise on this project.

Mr. Fister asked about the possibility of a “no mow” plan. Mr. Achey stated that he does not think it will be chosen because of the landscape design to separate the bike path from the Parkway.

Mr. McHugh asked Mr. Achey to represent the Environmental Committee.

VII. Committee Member Comments

A. Scott Fister, KIGR,

Mr. Fister stated that the fishing tournament brochure is out and all employees and guests should be aware of it. The *Wildlife as we See It* website got 1,400 hits in one month. Mr. Chitwood asked how people were directed to the site. Mr. Fister stated that he is unsure but that the site receives publication.

Mr. Chitwood stated that from the habitat point of view, how do you make the website accessible by people that do not go through the resort website. Mr. Jordan stated if you Google, “Kiawah Island Wildlife”, the resort site is one of the top ten listed.

Mr. Fister stated that the new recycling stations are in place and were funded through the Town’s ATAX monies. The bins are from Fibrex and made of 95% recycled plastics. The steel is 100% American made steel. There are three stations; one paper and two commingles. The Resort is promoting recycling through the activity guides and on their website.

The Resort stated that it is good to see traffic going to Sora Rail to the site, but guests and contractors continue to go to the laundry facility and dump their recycling. He suggested a possible additional sign to direct recyclers to the Fire Station instead of the Resort laundry area. Mr. McHugh stated that he will work with Rusty with the sign.

Guests, both corporate and private, have asked about the Resort’s sustainability initiatives. Mr. Fister stated that he appreciates other corporations looking for environmentally sensitive vacation and meeting arenas.

As of now, Fischer the Resorts recycling hauler, is unable to provide them with numbers for their recycling efforts.

On September 1, 2009, Mr. Fister attended a “Green is Good” conference where a “wetting agent” was discussed. Mr. Achey stated that the wetting agent allows the soil to absorb more water and can result in a large water savings. He stated that he was guaranteed that it will keep absorbing water for 3-4 months. This agent is all natural and organic. Mr. Achey stated that the flag pole bed has been treated

and the water levels reduced. Mr. Achey stated that they have contacted the sources and they say the product results in a 10%-20% water savings.

Mr. Chitwood asked if that material would work well with rescue plants. Mr. Achey stated that it will really help the transition of rescue plants.

Mrs. Bryant stated that the product is called Root Gel and that she uses it in her daughter's planting pots.

Mr. Fister stated that the City of Columbia has a hydrogen fuel celled bus in their fleet.

The Beach Sweep/River Sweep is this Saturday, from 8:30am-12:00pm. The Charleston Greenfair takes place on September 27 and KIGR will have a booth at the event. The event takes place at Marion Square Park downtown.

B. Norm Shea, KICA Lakes Department, New Items

New water flow modeling software: We purchased a new software program, Interconnected Channel and Pond Routing Model (ICPR). This should enable us to model water movement in (based on tide), and out (based on rainfall) of the lake system. We are in the process of familiarizing ourselves with the software and then data input will begin.

Mornings w/ Joe: Dave Achey and I hosted this informational session on August 17th at 10:00 AM. Dave talked about Habitat Transition Zones and I spoke on lake levels.

Third Annual Fishing Tournament: The KICA Lakes Department will host this event on October 10th from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Fish kills

#031 (at Turtle Point 17th tee) – On September 4th there was a minor fish kill in this pond. We were not notified to after the event so the cause could not be determined.

Alligator nesting surveys: Staff has been investigating alligator nesting since mid-July. To date there are 10 active nests. We typically document 10-25 nests per year.

There were no animal relocations.

Pond 050 sedimentation: Work is complete.

Rainfall: The month of August was 33% above normal, with 7.58 inches of precipitation. The total for the year is 31.04 inches, about 5% above normal.

C. Jim Chitwood, Conservancy

Mr. Chitwood stated that funding is a problem area for the Conservancy this year but individual donors have been good. The Town, KICA, and Resort funding are off as well. The Conservancy has used their line of credit for land purchases. Staff and programming will remain but no payoffs will take place on the land purchases.

The Conservancy website has good articles about Bobcat Management Plans, Bobcats, and Jim Jordan's experience with the bobcats. The Bobcat Management Guidelines have action plans which focus on identifying critical nesting and denning habitat. The lands were held in majority by KICA and the Conservancy requested easements on five of those pieces of property. As KICA reviewed the request, the Board agreed to an easement on one area near Falcon Point.

Mr. McHugh stated that the Town just completed the 2008/2009 budget year and suggested that the Conservancy submit another letter.

D. Jim Jordan, TOKI

There were three wildlife calls during the 7-6-2009-9-15-2009 report period: 7-10- Gator trapped in pool trough at 179 Flyway, responded and released; 9-3- Adult male deer hit and killed on Governor's and Glossy Ibis; and 9-11- Deer with broken legs at 225 Kings Island, responded, deer was DOA.

Six Piping Plover surveys were completed in August and averaged 13.2 birds per survey. Three surveys were completed in September and averaged 18.3 birds per survey. The Year to Date average is 14.8 birds per survey. The wildlife department continues getting monthly bobcat downloads and planning for the upcoming trapping season. They have six collars to use for the next trapping season. Least Terns, Wilson's Plovers, and Black Skimmers are finished nesting. The Black Skimmers nests were not successful. Signs have been removed from along the front beach.

The bird monitoring program report was as follows:

July 23 (Capt Sam's)-28 new individuals of 5 species

August 26 (Capt Sam's)- 16 new individuals, 2 recaptures of 8 species

Sept 8 (Cougar Island)- 17 new individuals of 10 species

Sept 10 (Capt Sam's)- 43 new individuals of 14 species, 2 recaptures, 2 recoveries (color-banded Painted Buntings)

YTD-104 new birds, 4 recaptures; 2 recoveries

YTD- 16 species- Carolina Chickadee, Carolina Wren, Painted Bunting, Prairie Warbler, Northern Cardinal, Brown Thrasher, Common Ground-Dove, Northern Mockingbird, "Trail's Flycatcher, American Redstart, White-eyed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Common Yellowthroat, Northern Waterthrush, Downy Woodpecker

There is a new wildlife website at www.wildlifeatkiawah.com and is updated daily. The Ocean Course Beach Access project is complete and signage is being built and will be installed by next week. This site has the Resort's website linked.

The Cassique Mitigation project was completed a few months ago. Mr. Jordan and Mr. Given will monitor the site to ensure it meets the requirements of the agency.

E. David Elliott,

Mr. Elliott stated that Bees Ferry may begin recycling yard waste and he suggested that the Town aggressively look into this for the Island.

F. Dave Achey, KIGR Landscaping

Mr. Achey stated that the fall is a heavy maintenance. There is a push for increased habitat transition zones and he has enlisted Mr. Chitwood and the Conservancy for help. He also stated that he would like to put some information in Town Notes. He stated that he will also go to the ARB and that he wants to increase awareness of the project. KICA has received little pressure to stop and he explained that any support will be appreciated. They will continue to develop the habitat transition zones that are currently in place but the budget does not allow a lot of room for new projects into the new year.

Mr. Chitwood stated that the Conservancy wants to manage the easement properties and would like to explore the concept of doing more edging work into the property. He stated that he would like to begin thinking about how to properly manage the easements.

Mr. Achey stated that plant rescues will begin again but that there are not a lot of properties being developed. A great response has been received from the membership.

G. Lois Bryant, ARB,

Mr. Fister asked if the ARB has thought about approving solar lighting. Mrs. Bryant stated that the ARB is not involved in the technical specification of building a home but concerned with what it looks like. She stated that they are open to all designs and LEED certified building, as long as it fits the design guidelines.

VIII. Citizen Comments:

None

IX. Adjournment

Mr. Jordan motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Bryant seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by,

Catherine Wilson, Town Clerk

Approved by,

Harry McHugh, Chairman

Date