

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Kiawah Island Municipal Center
Council Chambers
August 14, 2018; 2:00 PM

Agenda

I. Call to Order: *Mr. Jordan called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.*

II. Roll Call:

PRESENT: Jim Jordan, Chairman
Jim Chitwood
Jim Sullivan
Lynne Sager
Jane Ellis
John Leffler
Michael Guniczak
Pam Wilson
Beverly Gholson

KINHC: Justin Core
KICA: James Wilson
ARB: Sara Senst
KIGR: Liz King
TOKI: Aaron Given

ABSENT: Scott Nelson
Lynette Schroeder
Jack Kotz

ALSO PRESENT: Diana Mezzanotte, *Council Liaison*
Craig Weaver, Mayor
Stephanie Tillerson, Town Administrator

III. Approval of Minutes:

A. Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2018

Mr. Sullivan made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2018, Environmental Committee meetings. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chitwood and was unanimously approved.

IV. Reports:

A. Town of Kiawah Island

⚡ **Wild About Video Series**

- 6 produced to date
 - July – Painted Buntings
 - Out late August – Part 2 - Sea Turtle Hatching

⚡ **Alligator Research**

- Collaborative research project with Clemson/Nemours
 - 6 fitted with GPS tags, all working fine

✚ Bobcat GPS Study

- Two GPS collars still working
- Male Bobcat 750 currently on Johns Island – left the Island on July 5th
 - Crossed Hwy 17 - Four times
 - Swam Intracoastal at Limehouse twice

✚ Painted Buntings

- Trapping complete
- Fifteen new geolocators deployed
- Eight from 2017 recovered

✚ Fall Migration Banding

- Begins August 15th at Captain Sam's
- Little Bear to begin next week
- Six assistants hired to assist with the banding

B. Kiawah Island Community Association Land & Lakes Management

Mr. Wilson reported that the issue with blue/green algae bloom at Ocean Park is still being treated. After multiple attempts, he is hoping that the last treatment with a copper-based chemical will have a better impact.

Mr. Wilson reported the renovations from the Osprey Point Club House to Flyway Drive intersection to Governors Drive is substantially complete with a few more items to be replaced due to deer consumption. He also noted that Charleston County has been providing help with the mosquito control on the Island that has grown due to all the rain.

C. Kiawah Island Golf Resort

Ms. King thanked the Turtle Patrol and the Town for the new <http://kiawahturtle.com/> which is a link to the Town's Turtle Page. She said the new nest inventory spreadsheet has been very well received by guests and easy to work with.

Ms. King reported that one of the recreation staff was able to get a video of a spotted eagle ray at Captain Sam's inlet last weekend and noted that it was a rare sight.

Ms. King stated she was contacted by the Aquarium about a sign they are working on with the County Park with information on how people can help in protecting sea turtles. She said that she would pass on the information to the Committee and to the Town if there would be any interest in posting any signs in addition to the one already in the County Park.

D. Kiawah Island Architectural Review Board

None

E. Kiawah Conservancy

Mr. Core reported that the Conservancy is helping with the education efforts of the Landscape subcommittee and will have Doug Tallamy, on October 15th as part of Conservation Matters. He is the author of Bringing Nature Home and also the Professor and Chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware.

F. Turtle Patrol

Mrs. Sager reported that the turtle nesting season is officially over, ending on Sunday. She indicated the truck ran an additional eight days following the last false crawl during which two wild nests were also gained. She stated there were a total of 213 nests for the year, of which 66.1% had to be relocated. She indicated the program had a total of 251 volunteers this year, including 78 new volunteers.

Mrs. Sager thanked Mrs. Edgerton for the brilliant concept of the turtle page on the Town's Website. She noted that it far outweighed its expectations.

Mrs. Sager stated that outdoor lighting at The Timbers and the Beach Club continue to be an issue. She indicated that after reporting the lighting to the Town's Code Enforcement Office, the lights would be out for a short time then come back on. Mr. Jordan reported that a ticket was issued to The Timbers and would be discussed later in the meeting with possible changes to the Town's Beachfront Lighting Ordinance.

V. Old Business

A. Environmental Programs

Mr. Jordan stated that the final updates on monies distributed in the last fiscal year to both the OWLS and Conservancy programs were sent out to committee members in advance. Committee Members were given the opportunity to ask questions to representatives of the programs.

B. Kiawah Landscaping Workgroup

The Landscaping Workgroup has developed a master native plant list specific to Kiawah by cross-referencing plant lists from seven sources. The master list includes 530 plants (93 trees, 73 shrubs, 178 perennials, 24 vines, 17 ferns, 81 grass/grass-like plants, and 64 unclassified plant types).

Mr. Jordan stated the Workgroup is going to unveil the program the week of October 15th as "Grow Native Kiawah" and will coincide with SC Native Plant Week, including a variety of events during the week. He stated he was hopeful that the plant database would be on the Town's website by the 15th, in a searchable format.

C. Shorebird Stewardship Program

Ms. Gholson reported that the Shorebird Stewardship program is now a year-round program. She indicated that there was an overwhelming response to the Conservancy Kids program she gave with 45 kids and 70 people in attendance with everyone having a good time. She also indicated that she is working on putting together information on the program and the work done so far.

D. Plastics Initiative

Ms. Ellis reported that the group had submitted their goals and objectives to their committee. Once approved it will be forwarded to the Environmental Science Committee of the Conservancy and if approved will be forwarded to the Conservancy Board for final approval.

VI. New Business

A. Draft Flood Mitigation and Sea Level Rise Adaptation Report

Mr. Jordan stated that he participated as a member of the Sea Level Rise Subcommittee and that the report was very well researched, very well written with and took an incredible amount of hours to produce. Mr. Jordan opened the discussion to the Committee Members for their comments and questions.

Mr. Leffler stated the subcommittee, which began in March of 2017, was an outgrowth of the Environmental Committee (EC). The original core group of selected members of the EC, were joined by other members of the community, adding a lot of expertise. The subcommittee will have worked for a year and a half by the time this report is presented to Council. He stated that each section, was written by a member of the subcommittee.

Committee members reviewed the report. Ms. Gholson and Mr. Nelson provided in-depth suggestion on edits to the Sea Level Rise report. Members commended Mr. Leffler for amazing leadership during the project.

Ms. Gholson made a motion to accept and recommend to Town Council the Flood Mitigation and Sea Level Rise Adaptation Report. The motion seconded and was unanimously passed.

B. Blue Tubes

Mr. Jordan presented to the committee a flyer for Beach Blue Tubes and asked for committee feedback. He explained that the free product (tube) would be placed at beach accesses to provide beach goers a clean, used bag to pick up trash and then throw away. Users would place extra bags into the tubes for others to use.

Committee members discussed the use of plastic bags, which are an issue already, along with the issue of the bags coming out of the tube. While the concept is good, the members decided that this was not a concept to pursue.

C. Beachfront Lighting Ordinance

Mr. Jordan reviewed the updated draft of the Beachfront Lighting Ordinance that would remove a clause in the original ordinance that, as written, makes the ordinance unenforceable. The proposed changes would simplify the language and make it easier for the Town to enforce with new construction and existing development.

Mr. Jordan reviewed in detail each of the proposed changes and an additional paragraph of the ordinance that would restrict flashlights and other handheld lights on the beach. Members asked for clarification on selected language that was being used in the ordinance and questioned how to inform residents of the requirements and how the ordinance would be enforced. Mr. Jordan asked that any additional feedback be sent to him.

VII. Citizen Comments:

Wendy Kulick – 38 Marsh Edge Lane

Mrs. Kulick stated that she attended most of the Sea Level Rise meetings and was amazed at the level of expertise of the members of the subcommittee and their willingness to give of their time to help make things better. She praised them for a fabulous job.

VIII. Chairman's Comments:
None

IX. Committee Member Comments:

Mr. Sullivan reported that on a previous discussion of kayakers harassing dolphins he identified that Resort had been giving renters guidelines on dolphin etiquette and the Kiawah Club has not. He stated that he reached out to the Club and was assured that the issue would be corrected.

X. Adjournment:

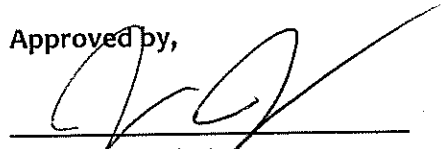
Mr. Sullivan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:18 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chitwood and was unanimously passed.

Submitted by,



Petra S. Reynolds, Town Clerk

Approved by,



Jim Jordan, Chairman

11-20-18

Date