

**UNOFFICIAL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 18, 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:** This meeting was held as an unofficial meeting and no votes were taken.

III. Roll Call:

Present: **Fran Wermuth, Chairman**
 Dick Sula
 Joe Pezzullo
 Keller Staubes
 Buzz Waltman
 Art Morgenstern

Absent: **Jim Broadus**

Also Present: **Joe Croughwell, KICA**
 Major Jim Brady, Sheriff's Department
 Chief Karl Ristow, St. Johns Fire District

Mrs. Wermuth stated that the meeting would be unofficial and no votes would be taken. The meeting agenda was not posted within 24 hours prior to the meeting as required by the Freedom of Information Act.

IV. Approval of Minutes:

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

There was no action taken by the Committee on this item.

B. Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes of August 24, 2011

There was no action taken by the Committee on this item.

Mrs. Wermuth stated that the Committee previously discussed changing the meeting schedule from quarterly to every two months. The Committee discussed possible meeting dates for November and agreed to meet on November 29th at 3:00 pm.

V. Old Business:

A. Beach Fires

Mrs. Wermuth and Mr. Staubes reported on their recent visit to Seabrook Island to attend a full moon beach fire. Mrs. Wermuth will provide pictures of the site and discuss her findings with Mayor Orban.

Mr. Staubes commented that the Seabrook Island beach fire was very small in size. The fire was about 3 feet high, and located in a pit that was 1 ½ feet deep. He commented that it was a social event that he would love to see on Kiawah.

Mrs. Wermuth commented that Seabrook has a perfect location for the beach fires; however, she has concerns with the location for the proposed Kiawah beach fires due to its close proximity to the Sandcastle and homes.

Mr. Waltman requested to know the role of the fire department regarding the beach fires. Chief Ristow explained that the fire department helps to administer the beach fires according to the Towns ordinance. He commented that the administration of beach fires can be challenging. He stated that St. Johns Fire District does not have a role in the Seabrook Island beach fires.

Mrs. Wermuth stated that Seabrook is different from Kiawah because the Seabrook Island Community Association handles the land up to the high tide mark.

Mr. Waltman asked if Seabrook has any issues regarding the proximity of public restrooms to the beach fires. Mrs. Wermuth stated that portable restrooms were located close to the beach. He commented on the proximity of public restrooms from the Sandcastle and suggested locating the proposed beach fires at the Ocean Course.

Chief Ristow explained that there are two statutes that apply to open burning in SC: 1.) the Clean Air Act, governed by DHEC, defines what can and cannot be burned; 2.) the State Forestry Commission defines what can be burned and the clearance for burning.

VI. New Business:

A. Code Enforcement Report

None

B. Charleston County Sheriff's Office Activity Report

Major Brady provided the Sheriff's Office monthly activity report for July, August and September. Major Brady stated that he spoke with Mr. Lameo regarding the nonfunctioning radars at the front gate.

C. St. Johns Fire District Report

Chief Ristow reported that Charleston County will discuss a bond resolution to finance the Station 3 and Headquarters replacement. He noted that the funds have been previously allocated in the FY 2012 budget. The Board of Directors for the 911 Center is developing a public information session on dealing with 911 calls. Construction of the new 911 Center will be complete by early Winter 2012. False alarms will be reported online beginning 2012.

D. KICA Security Report

Mr. Croughwell reported that there has been a decrease in false alarms. He stated that there is currently very little activity on the Island and the number of visitors was down in September. KICA installed a new crosswalk at Kiawah Beach Drive to assist with access crossing from Oyster Rake. The speed limit in that area has been changed to 35 mph for both lanes and the bikepath sign was relocated. He commented that the changes are working well. Mr. Croughwell stated that there is no longer an issue with the third entrance to Oyster Rake and the area will remain open.

Chief Ristow reported on the recent 2012 PGA Committee meeting. He stated that members of the Committee’s planning group traveled to Atlanta where they observed the work of the Command Team and received data on what to expect from the event. He commented that the 2012 PGA Championship is considered to be the largest event ever for Kiawah. Major Brady commented that traffic concerns are being relayed, addressed and managed. Chief Ristow commented that traffic congestion will be challenging for residents.

The PGA Committee will meet on November 17th to receive reports from subcommittees.

Mr. Croughwell stated that KICA will ban parking on all streets. He stated that KICA’s attorneys are looking into the possibility of limiting the number of guest passes issued during the event. There will be no contract work allowed on the Island during the PGA, except for emergencies, and equipment for the PGA will be set up well in advance of the event.

E. KIGR Report

None

F. Beach Patrol Report

Mr. Pezzullo stated that there is currently only one Beach Patrol Officer on duty daily from 8am–5pm. He stated that an additional Beach Patrol or Enforcement Officer could be added during the night or the holidays if needed.

G. CERT Team Report

None

VII. Correspondence:

None

VIII. Committee Member Comments

None

IX. Citizen Comments:

None

X. Adjournment:

Mr. Pezzullo motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:33pm. Mr. Morgenstern seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by,

Lakesha Y. Shannon, Town Clerk

Approved by,

Fran Wermuth, Chairman

Date