

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Kiawah Island Municipal Center**  
**Council Chambers**  
**July 9, 2019; 2:00 PM**

**Minutes**

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

II. **Roll Call:**

**PRESENT:** Jim Jordan, Chairman  
Jim Chitwood  
Lynne Sager  
Jane Ellis  
Pam Wilson  
Jack Kotz  
**KINHC:** Lee Bundrick  
**KICA:** Matt Hill  
**ARB:** Sara Senst  
**KIGR:** Liz King

**ABSENT:** Jim Sullivan  
David Pumphrey  
Scott Nelson  
**TOKI:** Aaron Given

**Also Attending:** Mayor Weaver

III. **Approval of Minutes:**

- A. Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes of March 12, 2019
- B. Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes of May 14, 2019

*Mr. Chitwood made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 12<sup>th</sup> and May 14<sup>th</sup>, Environmental Committee meetings. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hill and was unanimously approved as amended.*

IV. **Reports:**

A. Town of Kiawah Island

Mr. Jordan reviewed his Environmental Department update for July:

📌 **Alligator Research**

- Collaborative research project with Clemson/Nemours
  - Flight distance surveys ongoing

📌 **Bobcat GPS Study**

- Six adult bobcats captured
- Three males and three females fitted with GPS collars
- Three working collars (2 females and one male)

📌 **Painted Buntings**

- Smithsonian Geolocator Study
  - Deployed 25 geolocators in 2017. Recovered 8 of those in 2018.
  - Deployed 17 geolocators in 2018. Recovery efforts ongoing recovered four so far.
  - Deployed seven geolocators so far in 2019. 13 to go.
- Nanotag Study
  - A grant from Carolina Bird Club (\$3500)
  - 5 Motus towers (Sanctuary, Osprey Club House, Little Bear (mobile station), Captain Spit (mobile station), Marsh Island Park Tower) Three of the five sights have been approved.
  - 30 nanotags to be deployed beginning late July

#### ✚ Breeding Bird Point Counts

- The survey began in 2009
- Eight routes, 238 points, 5 minutes per point
- Completed late May/early June

#### B. Kiawah Island Community Association Land & Lakes Management

Mr. Hill reported that mosquito monitoring and spraying are ongoing. He stated that ponds are being sprayed for alligator weed. He explained that alligator weed is prevalent and is a non-native, invasive aquatic plant.

Mr. Hill gave an update on the Tarpon research, which is ongoing. The Coastal Carolina graduate student comes weekly, on Tuesdays, to take samples from the ponds and is still compiling data.

#### C. Kiawah Island Golf Resort

Ms. King reported that some of the Resort's outlet locations have already phased out all their plastic bags and straws, with others working through their inventory, in anticipation of the September ordinance change deadline.

Ms. King noted that the Nature Center had received a significant number of baby raccoons, from different sources, some clearly not being taken care of by an adult. She wondered if it was due to the professionals that come to the island to trap or relocate nuisance animals like raccoons. Ms. King suggested that it may be valuable for those companies to have to submit a report on what they remove from the island.

Committee members discussion included if the Town could make that type of request, animal regulations, along with the use of pesticides in the removal.

Ms. King also reported that the Center for *Birds of Prey* would be doing a complementary *Discovery Series* performance at Night Heron Park this Thursday at 7:00 pm.

#### D. Kiawah Island Architectural Review Board

None

#### E. Kiawah Conservancy

Mr. Bundrick reported on upcoming Conservancy happenings, which include an event in the demonstration garden to encourage visitation of the native plant additions. He also reported

that an assessment of all the yards on the island is ongoing.

#### F. Turtle Patrol

Ms. Sager reported that the count stands at 480 nests as of today. She noted that the two traditional peaks for the season have passed, so a slowdown should be coming eventually. She reported on the discovery of a wild nest that was found by a Sanctuary employee who helped the hatchling to the water along with a hatchling that was lost in a pond, due to the light used for filming going on at the Ocean Course, and eventually crawled out on its own.

### V. Old Business

#### A. Kiawah Landscaping Workgroup (Grow Native)

- Native plant trials ongoing
  - Conservancy, Town, Club, Resort participating
  - KICA not participating
  -
- Kiawah Parkway Landscaping RFP

Town has released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a redesign of the landscaping along the Parkway. The project begins at the roundabout and extends along the Parkway to Beachwalker Drive, a distance of approximately 2.4 miles.

  - Designs shall include at least 80% of plants native to Kiawah. The Town's Grow Native database ([www.grownativekiawah.com](http://www.grownativekiawah.com)) shall be used extensively when developing the master plan. No species invasive to South Carolina shall be used.
  - Designs shall include concepts similar to the Pollinator Pathways program ([www.pollinator-pathway.org](http://www.pollinator-pathway.org)).
  - Designs shall utilize salt-tolerant plants in flood-prone areas

#### B. Shorebird Stewardship Program

- Shorebird nesting area on east end remains closed, and signs are in place
- Least terns, Oystercatchers, Wilson's Plovers have all successfully nested this year

#### C. Flood Mitigation and Sea Level Rise

- Sea Level Rise Task Force work completed
- Planning Commission reviewed and recommended approval of changes to the Comprehensive Plan at July 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting
- Town Council will review and consider adoption at August meeting

#### D. Plastics Workgroup

- Plastics Ordinance approved by Town Council
- The ordinance goes into effect on September 8, 2019
- Working on signage and public education program
  - Temporary signage prepared for submission to ARB (Architectural Review Board) for approval
  - Public Education component in progress with the Communications Department

#### E. Kiawah Nest Box Program

- New nest boxes working well

F. Grow Native Interpretive Trail

- Interpretive Trail has been completed
  - Behind Town Hall - ¼ mile trail
- Benches to be delivered soon
- Future installation of plants and interpretative signage

VI. **New Business**

A. None

VII. **Citizen Comments:**

None

VIII. **Chairman's Comments:**

None

IX. **Committee Member Comments:**

Ms. Sager said that a question that is often asked is if the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks on the beach have any effect on nesting turtles. She reported that on the 5<sup>th</sup> of July there were ten new nests, four false crawls, and two short stakes. All the nests were laid away from the center of the beach where the festivities were located.

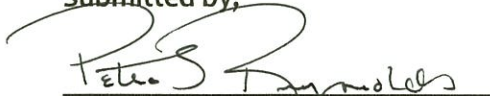
Mr. Chitwood asked about the fox population on the island which was wiped-out by a canine distemper outbreak. Mr. Jordan indicated there were many gray foxes until 2004, but over the years, there have only been a handful seen on the island. The fox population has not returned to the island but could in the future.

Committee members discussed drones on the island and the ordinance that is making its way through the approval process.

**Adjournment:**

*Ms. Sager made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:45 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hill and was unanimously passed.*

Submitted by,



Petra S. Reynolds, Town Clerk

Approved by,



Jim Jordan, Chairman

1-9-20

Date