

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 7, 2011 3:00 P.M.
KIAWAH ISLAND MUNICIPAL CENTER**

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order: Dr. VanDerwerker called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.**
- II. FOIA:** Notice of this meeting has been published and posed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of Kiawah Island.
- III. Roll Call:**
- Present:** **Greg VanDerwerker, Chair**
 David Elliott
 Jim Chitwood
 Dale Anderson
 Lois Bryant, ARB
 Liz King, KIGR
 Charles Davis
 Jim Jordan, TOKI
 Aaron Given, TOKI
- Also Present:** **Lakesha Shannon, Town Clerk**
 Tumiko Rucker, Town Administrator
 Ken Gunnells, Town Treasurer
- Absent:** **Norm Shea, KICA Lakes**
 Dave Achey, KICA Lands
- IV. Minutes:**
- A. Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes of September 14, 2010**
Mr. Jordan motioned to approve the minutes of September 14, 2010 as corrected. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chitwood, and passed unanimously.
- B. Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes of December 6, 2010**
Mr. Anderson motioned to approve the minutes of December 6, 2010. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jordan, and passed unanimously.
- C. Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes of February 7, 2011**
Mr. Jordan motioned to approve the minutes of February 7, 2011. The motion was seconded by Mr. Anderson, and passed unanimously.

Prior to the meeting, Mr. Elliot requested follow-up information regarding the discussion of the Development Agreement between KPD and the Town at the September 14, 2010 Environmental Committee meeting.

Mrs. Bryant provided the following statement from the ARB:

“The provisions in the 2005 Development Agreement between KDP and the Town are applicable to ARB setbacks for specific parcels which may increase or decrease typical marsh setbacks depending on the lot specific criteria and sensitive habitat areas. The ARB will certainly keep the environmental reports in mind during setback determination.”

Mrs. Bryant also stated that the Resort falls under the 2005 Development Agreement and is allowed a 20% variance without BZA approval. Mrs. Bryant stated that the ARB has not seen the plat and any input or concerns submitted regarding the agreement will be put into a file under Resort Properties, and will be surveyed again when development comes up.

Mr. Elliott commented that he submitted a formal statement regarding the Development Agreement for the September 2010 Town Council public hearing.

V. Old Business:

A. New Dates (July 11 and September 12) for Committee Meetings in Order to Accommodate Holiday Schedule Update

Dr. VanDerwerker stated that the Environmental Committee will meet on July 11th and September 12th due to holiday scheduling conflicts for those months.

B. Bees Ferry Landfill & Yard Waste Plastic Bag Ban Update

Dr. VanDerwerker reported that County Council has passed an ordinance to ban the use of plastic bags for yard debris, effective the end of June.

C. Injured Animal/Euthanasia Update

Dr. VanDerwerker stated that Mr. Joe Croughwell confirmed that there is a weapon locked away at the main gate for use in putting down injured animals. There are currently eleven people certified to use the weapon if necessary.

D. Nuisance Wildlife Training Update

Dr. VanDerwerker stated that Mr. Jordan and Mrs. King will schedule a date for nuisance wildlife training.

E. Comprehensive Plan Report Card Update

Mrs. Rucker provided an updated copy of the Comprehensive Plan Scorecard which includes all changes requested by the Committee since last month's presentation. She requested that the Committee provide her

with a monthly report via the chairman which details how the committee's objectives are being handled as well as any status updates. Mrs. Rucker stated that the Scorecard will be presented to the Planning Commission on a quarterly basis and to Town Council on an annual basis.

VI. New Business:

A. Update of Town's Finances

Mr. Gunnells presented an update of the Town's finances and highlighted the second quarter of the current fiscal year. Mr. Gunnells provided a brief overview of the Town's funds and explained the use of each. He noted that the General Fund is the largest fund and the only fund that is regulated by Town Council.

Mr. Gunnells noted that the current fiscal year budget was decreased by 35% based on the economic downturn; however, the coming year is expected to be better.

Mr. Gunnells also noted that the Town has no long term debt, and a cash balance of \$13 million. He stated that a healthy cash balance is maintained to avoid placing the Town in debt in the event of a natural disaster.

B. Spring Road and River Clean-Up

Mrs. Rucker stated that the Town will host a Spring Road and River Clean-up on Friday, April 15th. Mrs. Rucker provided the details of the event and asked that committee members volunteer to help with this effort. This event is sponsored in conjunction with the Great American Clean-up and Palmetto Pride.

Dr. VanDerwerker noted that he has signed up as a volunteer for this event.

C. Vegetation Survey / Invasive Plant Survey & Control Proposal

The committee discussed the details of the Invasive Plant Survey Proposal as presented by Dr. Joel Gramling.

Dr. VanDerwerker stated that Mrs. King is interested in having Naturalist from the Resort participate in the survey to gain experience with the survey process. Mr. Justin Core with the Conservancy is also interested in being involved with the survey process.

The committee discussed the funding of the proposed research survey, and agreed to request that the Town include funding in the next fiscal year's budget. Mrs. Rucker suggested that the committee review their scorecard report and determine if any objectives need to be noted as budgetary items. This will allow Town Council to review these requests as the budget is prepared.

After discussing the costs and benefits of the proposed study, the committee agreed that the study would be very beneficial in addressing vegetation and invasive plant issues.

Mr. Chitwood motioned to request that \$30,000 in funding be budgeted for the Vegetation Study. The motion was seconded by Mr. Elliot. The motion passed unanimously.

The committee agreed to have representatives from the different entities involved meet with Professor Gramling to discuss the proposal further.

VII. Correspondences

None

VIII. Citizen Comments

None

IX. Committee Member Comments

Wildlife Report-TOKI

Mr. Jordan reported that 15 bobcats were caught between December and February. He noted that 2 of the bobcats were juveniles that were previously captured as kittens in 2010. Mr. Jordan stated that 1 collar was removed from a bobcat captured in 2010, and 8 new collars were deployed. Mr. Jordan noted that one of the collars was deployed on a bobcat that has been collared three consecutive years. Mr. Jordan also reported that a juvenile female bobcat was found dead, and the cause of death is unknown.

Mr. Jordan reported that four sessions of bird banding have been completed. There were 165 new birds captured, 61 recaptured, and 9 different species captured with the most common being the yellow-rumped warbler. Mr. Jordan commented that an article in the latest issue of Legends Magazine included a blurb on bird banding programs.

Mr. Jordan stated that KDP has given permission to begin the College of Charleston's Reptile/Amphibian Study.

Mr. Jordan reported that there were 4,000 visits to the wildlife website in February.

Mr. Jordan reported that revisions are currently being made to the Bobcat Management Plan using 2008-2010 data. This document should be completed by the end of March.

Mr. Jordan announced that the Town's Wildlife Website won the 2011 MASC Achievement Award in the Communications Category. The Town will receive an official recognition in June during the MASC Annual Meeting in Hilton Head.

Mr. Given is currently working with the Bluebird Nest Box Project to help improve record keeping and data collection.

Mr. Jordan also reported that the final version of the aerial photography of Kiawah has been received.

KICA Land

KICA's Contract Recertification continued through the month of February with 81 contractors signed up, 64 passed, and 17 in progress for the month. The recertification totals to date are: 92 signed up, 75 passed, and 17 in progress. The KICA Land Department has also recently completed contract pruning and tallow tree treatment. KICA will host a plant rescue on March 18th from 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM.

KICA Lakes

The KICA Lakes Department has potential to complete an Alligator Reproduction Biology Research Study with MUSC professor Dr. Guillette. The Lakes Department continues to work with the diver's inspections, and are also preparing for the possibility of having to obtain an NPDES Permit for mosquito control. KICA has received a quote of \$17,000 to replace the nature placards; however, they are currently looking at other options.

Mr. Elliott reported that Neal Productions will produce a nature film of Kiawah. He noted that Ms. Cindy Neal will arrive in Kiawah in May to begin filming this production.

KIGR

Mr. Fister reported that the Nature Center is currently collecting used bar soap for recycling. He stated that the recycled soap is sterilized, recast and sent to refugee camps and disaster areas for use.

Mr. Fister also provided an update on the April 16th Earth Day event. He stated that entertainment will be provided by Jim Sawgrass and South Carolina Birds of Prey.

Mr. Fister stated that he recently completed a study of the electricity use at the Resort's recreational facilities. He noted that data was collected from 2003 to the current month and the research showed that 3 kilowatt hours were saved as a result of the LED lighting upgrades at the Nature Center.

Mr. Fister commented on the absence of abiotic resources in the Natural Resources section of the Comprehensive Plan, and stated that abiotic resources is something that can be managed.

- X. Adjournment:**
The meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Submitted by,

Lakesha Y. Shannon, Town Clerk

Approved by,

Greg A. VanDerwerker, Chairman

Date