

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Kiawah Island Municipal Center
Council Chambers
September 13, 2016; 3:00 PM

Minutes

- I. Call to Order:** Mrs. Johnson called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.
- II. FOIA:** Notice of this meeting has been published, and posted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of Kiawah Island.
- III. Roll Call:**
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| Present: | Mary Johnson
Lynne Sager
Jim Sullivan
Sandra Williams
Robert Simmons |
| KICA: | Matt Hill |
| KINHC: | Justin Core |
| TOKI: | Jim Jordan
Aaron Given |
| Absent: | David Elliott
Jim Chitwood
Marilyn Olson
Jane Ellis
Lynette Schroeder
John Leffler |
| ARB: | Amanda Mole |
| KICA: | Dave Achey |
| KIGR: | Liz King |
| KINHC: | Jack Kotz |
- IV. Approval of Minutes:**
- A.** Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes of July 12, 2016
- Mr. Jordan made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2016 Environmental Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sullivan and was unanimously approved as amended.*
- V. Old Business**
- A.** Bobcat GPS Study Update
- Mr. Jordan reported there was not a lot of activity to report. He stated there were five collars deployed of which two collars are still working. The order for new collars will be placed in December.

B. Alligator Research Project

Mr. Jordan reported on the Alligator Research Project which is a joint effort between Town, KICA, and the Conservancy. He indicated that there have been items added to the project this year and he was waiting on the SCDNR permit that was applied for by the Town in addition to the one held by other entities. Alligator captures will likely begin on October 1st with 30-40 alligators to be captured. Blood samples and other biological data will be collected. All alligators will receive visual numbered tags to aid in future identification and twelve alligators will receive VHF transmitters to track movements.

Mr. Jordan gave an update on nuisance alligators by stating the number of calls have been declining. There were 36 call that required a response with ten alligators removed. He indicated signage is still a work-in-progress. The Kiawah Island Community Association (KICA) is responsible for Architectural Review Board (ARB) approval and are waiting on the third draft.

Mr. Jordan stated he and Arron were working with staff from KICA to develop a presentation to educate security personnel and individuals from other Island entities which may have to take or respond to nuisance alligators calls. He indicated the work on the presentation is nearing completion and will include discussion of how to handle calls and how to record the data using a new automated system.

C. Fall Migration Bird Banding Project Update

Mr. Given reported on the Fall Migration Banding. He stated they were two banding stations working this year at Little Bear Island and at Captain Sam's Spit. Daily banding is taking place at Captain Sam's Spit (8th year) is from August 15th through November 30th and daily banding at Little Bear Island (2nd year) is from August 20th through November 15th. Seven banding well-trained and experienced technicians have been hired of which three are returning from last year. He stated both sights have banded approximately 1,000 birds with approximately 50 species and 200 recaptured birds.

D. School Group Program Update

Mr. Jordan gave an update on the School Group Program. He indicated he was working with Engaging Creative Minds (ECM), a local non-profit, to develop curriculum and activities for local schools. He met with the ECM curriculum coach last week and hopes to initiate a pilot program in several schools this fall and spring.

VI. New Business

A. Kiawah Conservancy Funding Requests

Mrs. Johnson stated the Conservancy's program funding requests are reviewed and discussed by the Environmental Committee and the forwarded to Town Council for approval. She noted without a quorum present, then Committee could not vote on the requests, they could discuss and comment on programs the Conservancy was working on.

Mrs. Johnson suggested that an October meeting be scheduled so that the recommendations of funding allocations to programs be made before the end of the year. Ms. Donna Windham, Executive Director of the Kiawah Conservancy, stated one of the projects would be on alligator safety and awareness. She gave the details on the Alligator Symposium taking place in October. All the Island's science professionals will be taking part in the day's program along with Dr. Thomas Rainwater as speaker, and the premier of the new video. Ms. Wyndham stated the Conservancy would be submitting a \$7,000.00 funding request to support those activities.

Ms. Windham stated the development of the app and brochures for the *Naturally Kiawah Pathways* is receiving a great deal of praise from residents and visitors. Mr. Core explained the *Pathways* program as biking and/or walking self-guided tours across the Island. Downloading an App to a mobile device will activate an audio narration and photographs about points of interest identified as you approach each of the locations along the tour. He noted there are seven tours that are currently active for different areas on the Island. Ms. Windham stated the Conservancy would be requesting \$5,000.00 in funding to reprint the brochures that accompany app.

Ms. Windham stated she was pleased with the outcome of the *Naturally Kiawah Demonstration Garden* supported by the Town, The Community, and the Resort. She stated the garden is visited by many, especially in the fall when the butterflies are out. To help with the ongoing upkeep of the garden, the Conservancy would be requesting \$5,000.00 in funding to update and enhance the garden.

Ms. Windham stated the Conservancy has easements areas on Marsh Island Park and Rhett's Bluff which require signage updates. Signage would be more informative and would be reviewed by KICA and the other required entities. She indicated the Conservancy would be requesting \$10,000.00 in funding for the signage updates.

Ms. Windham reviewed some of the activities and speakers presented by the Conservancy. She stated the Conservancy would be requesting for \$5,000.00 in funding to support on-island education programs and actives brought to the Community.

Ms. Windham stated that filming of the documentary on Red-Nots and other shore birds has begun and will continue during the Spring Migration. The Town's ornithologist, Mr. Given, provided a list of most popular birds on the Island and will help provide the best speakers to educate the public on the unique qualities of the birds on Kiawah. She stated the Conservancy would be requesting funding to support the filming.

Ms. Windham also stated the Conservancy was looking into publishing a special commemorative double issue of *Naturally Kiawah* to celebrate its twenty-year anniversary.

B. Mosquito Control

Mr. Hill stated the Community Association is in charge of Mosquito abatement on the Island with the exception of private residences. Accessible roadways and KICA properties

are treated with a truck mounted low volume fogger, standing water is treated with a 30-day larvicide, and storm drains are treated twice a year with a 150-day larvicide. He explained the landing rate count of three per minute that is used to warrant spraying which usually occurs during the early morning hours of 4am to 6am when there is little human and pollinator interaction. Mr. Hill stated the mosquito program was “a delicate balance between human comfort and the environment.”

Mr. Hill, along with members, engaged the in an in-depth discussion of the Zika virus, spraying done by Charleston County, and mosquito landing counts.

VII. Reports:

- A. Town of Kiawah Island
- B. Kiawah Island Community Association Land & Lakes Management
- C. Kiawah Island Golf Resort
- D. Kiawah Island Architectural Review Board
- E. Kiawah Conservancy
- F. Turtle Patrol

VIII. Correspondence:

None

IX. Citizen Comments:

None

X. Chairman’s Comments:

None

XI. Committee Member Comments:

A comment was made on the use of plastic bags and if the Town was going to consider taking a stand on banning their use. Mrs. Johnson indicated that she had contemplated that as a topic of discussion for the Committee.

It was noted by a member that there were signs indicating surveying is being done just outside of the front gate across from The Point. Members discussed if there was any information available on if there would be development going on in that area, what, if anything, could be done to preserve the beauty of the entrance of the Island and if the Town had considered the preservation of open land.

Mr. Core stated there was an article in the Journal of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry that referenced data that was obtained during the alligator study conducted on Kiawah last year.

XII. Adjournment:

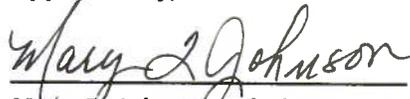
Mr. Jordan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:05 pm. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

Submitted by,

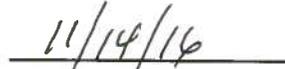


Petra S. Reynolds, Town Clerk

Approved by,



Mary Q. Johnson, Chairman



Date