

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Kiawah Island Municipal Center

Council Chambers

July 10, 2018; 2:00 PM

Minutes

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
Lynette Schroeder
John Leffler
Pam Wilson
Scott Nelson
Beverly Gholson
KINHC: Justin Core
KICA: Matt Hill
ARB: Sara Senst
TOKI: Aaron Given

ABSENT: Michael Guniczak
Jack Kotz
KIGR: Liz King

ALSO PRESENT: Diana Mezzanotte, *Council Liaison*

III. Approval of Minutes:

- A. Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes of April 17, 2018
- B. Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes of May 8, 2018

Mrs. Sager made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2018, and the May 8, 2018, Environmental Committee meetings. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilson and was unanimously approved.

IV. Reports:

A. Town of Kiawah Island

✚ Wild About Video Series

- February – Marsh Sparrows
- March – Bobcats – 2nd most watched
- April – Spring
- May – Alligator Research
- June – Sea Turtle Nesting – most watched
- July – Painted Buntings – to be released in early August with turtle hatching to follow

✚ Alligator Research

- All five Kiawah tags from 2017 stopped working
 - Blue 23 –
 - the last tag still working

- died on June 30 near Turtle Point Villas
 - 9 ½ foot
 - appeared to have been in a fight with another alligator
- Collaborative research project with Clemson/Nemours
 - Started in May
 - Six alligators fitted with GPS tags, all working fine
 - Noted alligator movements from one problem feeding area to another
- ✦ **Bobcat GPS Study**
 - 2018 trapping (February 12-16)
 - 2 GPS collars still working
 - Four Bobcats found dead since February
- ✦ **Critical Habitat Signage and Buoys**
 - Conceptual approval by ARB on July 3
 - Currently being designed
 - ARB working on conceptual design for permanent dolphin signage at Captains Sams inlet.
- ✦ **Painted Buntings**
 - Trapping currently taking place in residential backyards
 - Eight geolocators from 25 deployed in 2017 recovered so far
 - 15 new geolocators going out in 2018
- ✦ **Fish Stocking**
 - 200 largemouth bass stocked at Town Hall
 - Bluegill, Redear Sunfish, and Redbreasts stocked in Fall 2017 doing well
 - Aquatic vegetation (native) planted around pond edges

B. Kiawah Island Community Association Land & Lakes Management

Mr. Hill reported on the ongoing renovation between Osprey Clubhouse entrance and Flyway entrance. He indicated the capital improvement project should be completed in the next few weeks.

Mr. Jordan stated the annual alligator survey will be completed in July to early August. It is conducted for two evenings from 9:00 pm to midnight. The population has been stable for the last several years at 600 to 700 alligators on the Island.

C. Kiawah Island Golf Resort

None

D. Kiawah Island Architectural Review Board

Ms. Senst reported the ARB (Architectural Review Board) is undertaking a massive scanning project to make all their paperwork digital.

E. Kiawah Conservancy

Mr. Core reported that Dr. McElroy began his project to look at the invertebrate population in the dunes along with a vegetation survey. He began with Community Association and Little Bear Island dune areas with the Resort dunes to follow.

Mr. Core reported that upcoming events included a talk on shorebirds at the sandcastle and the summer intern working on shorebird monitoring.

F. Turtle Patrol

Mrs. Sager reported that 172 nests had been located. She noted that that the number is low this year but are low across the state. Some speculations for the low numbers have been water temperature and the shifting of the Gulf Stream.

V. Old Business

A. Environmental Program Funding Updates

Mr. Jordan stated that all of the program funding reports for last year's funding had not been received yet. The due date is August 15th and will be discussed at the next meeting.

B. Sea Level Rise

Mr. Leffler reported that the draft of the report had been completed and is being reviewed by the members of the subcommittee and local experts. The final report is expected to be complete in late August with a presentation to Council at their September meeting. Mr. Leffler requested the report be presented to the Environmental Committee in August for review and approval prior to the presentation to Council.

C. Kiawah Landscaping Workgroup

Mr. Jordan reported that work is ongoing on the plant database for Kiawah with more updates at the next meeting. He noted the workgroup is working on how to define what is an invasive plant. These plants, in addition to those listed on the State's list, should be discouraged or not allowed to be planted on the Island. Members also talked about the drainage issues caused by pine straw.

D. Shorebird Stewardship Program

Ms. Gholson reported on the new shirts purchased by the Town for the volunteers on the beach to wear. She also reported that "Mimi the deer," a children's book, will be written about Kiawah's shorebirds.

E. Plastics Initiative

Mr. Nelson reported the Conservancy's Plastics Committee has met to discuss initiatives which include limiting plastic bottle use at golf courses and a strawless Kiawah. He noted that the committee is working toward a better clarification on the committee's authority, responsibility, and purview.

VI. New Business

A. Beach Trash and Recycling Collection

Mr. Nelson stated he received some reports that beach trash was not being picked up and not segregated to signify which are for recycling. Mr. Lameo explaining the trash containers on the beach are picked-up every day and that the overflowing trash container was due to a new driver

and that recycling containers are no longer put on the beach due to those containers being contaminated by regular trash and the landfill refusing to take it. Members discussed if the issue with recycling could be remedied with better education. Suggestions were made to have an additional pick-up at the end of the day, additional trash can stands, have a recycling bin as a standalone stand separate from the trash, and placing a sign on the stands that directs individuals to the recycling centers on the Island.

VII. Citizen Comments:
None

VIII. Chairman's Comments:
None

IX. Committee Member Comments:

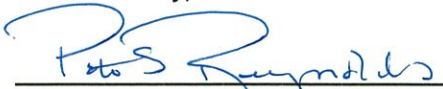
Mr. Nelson asked the members of the committee if they would support an effort to eliminate the use of straws on Kiawah as done in many other municipalities. Members engaged in an in-depth discussion of how to approach the straw issue, along with the elimination of the helium-filled balloons that are released. Mr. Jordan could inquire if Council would be agreeable to engage in discussion with Island entities on an ordinance to restrict the use of plastic straws but felt that the request should come from the Conservancy's Plastics Committee.

Mr. Sullivan stated that in the dolphin strand feeding discussion at last month's meeting, it was pointed out that kayakers are harassing the dolphins. He noted that there was no information or instruction given to those renting kayaks at the Club. Mrs. Sager indicated there was no cooperation with the request to give kayak renters instruction on proper dolphin etiquette. Members discussed approaching the management of the Club to help with instructing kayakers.

X. Adjournment:

Mr. Chitwood made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:20 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nelson and was unanimously passed.

Submitted by,



Petra S. Reynolds, Town Clerk

Approved by,



Jim Jordan, Chairman

8-21-18

Date