

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Kiawah Island Municipal Center
Council Chambers
April 11, 2017; 3:00 PM

Minutes

I. Call to Order: Mrs. Mezzanotte called the meeting to order at 3:00pm

II. Roll Call:

Present: Diana Mezzanotte, Chairman
Jim Chitwood
Jim Sullivan
Lynette Schroeder
Sandra Williams
KICA: Matt Hill
KINHC: Jack Kotz
TOKI: Jim Jordan
Aaron Given

Arrived Late: Marilyn Olson
Lynne Sager

Absent: David Elliott
John Leffler
Jane Ellis
Robert Simmons
ARB: Amanda Mole
KIGR: Liz King
KINHC: Justin Core

III. Approval of Minutes:

A. Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes of March 14, 2017

Mr. Jordan made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2017 Environmental Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sullivan and was unanimously approved.

IV. Reports:

A. Town of Kiawah Island

Mr. Jordan reviewed his presented report:

⚡ Beach

- Coastal Science and Engineering annual report and aerial photography complete
- Sand fencing installed at Beach Club and Ocean Course
- Kiawah Partners General Permit to place sand along Captain Sam's Spit, OCRM (Ocean and Coastal Resource Management) Public Meeting on April 18th (6-8 pm)

Members discussed the permit held by the Community Association for minor dune restoration. Mr. Jordan indicated the permit was received last fall and at that time, the decision was made to review again in the spring. No request to begin work has been received up to now.

Mayor Weaver stated the Town was thinking about applying for a general permit which would allow potential sand fencing on the beach. He indicated up to this point the beach was accreting naturally and a review in the fall would determine if there were areas which might require work.

Mr. Given reviewed his portion of the report:

✚ **Marsh Sparrows**

- High tide trapping from December-April
- 39 GPS tags out on Seaside Sparrows
 - 8 to put out in summer
- Putting Nano Tags on Saltmarsh Sparrows in late April

✚ **Painted Buntings**

- Collaborative study with Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center
 - Geolocators on 25 Painted Buntings in 2017

✚ **Fall Migration**

- Collaborative study with Dr. Sid Gauthreaux, Clemson
- Migration banding data and weather radar data to develop a model which will predict when a heavy migration could be expected on Kiawah.

Mr. Jordan continued his portion of the report:

✚ **Alligator Research**

- Capture efforts to begin in late April through May
- Collaborative effort with the Community Association, Conservancy, and Clemson.
- Plan to catch 30-35 alligators, fit with visual tags
- 5 will be fitted with GPS tags
 - Collect locations every 20 minutes to show detailed movement patterns

✚ **Elementary School Programs — 2 programs completed this spring.**

- Angel Oak (3 second grade classes)
 - March 22—2 hour visit to Mingo Point, 3 learning stations
 - April 6 — 1 hour visit to school to install bird feeders and bluebird box with camera
- Mt Zion (2 second grade classes)
 - April 5—47 students visited Mingo Point. 3 learning stations.

✚ **Bobcat GPS Study — Trapping began in mid-February.**

- 4 bobcats collared so far (2 adult males, 1 juvenile male, and 1 adult female)
- Trapping to continue through next week
- Found first bobcat den on March 31. Flyway dunes.
 - Two 3-week old male kittens
 - NatGeo Wild streamed live on Facebook

✚ **Palmetto Alligator Research and Management Symposium**

- April 28, Georgetown, SC
- Presenting talk on Kiawah research program

B. Kiawah Island Community Association Land & Lakes Management

Mr. Hill reported on the aeration system being replaced in some of the ponds on the Island which were flooded in the hurricane. He also reported on a turkey that was thought to have a nest at the Ocean Course and fish-stocking going on with tagged fish in the hopes of getting feedback for fisherman. Members engaged in an in-depth discussion of landscaping and management of ponds and pond edges on golf courses.

C. Kiawah Island Golf Resort
No report

D. Kiawah Island Architectural Review Board
No report

E. Kiawah Conservancy
No report

F. Turtle Patrol

Mrs. Sager reported that all mile and half-mile markers have been installed in anticipation of the start of the season.

V. Old Business

A. Sea Level Rise Subcommittee Report

Mrs. Schroeder reported on March 15th the members of the subcommittee visited S.C. Sea Grant Consortium and met with Dr. Fly to get information on the projects she has done in different communities and the educational services or programs the Consortium may offer. She reported the subcommittee met on April 3rd and will be contacting local communities and entities which have sea level rise planners in place to gather information on their activities and resources. She stated the subcommittee will also be looking for data sources to gather specific information on Kiawah.

B. Other Subcommittee Updates

Mr. Sullivan stated he met with representatives of the Community Association Shannon White, Matt Hill, and Will Connor and talked about this potential project. It was the opinion that the Low Impact Development document is geared towards new development and making decisions at the start of development as to how to handle the various issues. It is very hard to come into a 40-year old community and try to retrofit. The Community Association indicated they are willing to look at any specific elements of the manual document, which the subcommittee would like to look at further. Mr. Sullivan recommended the subcommittee ask the Community Association to review their efforts to gather background information and see if there are any areas which can be reevaluated.

C. Budget and Programs Update and Discussion

Mr. Jordan indicated FY17/18 Budget included the Committee's recommended amount of \$77,000.00 for Conservancy Projects and \$35,000.00 for Environmental programs. The budget will have its first reading at the May Town Council meeting with the final reading at the June

meeting. He presented an update of the three project proposals of the selected by the Committee.

1. St. John's High School & KI Nature Program	\$2,250.00
2. Engaging Creative Minds	\$10,000.00
3. Dolphin Feeding	revised amount of: \$8,588.00

VI. New Business

A. None

VII. Citizen Comments:

Wendy Kulick – 38 Marsh Edge Lane

Mrs. Kulick questioned the status of the Dolphin Strand Feeding project; if there would be impact on dolphin strand feeding if there would be any development of Captain Sam's Spit. She also questioned the project's public education, recounting an incident where an anchored boat on the river side of the Spit allowed their dogs to run loose. She made the suggestion that a sign be posted on the river side of the Spit to make visitors aware of the danger to feeding dolphins. Mr. Jordan and Mrs. Kulick discussed the difficulty with placement of signage, and how to ensure that boaters see/read the signs.

Committee members, along with Mrs. Kulick, Mrs. Lehder, and Mrs. Olsen engaged in an in-depth discussion of the construction work being done on the Timbers project and the effect it may have on the surrounding areas. Discussion included plan review of the project by the Charleston County Planning Department and why it was not reviewed by the Kiawah Planning Commission or the Environmental Committee.

Mr. Sullivan indicated the Environmental Committee was not actively involved with the planning process. He indicated there would be a meeting with the Planning Commission to see if there was any role for the Environmental Committee in the assessment of any future developments.

VIII. Chairman's Comments:

None

IX. Committee Member Comments:

None

X. Adjournment:

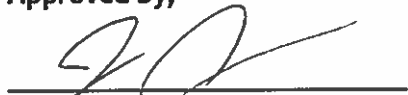
Mr. Jordan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 pm. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Sager and unanimously passed.

Submitted by,



Petra S. Reynolds, Town Clerk

Approved by,



Jim Jordan, Chairman

8-18-17

Date