

Town of Kiawah Island

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING

Via Zoom

January 25, 2021; 10:00 am

Minutes

- I. Call to Order: *Mr. Gottshalk called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.*

Present: Brian Gottshalk, *Public Works Manager*
Stephanie Tillerson, *Town Administrator*
David DeStefano
Warren Stannard
Will Connor, *KICA*

By Phone: Jim Gilliam
Steve Sager

Also Present: John Moffitt, *Council Liaison*

Mr. Gottshalk introduced Councilmember Moffitt as the Council Liaison to the Public Work Committee.

- II. **Approval of Minutes:**

A. Minutes of the Public Works Committee meeting of December 14, 2020

Mr. DeStefano made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2020 Public Works Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stannard and was unanimously passed.

- III. **Old Business:**

A. Update on the Kiawah Island Parkway Landscape Project

Mr. Gottshalk stated the contractor had experienced many setbacks in making the irrigation system operational. These issues have caused delays in finishing the irrigation system repairs, and the project completion date is now estimated to be mid-March.

Mr. Gottshalk explained the funds allocated in the project for irrigation system repairs had been exhausted and was in the process of compiling the information to submit a change order for consideration by the Ways and Means Committee to provide an additional \$40,000.00 to complete the necessary repairs. All pictures and descriptions of damaged or ill-maintained irrigation were thoroughly reviewed by the landscape architects, who agreed the claims were legitimate and necessary.

Committee members discussed the contract amount, the landscape maintenance's oversight, and the project completion timeline. Members discussed the possibility of recovering funding from the current landscape maintenance contractor for a long-term lack of irrigation system maintenance.

Committee members engaged in an in-depth discussion of the addition of fencing and landscaping as a barrier along the realigned bike path and measures taken to mitigate

concerns on the slope. Ms. Tillerson indicated the previous Council made the recommendation to wait until the landscaping project was completed and reevaluating the barrier conditions before a decision was made on the need for installing additional fencing. Mr. Gottshalk stated the areas of concern where the slope exceeded the two percent grade differential were addressed by the contractor and are now within regulations. Concerns were raised on if the bike path compliances with ASHTO (Association of State of Highway Transportation Officials) standards, to which Ms. Tillerson responded that according to the project and County engineers, the design meets all ASHTO requirements. However, the Town can still make changes if it does not meet the Town's standards. Committee members expressed concern with the open issues that exist in the area, indicating a plan should be developed to address all the issues.

IV. New Business:

A. Discussion on Fencing Along the Parkway

Ms. Tillerson indicated the discussion of fencing along the Parkway was in response to a concern expressed by a resident. The resident, walking the length of the bike path to Freshfields, felt the bike path was unsafe and asked if consideration had ever been given to installing a barrier or fencing between the bike path and the roadway on its entire length.

Committee members discussed the concern and noted that the only barrier that would ensure stopping a vehicle from crossing onto the bike path would be a guardrail. Taking into consideration that the majority of bike and walking paths do not have barriers, along with the substantial cost that would be incurred, members agreed it was not seen as an issue that needed to be addressed any further.

B. Discussion on the Sora Rail Garage and Recycling Center

Mr. Gottshalk stated the issue of trash on the ground at the Sora Rail site had been an issue for many years. The Town is responsible for waste removal, but the current site is on land that is not owned by the Town. With the continued growth of the island, ongoing misuse of the current site, and no way to expand or improve the current site, the option of moving to a new facility at the Municipal Center has been explored. The facility would be located at the rear of the complex in an area between the garage and the pond. Putting the disposal site at the locations would give the Town more accessibility to the site, the ability to monitor its use and misuse, and the ability to increase capacity to meet growing demand.

Mr. Gottshalk indicated that the Town had contacted an architect who in the process of designing the facility, and the Town Planner is helping to navigate the permitting process. The project does not have a projected timeline; the goal to have the facility completed before the PGA is dependent on the permitting process.

Mr. Gottshalk addressed the questions submitted by Mr. Gilliam. Committee members engaged in an in-depth discussion of the proposed project, which included;

- Concerns with the current site; suggestions of additional pickups and equipment, issues with operation and height of the compactors, trash left at the site by contractors,
- The intention to close the Sora Rail site when the new facility is opened,
- Beachwalker Drive site,
- Concerns with the new site; staffing, issues with smell and rodents, resident's willingness to travel off the island, entrance to and exit from the Municipal Center, and designing the new center.

C. Discussion on Berkeley Electric Coop Expectations and Moving Forward

Ms. Tillerson began the discussion by addressing questions submitted to Berkeley Electric Coop (BEC) by Mr. Gilliam. He questioned the cause of power outages and the possible effects of flooding on service. She noted the meeting with Town Council in which BEC explained the outage which occurred in December.

Committee Members discussed what vulnerabilities the Town still faces, the misconception that redundancy makes the island somewhat invincible, the challenges of restoring power during cold weather outages, and successfully restoring power after a storm. Ms. Tillerson asked if the Committee would like to receive updates from a BEC representative every three to six months. Members agreed that getting updates from BEC would be an advantage and asked if BEC would give access to SCADA along with information on how BEC's future projects and schedules are progressing.

V. **Committee Member's Comments:**

Mr. DeStefano asked what the status was on the County repaving Betsy Kerrison Parkway's outbound lanes in front of the Municipal Center. Ms. Tillerson indicated the State has acknowledged it owns and maintains both lanes until the median beings and that the project would be addressed in mid-March as the earliest. Committee members discussed the substandard work done on the repaving work done by the State on the inbound lanes and the hope that they would do a better job.

Mr. Gilliam expressed concern with the green boxes throughout the island, noting that some are rusted and one having an open cover. He questioned if there was any danger associated with them being in disrepair. Committee members discussed the concern and advised that a request would be made to BEC to look at the concern and make repairs if necessary.

Mr. DeStefano asked about the status of the Kiawah sign at the front gate, noting that the lights are never on. Mr. Gottshalk indicated that he was in contact with a company that would be addressing the lighting issue on both the sign at the front gate and Freshfields. He stated he would follow up on a timeline for repairs. Mr. DeStefano also discussed his suggestion on refurbishing the sign rather than replacing it.

Mr. Gillam commented on the Main Road Corridor project stating he listened to a Zoom meeting during which engineers discussed several design options. He indicated that he was pleased to hear the comment that in the option to widen Bohicket Road, disturbance of the grand oaks was considered, and as many as possible would remain in a center median. Also, expanding Bohicket Road on the river side seemed to have a minimal effect on residents in that area. He indicated that his preference would be to expand Betsy Kerrison rather than River Road or to put a road through the island's center.

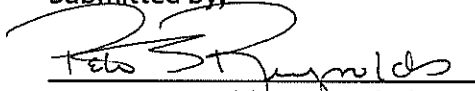
Since the Public Works Committee writing a position paper was discussed, he asked for feedback from the other members. Mr. DeStefano indicated the KICA (Kiawah Island Community Association) Board was working with the Town on a position that will likely not advocate for any one particular design option due to the many varied opinions but rather work together to come up with a solution. He noted that impact on property owners, property acquisition, commercial development, and traffic volume are factors that will be considered in any decision made.

Ms. Tillerson indicated she was working on having a Main Road Corridor presentation at the February Town Council meeting.

VI. Adjournment:

Mr. DeStefano made a motion to adjourn the meeting was adjourned at 11:39 am. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stannard and unanimously passed.

Submitted by,


Petra S. Reynolds, Town Clerk

2-17-2021
Date