

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
JULY 19, 2011; 3:00PM
KIAWAH ISLAND MUNICIPAL CENTER
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

- I. Call to Order:** Ms. Wermuth 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: Fran Wermuth, Chairman
Dick Sula
Joe Pezzullo
Keller Staubes
Buzz Waltman
Jim Broadus
Arthur Morgenstern

Also Present: Joe Croughwell, KICA
Major Jim Brady, CCSO
Chief Stanley, St. Johns Fire District
Yvonne Johnstone, KIGR
Rusty Lameo, TOKI
Greg VanDerwerker, Town Council
Jack Regan, CERT

Mrs. Wermuth welcomed Mr. Morgenstern and stated that Town Council unanimously approved his appointment to the Committee. Douglas Dodge submitted his resignation from the Committee in June.

IV. Approval of Minutes:

A. Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes of April 19, 2011

Mr. Pezullo motioned to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2011 Public Safety Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sula. Mr. Sula requested clarification on the statement that the ARB would no longer issue after hour passes effective April 21st. Mrs. Wermuth requested that Mayor Orban's name be added to the list of attendees. Mr. Lameo clarified that the Town normally clears two emergency access roads per year. **Following corrections, the minutes of April 19th were approved as amended.**

V. Old Business:

A. Pedestrian Traffic on Emergency Vehicle Access Roads

Mr. Sula provided an update on the emergency vehicle access roads. Mr. Sula, Mr. Waltman and Mr. Lameo visited each of the access roads and provided a list of specific suggestions for minimizing the vehicle and pedestrian traffic in those areas. Mr. Sula commented that each of the five roads are very unique and are all in need of maintenance work. He stated that the Beachwalker Park access road would need to be readdressed once Captain Sam's is located in that area. Mr. Lameo stated that Council has approved the clearing of four access roads per year. The access roads were leveled and additional rocks were placed at the beach end for better stabilization. He stated that the hill was cut down for better visibility when coming up the Sanctuary access road. Mr. Waltman commended Rob Edgerton for his knowledge of the access areas and for his responsibility and professionalism. He stated that Mr. Edgerton was advised to follow up with the Committee on any other necessary changes.

Mr. Lameo stated that Beach Patrol and Code Enforcement both advise pedestrians not to use the emergency vehicle access areas; however, there is no Town ordinance in place to enforce the issue. There is signage at Beachwalker Park prohibiting use of the access area.

Mr. Morgenstern asked if any action has been taken to formally recommend boardwalks adjacent to the access areas, as suggested in the report. Mr. Lameo commented that any action would depend on the owner of the property. He stated that OCRM wants to keep boardwalks at a minimum; however, the recommendation could be considered if there are future issues.

VI. New Business:

A. PGA Planning/Implementation Committee

Mrs. Wermuth stated that the Town has been contacted by the PGA Committee regarding what role the Town could play in the planning and implementation of the event. She stated that the Public Safety Committee would likely assist with this process. Mrs. Wermuth stated that she would take the lead and requested that a member of Code Enforcement attend the meetings with her to represent the Town and report back to the Committee. The PGA Committee has held one meeting and will meet again on August 25th at 10:00 am. She asked if other Committee members would be interested in assisting with the planning process. The focus of the PGA Committee will be on parking, traffic, security and emergency management.

B. Charleston County Sheriff's Office Activity Report

Major Brady provided the Sheriff's Office monthly activity report for April, May and June. As a result of the recent burglaries on the Island, two people were arrested and charged with 3 counts of burglary and larceny.

Mrs. Wermuth noted that Major Brady received a promotion from Captain to Major, and Chris Brokaw has been named Captain. Mr. Croughwell

commented that this is a major promotion for Major Brady, as only 2% of police officers earn the rank of Captain.

As requested by email, Major Brady provided an update regarding concerns with the response time to a fatal accident that occurred on Betsy Kerrison Parkway in May. He stated that the accident was dispatched in 3 minutes and emergency personnel arrived at the scene within 24 minutes. He stated that other emergency vehicles arrived after that time to provide equipment for investigation. The total response time was 29 minutes.

Major Brady suggested that signage be posted at the main gate reminding people to secure their valuables. He stated that many of the incidents occur when cars are left unlocked and valuables are visible. Mr. Croughwell commented that KICA is probably one of the most proactive associations for providing this type information. He stated that KICA has never posted this type information on a board at the gate. Mr. Broadus suggested that information be provided in guest rental packages. Mrs. Johnstone commented that the Resort has standard language in their packages that advise guests to secure valuables.

Mr. Lameo thanked Major Brady on behalf of the Town for his many years of service, and commented that he has been a great asset to the Town.

C. Report from St. Johns Fire District

Chief Stanley asked that residents check their smoke detectors, or contact the Fire Department's Inspection Division for assistance. He stated that they are responding to more heat related calls as the temperature increases.

Mr. Waltman asked if fire department personnel are required to wear a helmet while riding a motorcycle and commented that he observed a St. Johns Fire Department employee riding a motorcycle without a helmet. He stated that he is concerned because the firemen are an asset to the community. Chief Stanley stated that this has never been an issue; however, personnel are encouraged to always seek safety precautions. There are no requirements when personnel are off duty. Mr. Waltman suggested that this requirement be a condition of employment. Chief Stanley stated that the issue can be addressed.

Mr. Lameo commented on a recent incident in which a helicopter landed on the Kiawah Bridge in response to a medical emergency on the Island. He explained concerns about the traffic being shut down on the Parkway. Mr. Lameo requested to know why the helicopter did not land at the designated landing zone at Night Heron Park. Chief Stanley commented that there are other designated sites on the Island for helicopter landing; however, the determination was made by EMS.

D. Report from KICA Security

Mr. Croughwell commented on a recent incident on the Island and stated that he has never seen more compassion or professionalism than that shown by Deputy Craven. Mr. Croughwell stated that there have been an increased number of visitors to the Island with over 200,000 vehicles passing through the gate in June. He stated that a record 1.8 million vehicles went through the gate last year and this year's numbers are expected to exceed last year. KICA held disaster procedure training for all supervisors. The Cinder Creek Walk Bridge Project is ongoing. Mr. Croughwell stated that there have been some issues with pedestrians not reading the signs in the construction area.

Mr. Staubes stated that the KICA Safety and Security Committee discussed the absence of a yield signs at Freshfields coming onto the Parkway. He stated that there were questions regarding the jurisdiction of the area. Mr. Croughwell stated that the jurisdiction belongs to Freshfields and they would be addressing the issue.

E. Code Enforcement Report

A. Concept of Small Beach Fires at Sandcastle Beach

Mr. Pezzullo commented on a memo received from KICA requesting permission to have small beach fires in front of the Sandcastle. Mr. Pezzullo stated that he has issues with the memo as it questions the Towns permitting responsibility. The memo suggests that KICA be given permitting responsibility; however, KICA personnel do not patrol the beach. Mrs. Wermuth stated that Mayor Orban has discussed the request with Craig Weaver, and has asked for a written recommendation from the Committee. No agreement has been made; however, Mayor Orban has indicated that if approved, the permit would be issued to KICA and not to individuals.

Art Jones, with the Sandcastle Community Center Committee, explained how the issue arose and commented on the memo from the Sandcastle Committee. He stated that after discussing ways to enhance the educational and recreational opportunities on Kiawah, the Sandcastle Committee questioned why beach fires are not allowed. Some members of the Committee agreed to work on discovering and addressing any issues or concerns regarding beach fires. Mr. Jones stated that he has met with Rusty Lameo, Chief Ristow and Jim Jordan to discuss the request and each discussion was very informative. The Sandcastle Committee recommends that the Town and KICA work together to determine what could be done to address the request. Mr. Jones feels that beach fires would provide a social opportunity for the residents of Kiawah. He stated that the Sandcastle Committee is currently awaiting direction from the KICA Board on whether or not discussions should continue. The

Committee is seeking permission to have beach fires from November 1st – April 15th.

Mr. Pezzullo commented that there is no beach patrol or Town staff on the beach at night during this time period. He stated that the Town has previously provided permits for beach fires to the Resort for educational programs only. He is concerned that other entities would also request permits if KICA is allowed to have beach fires in front of the Sandcastle.

Mrs. Wermuth suggested that Mr. Pezzullo and Mr. Lameo work with Mr. Jones on the issue and keep the Committee informed.

Mr. Jones stated that the KICA Board supports the concept of the project. He clarified that the report references more than one permit because in addition to the Sandcastle, it was suggested that beach fires be permitted at the Ocean Course and the Beach Club because of the parking and accessibility.

Mr. Lameo commented that the Town has permitted beach fires in the past and there is not an issue with the concept; however, there are concerns with designating just the area in front of the Sandcastle because other entities would also request permits for their areas. He stated that Code Enforcement is concerned about controlling the requests for beach fires once they are permitted.

Mrs. Wermuth requested that Mr. Pezzullo take the lead in preparing a report on behalf of the Public Safety Committee which outlines issues that need to be considered. The report could be helpful to Mayor Orban as he prepares to present the information to Council. Mr. Pezzullo asked Committee members to provide him with their individual comments by August 1st.

F. CERT Team Report

Mr. Regan reported that the CERT Team received funding on July 1st. The Committee met last month and established various teams to work on medical supplies, search and rescue, and etc. He stated that they are currently creating a list of equipment and supplies for purchase. Mrs. Wermuth formally invited Mr. Regan, or a representative, to attend the Public Safety Committee meetings. She stated that it would be beneficial to incorporate the CERT Team into the Towns safety and security issues. Mr. Regan stated that there are 16 certified CERT Team members and 22 active members who attend meetings regularly.

VII. Correspondence:

A. Letter from KICA Board Chair to Reconsider the Stop Sign at Kiawah Island Parkway and Beachwalker Drive

The Committee received a copy of a letter from Mayor Orban in response to KICA's request to reconsider the stop sign at the intersection of Kiawah Island Parkway and Beachwalker Drive. Mayor Orban has decided that the stop sign will remain in place.

Mr. Lameo stated that there were concerns about overflow parking on Beachwalker Drive blocking the entrance to Inlet Cove during the 4th of July holiday. He stated that in the past, Beachwalker County Park was advised to direct cars to park in the area from the parks front gate to the bikepath once the park is full. During the upcoming holidays, the Town will add temporary signs to direct parking in certain areas and overflow parking will be allowed at Town Hall. Mr. Lameo stated that parking is not allowed at Beachwalker County Park during the winter months when the park is closed. He also stated that permanent ropes will be installed near the residential area on Beachwalker Drive to prevent parking.

Mr. Lameo stated that he received a call from a property owner regarding an incident of two juveniles who were shooting fireworks on the Island. He stated that Mr. Edgerton confiscated the fireworks and returned the juveniles to their parents. He stated that this has been the Towns normal procedure of enforcement for several years, and neither the County nor the State has an ordinance prohibiting fireworks. Mr. Lameo stated that he advised the Mayor of the property owners concern.

VIII. Committee Member Comments

Mr. Morgenstern thanked the Committee members for allowing him to be a part of the Committee and commented that he enjoyed the meeting.

IX. Citizen Comments:

None

X. Adjournment:

Mr. Sula motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:46 pm. Mr. Waltman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by,

Lakesha Y. Shannon, Town Clerk

Approved by,

Fran Wermuth, Chairman

Date