

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Kiawah Island Municipal Center
Council Chambers
November 20, 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
Lynne Sager
Jane Ellis
Lynette Schroeder
Scott Nelson
Pam Wilson
Beverly Gholson

KINHC: Justin Core
Jack Kotz

KICA: James Wilson

ARB: Daphanie Wertz

KIGR: Liz King

TOKI: Aaron Given

ABSENT: Jim Sullivan
John Leffler
Michael Guniczak

III. **Approval of Minutes:**

A. Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes of August 14, 2018

Mr. Nelson made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2018, Environmental Committee meetings. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Sager and was unanimously approved as amended.

IV. **Reports:**

A. Town of Kiawah Island

✚ Wild About Video Series

- 9 produced to date
 - September – Painted Bunting Geolocators
 - October – Fall Migration

✚ Alligator Research

- Collaborative research project with Clemson/Nemours
 - 6 tags deployed, data now online
 - 1 tag had to be reattached
 - 1 tag only sending sporadic data
 - Graduate student in place. Field work on flight distance beginning in 2019

✚ Bobcat GPS Study

- 1 GPS collars still working
- Male Bobcat 750 currently on Johns Island
 - Crossed Hwy 17 10 times
 - Swam Intracoastal at Limehouse 10 times
 - Visited the Bees Ferry Landfill
 - Currently near Ross Marine on River Road
- Switching to Lotek Iridium collars for 2019

✚ Fall Migration Banding

- 6,429 new birds banded
- 1,640 recaptures
- 94 species
- Little Bear closed for season
- Captain Sam's in operation until November 30

B. Kiawah Island Community Association Land & Lakes Management

Mr. Hill reported on an Envirolok project in Inlet Cove to help with major erosion problems occurring in the inlet and that the Island is being prepared for the upcoming marathon.

Mr. Hill indicated he would begin a recruitment study of the aquatic organisms, mainly fish, in the ponds because of the interest in fishing on the island and inquiries about pond restocking after recent fish kills due to pond draining and overwashes. The study will help determine natural recruitment levels by using traps with a submerged light to catch and view small organisms.

C. Kiawah Island Golf Resort

Ms. King reported that for the Thanksgiving holiday there would be a complimentary Birds of Prey flight demonstration and talk at Night Heron Park.

Ms. King stated that interest had been expressed to continue the study of the Diamondback Terrapin that has been going on since the 1970s and is the longest ongoing Terrapin research in the world. Ms. King indicated that there had been some issue who the lead researcher is along with funding and a housing issue. She asked the Conservancy if they had interest in the research. Mr. Core indicated that the Conservancy did have a discussion on continuing the research but unfortunately did not received a grant request and asked that they submit a request to be included in the next budget process.

Ms. King questioned if it would be acceptable if a funding request could be submitted through the Environmental Committee (EC) in the spring. Mr. Jordan confirmed that most of the EC research funding had already been allocated but if a project budget was provided, the Committee would review it.

D. Kiawah Island Architectural Review Board

Ms. Wertz reported that the conversion to a completely digital process has been completed and paper applications are no longer accepted.

E. Kiawah Conservancy

Mr. Core reported that the Conservation Matters event will have a presentation from the Coast Guard on their Green Safety and Environmental Protection Programs and that the Conservancy is working on getting Sea Level Rise speakers for a talk in conjunction with Our World.

F. Turtle Patrol

Mrs. Sager reported that the season is complete with 223 nests total, six of which were on Sandy Point. She noted that the Turtle Patrol had their annual dinner and were looking forward to next year.

V. Old Business

A. Environmental Programs/Conservancy Funding

Mr. Jordan indicated that the Conservancy requested that the funding allocations for the year be shifted from one project to another. Mr. Core indicated the *Guest Guide* copies that were printed in this funding cycle had been dispersed and with the high demand for the guide, the request is to move funding from the dolphin documentary filming to printing more copies of the *Guest Guide*.

Members agreed that they had no objections to the movement of the \$30,000.00 in funding from the dolphin documentary filming to the printing of the *Guest Guide*.

B. Kiawah Landscaping Workgroup (Grow Native)

Mr. Jordan reported that the workgroup's kick-off was during the South Carolina's Native Plant Week, the week of October 15th, which was also the first Kiawah Island Native Plant Week. He indicated that the week went very well with talks and events which included giving away over 200 native plants, along with the new *Grow Native* webpage going live. Mr. Jordan presented and reviewed the design of the webpage and demonstrated the database to Committee Members. He indicated that obtaining pictures of the plants would be a challenge and asked for help in providing any available.

Mr. Jordan stated that the Workgroup is working with the ARB (Architectural Review Board) to revise guidelines for shrubbery and understory plantings to include that they also have to include 2/3 native plantings along with working with the Community Association on existing landscapes.

C. Shorebird Stewardship Program

Ms. Gholson reported that the Shorebird Stewardship Program is going on year-around and had completed 150 hours and have had, on the beach:

- 10 Wilson Plover nests
- 8 Willet nests
- 6 American Oystercatcher nests
- No Least Tern nests

Ms. Gholson stated that in addition to all the regular shorebirds on the beach, there are Piping Plovers from both a threatened eastern population and the federally endangered Great Lakes population. She noted that it is well worth educating the public on bird etiquette when there are endangered birds on Kiawah's beach.

D. Plastics Initiative

Mr. Nelson stated that the Plastics Initiative Committee Kiawah's (PICK) presented the purpose, responsibilities, and strategies to the Conservancy Board and were approved. He stated that the purpose of the PICK was to foster Kiawah as a green community through educational outreach and research. The strategies that will be used will include events to get people involved in plastics reduction, provide community business and guest education through social media and literature and to work with the Town and the Community Association to suggest influencing policy to effect plastic waste and litter. He stated the Conservancy considers PICK as an Ad-Hoc Committee and does not have the resources to provide support as an ongoing committee.

Mr. Nelson stated that members are going to work with the Aquarium to set up a beach sweep in the Spring and work on island communications to get the Committee's message out. He stated that an initiative that is being worked on is a request to the Town to take a small step to eliminate plastics use by prohibiting the use of single-use plastics, balloons, and styrofoam products on the beach, where they are the biggest problem. He stated after researching ordinances that have been passed in other coastal communities; he drafted an ordinance including the language used by the other coastal communities, and that would also fit in with the Town's current ordinance that prohibits glass on the beach. He expressed his concern that some action needs to be taken before these kinds of local ordinances are prohibited. He stated the draft ordinance was reviewed by Mrs. Mezzanotte who felt it was better presented to Council from the Environmental Committee (EC) rather than from the PICK Committee.

Mr. Nelson asked the EC members for their review and feedback. Members engaged in an in-depth discussion of the proposed draft ordinance which included the ordinance approval process, specific items that would be banned, enforcement, and a ban just on the beach rather than a ban in the Town. There was some disagreement with the ban with the suggestion made to ban certain items, like balloons, rather than all at once.

Mr. Jordan asked that members review, send him any feedback. If the EC were conceptionally in agreement, he would begin the internal process, which would include a presentation to the Town Administrator and multiple meeting with representatives of the Town's entities.

E. Beachfront Lighting Ordinance

Mr. Jordan stated the Beachfront Lighting Ordinance is on draft number 9 with another committee reviewing it. He indicated that progress is being made and reviewed specific changes that have been made to the draft ordinance which included the addition of Section 16-108 to address special events. He stated it should be presented to Town Council at the January meeting for first reading.

F. Flood Mitigation and Sea Level Rise

Mr. Jordan stated the report had been issued and there has been one meeting within the Town that included representatives of the two major entities involved with regulations, the ARB and the Community Association. At the last Town Council meeting, Council effective said they accept the report, they believe it is an issue, and they will begin to put into place a plan to address it.

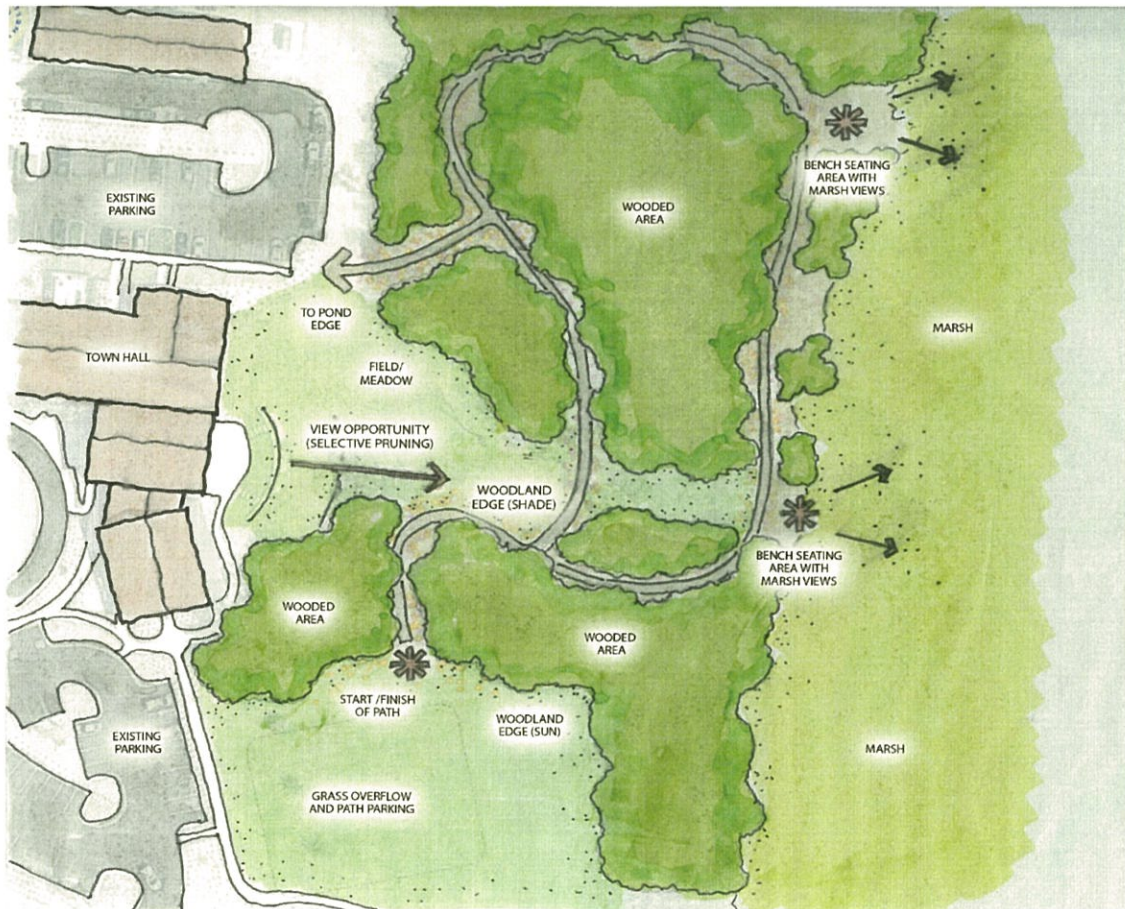
Mr. Jordan reported that Mr. Lucas Hernandez, the graduate student at the College of Charleston that worked with the subcommittee on this report and some of the modeling, will have his assistantship funded by the Town for the first half of 2019. He will be working on developing models, very specific to Kiawah, to be used to predict impacts from storms, rainfall

events and sea level rise with another component that will look at regulations for ways to address flood mitigation and sea level rise.

VI. New Business

A. Kiawah Native Plant Demonstration Area

Mr. Jordan stated that he has been working with Josh Dunn, a landscape architect, on the development of a native plant demonstration area which has been a dream of his since the purchase of this property. He stated that the information was sent out in advance of the meeting to obtain member feedback. Members viewed the renderings of the proposed plans that would begin in the area that is designated for overflow parking, winding through the grassy area looking toward the marsh, following along the marsh and then looping back around with a possibility of including one of the ponds. He indicated the idea is to highlight the beauty of natives, the value of natives in specific environments on Kiawah, and to allow residents to see what can do within their own yards. He indicated there would be interpretive signs throughout identifying specific plants and providing information.



Mr. Chitwood stated the area should be maintained as show-off area in which homeowners could vision the native plants at their homes. Mr. Core added that when creating a project like this, it is a forever project.

VII. Citizen Comments:

None

VIII. Chairman's Comments:

None

IX. Committee Member Comments:

Ms. Ellis indicated that Mr. Core would be leaving the Conservancy. He stated he had accepted a position in Colorado in open space acquisition for the local county's program and leaving in January. He stated the most valuable takeaway that he has regarding his 15 years on Kiawah would be working with this group of people and working in this community, which was the most fulfilling part.

X. Adjournment:

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

Submitted by,



Petra S. Reynolds, Town Clerk

Approved by,



Jim Jordan, Chairman

1-21-19

Date