

Public Safety Committee
Tuesday, April 15, 2008; 3:00 PM
Kiawah Island Municipal Center
1st Floor Conference Room
Minutes

I. Call to Order: Mr. Orban called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call:

Present: Steven Orban, Chairman
Joe Pezzullo
Doug Dodge
Dick Sula

Also Present: Rusty Lameo, TOKI
Juan Martin, TOKI
Joe Croughwell, KICA
Cpt. Jim Brady
Jackie Stanley, Assistant Chief St. Johns FD
Cathy Wilson, Town Clerk

Absent: Jim Broadus
Tumiko Rucker, Town Administrator

III. 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.

IV. Approval of Minutes:

A. Public Safety Meeting Minutes for January 15, 2008

Mr. Dodge moved to approve the January 15, 2008 minutes as submitted; motion seconded by Mr. Sula. Motion carried unanimously.

V. Citizen Presentation:

None

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VI. Old Business:

None

VII. New Business:

A. Ad Hoc Safety Committee Report

Mr. Lameo stated that the Committee had no new recommendations and summarized the original report saying “Kiawah has no major crime problem and most issues are quality of life issues such as complaints for noise and dogs off leashes.”

B. Review of Charleston County Sheriff’s Office Reports (See Attached)

Cpt. Jim Brady stated that the month of March had 84 complaints. This number was reflective to the increased amount of people on the Island. Cpt. Brady stated that most of the crimes were simply crimes of opportunity because people leave their cars unlocked with valuables visible inside. Due to the increase in reported thefts, the Sheriff’s office amplified their foot and car patrol in the area of Ocean Oaks and Mariners Watch. Cpt. Brady stated that when the Spring Break visitors left, the number of reported crimes went down. He urged KICA to remind property owners of the need to lock their vehicles and homes. He also stated that during the month of February there was a report of a suspected arson and upon investigation it turned out that some paint cans and other debris had been burned in a dirt area next to a home. There were no charges associated with the arson report. Cpt. Brady also noted that if any entity needs to contact him, he always has his cell phone and is available to respond. Mr. Brady stated that speeding continues to be an “Island-wide epidemic”.

C. Report from KICA Security-Joe Croughwell

Mr. Croughwell stated that the spring break months were busy with reports of noise and other associated annoyances. He stated that the month had a lot of activity including several reported burglaries. Mr. Croughwell also stated that he and Cpt. Brady had discussed traffic issues, including missing and/or faded arrows along the entrance to the Kiawah Island Club. After the discussion of those issues, it was reported to the Town and within one week, new arrows were painted along the roadway. Mr. Croughwell also discussed that KICA has received various complaints pertaining to bicyclists and he feels that the issue will continue to arise unless all bicycling is banned. He also stated that the bike crossing path near the main gate is a very dangerous area for bikers and pedestrians.

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Mr. Croughwell concluded by stating that new Rhetts Bluff gate will be opening soon and KICA has placed a security box in order to provide property owners access. They will also be able to gain access by phoning the main gate.

D. Report from St. Johns Fire Department Assistant Chief-Jackie Stanley

Chief Stanley reported the false alarm calls for the months of January, February and March. These incidents were high in number and cost the fire department valuable time and resources. Chief Stanley suggested that the Town send notices to addresses that have more than three false alarms during one month in order to make them aware it is occurring and to recommend a service check from the alarm company.

F. New Ordinance-No Glass on Beach

Mr. Orban stated that ordinance 2008-1 will receive its second reading on May 6, 2008. This ordinance requires all beachgoers and franchise operators to comply with the No Glass rule on all Kiawah Island beaches. Signage will be placed ocean side of beach access areas facing landward.

G. Review of Beach Patrol Performance

Mr. Lameo stated that he had only received one complaint and after inspection, felt it was unsubstantiated. Overall, beach patrol is doing a great job and he hopes they can continue with this high level of service with rising numbers of people on the beach.

H. Kiawah Island Emergency Committee Meeting-May 21, 2008

Mr. Orban stated that the Kiawah Island Emergency Committee meeting will take place on May 21, 2008 and the time will be used to prepare various Island emergency personnel for the upcoming 2008 hurricane season.

VIII. Citizen Email-Re: Green Dolphin Way

Mr. Orban read an email from Peter Steelman, a resident of Green Dolphin Way. Mr. Steelman voiced his complaint that the street has become the "short cut" roadway used by Sanctuary employees and busses. He requested that a gate be installed. Mr. Croughwell stated that Resort has been very cooperative and the traffic has reduced greatly on that street. Cpt. Brady and Chief Stanley stated that from an emergency response standpoint, a gate is not a favorable. Mr. Dodge stated that that area has volume of foot traffic due to the beach access point.

IX. Correspondence:

Citizen Email:

X. Committee Members' Comments:

Doug Dodge stated that the beach boxes containing dog bags for dog waste pickup are generally found empty upon his inspection. Mr. Lameo stated that most beachgoers are using the dog bags to carry their sea shells and he has advised beach patrol to politely educate them on the proper use of the dog bags.

Mr. Lameo advised the Public Safety Committee on the new permitting specification for tents placed on the Island. The Town will be responsible for issuing permits and the Fire Department will do inspections. The permitting process will be reviewed by Town Council and the Fire Department before it is enacted. He also stated that summer code enforcement officers will begin work during mid May.

Mr. Pezzullo stated that residents of Glenn Abbey and Bufflehead area have requested more patrolling in that area for speeders.

XI. Chairman's Report:

Mr. Orban stated that the biking issues and complaints will need to be dealt with on a later date and more comprehensively once the Parkway Project is permitted. He also suggested working with the Resort in order to combine existing golf cart bridges with the bike path.

XII. Adjournment:

Mr. Dodge moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:15 PM; motion seconded by Mr. Pezzullo. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted By _____
Catherine Wilson, Town Clerk

Approved: _____
Steve Orban, Chairman

Date: _____

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**CC: Public Safety Committee Members:
William G. Wert, Mayor
Dennis Rhoad, Town Attorney
Tumiko Rucker, Town Administrator.**