

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Kiawah Island Municipal Center
Council Chambers
July 18, 2017; 3:00 PM

Minutes

I. Call to Order: Mr. Jordan called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

II. Roll Call:

Present: Jim Jordan, Chairman
Diana Mezzanotte
Jim Chitwood
Lynne Sager
Jane Ellis
Lynette Schroeder
Sandra Williams
John Leffler
Robert Simmons

KICA: Matt Hill
KIGR: Liz King
KINHC: Jack Kotz
TOKI: Aaron Given

Absent: David Elliott
Marilyn Olson
Jim Sullivan

ARB: Amanda Mole
KINHC: Justin Core

III. Approval of Minutes:

A. Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes of May 9, 2017

Mr. Kotz made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2017 Environmental Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ellis and was unanimously approved.

IV. Reports:

A. Town of Kiawah Island

Mr. Jordan reported on:

- Alligator Research
 - 13 captured in fall 2016 sessions
 - 5 capture sessions in 2017 to date
 - 23 alligators captured
 - 11 females (2 GPS)
 - 12 males (2 GPS)
 - 5 will be fitted with GPS tags (early June)
 - Collect locations every 30 minutes during night
 - Every hour during day
 - Sighting reports of tagged alligators have increased
 - Recaptured alligator showed 30 centimeters growth since 2015

Mr. Jordan indicated the research work has put emphasis on the fact that alligators are losing their fear of humans due to being fed. He discussed the need for signage in backyards of rentals that not only cautions that alligators are present but also notifies not to feed or harass the alligators and also warn that tickets will be issued. Members discussed the need to better communicate alligator safety to the public and for all the entities to collectively work to develop a comprehensive plan to deal with the issues.

- Bobcat GPS Study – Trapping February-April
 - 4 bobcats collared
 - Resume trapping in Fall 2017

Mr. Given reported on:

- Fall Migration
 - August 15 – November 30
 - Hired 6 technicians
 -
- Point Counts
 - May-June
 - 9 survey days
 - 238 points
 - 4,321 individuals counted
 - 80 species

B. Kiawah Island Community Association Land & Lakes Management

Mr. Hill reported on the Marine Biology graduate from the College of Charleston that has been interning with the Community Association this summer. Also reported:

- No report yet on the catch of a tagged Red Drum
- Monitoring and spraying of mosquitos
- Parkway plant and grass renovation
- After inspection by an arborist, KICA would not be doing anything with the stand of pine trees in the Preserve which died due to the natural cause of saltwater intrusion unless it becomes a safety hazard
- Update on alligator signage proof to go to ARB for approval

C. Kiawah Island Golf Resort

Ms. King opened a discussion on the request from the Turtle Patrol to make the evaluations more public by posting them on social media along with posting and announcement on tours at the Nature Center. Her concern was that the additional visitors entering through the gates, and parking in neighborhoods may upset the Community or overwhelm the Turtle Patrols on the beach. Members agreed that the system currently in place was working satisfactorily. Conservancy members also expressed an interest in helping with guiding groups, night walks, and public information.

D. Kiawah Island Architectural Review Board

None

E. Kiawah Conservancy

Ms. Windham gave brief overview of upcoming Conservancy events and recommended visiting their website for a complete listing.

F. Turtle Patrol

Mrs. Sager reported there were 298 nests so far this year.

V. Old Business

A. Sea Level Rise

Mr. Leffler reported the Sea Level Rise Committee meets monthly with a different topic at each meeting. At the next meeting, the main topic for discussion will be a report on stormwater management on Kiawah prepared by Mr. Connor, an Engineer with the Community Association.

B. Beach No Dog Area Buoys

Mr. Jordan reported the “No Dog Area Buoys” discussed at a previous meeting have been denied by the Architectural Review Board twice and will not be used. He reported there have been over 300 warnings written for “dogs off leash” and that moving forward violators will be ticketed.

C. Kiawah Conservancy/KICA Guest Guide Rewrite

Mr. Jordan presented the Kiawah Conservancy/KICA Guest Guide rewrite and asked that any additional feedback be sent to him via email.

VI. New Business

A. Holes on Beach

B. Lighting on Beach

Mr. Jordan gave an overview of the current issues with holes on the beach dug by beachgoers, lighting on the beach at night which may harm hatching sea turtles, and the number of vehicles on the beach creating a public safety issue. A better education outreach program may help.

Members engaged in an in-depth discussion of the holes being dug on the beach and lighting on the beach. Discussion included using code enforcement, the use of beach patrol to remind diggers to fill holes, using Communications, or the possible creation of a subcommittee to study possible solutions.

Mr. Jordan presented a redline copy of the Town’s current Beach lighting ordinance. He pointed out changes which needed to be made for clarification and to make the ordinance enforceable.

C. Wildlife Information and Safety Communication to Public

Discussion included a members’ concern with the bridges on the Island. He recently observed very young children left unsupervised and was afraid they could fall off.

D. Feeding of deer in West Beach

Mr. Jordan reported that the Mayor observed several children interacting and presumably feeding deer in the in the area of West Beach. He asked if members had any additional observations to which members recounted seeing residents putting out deer corn and/or feeders. Mr. Jordan indicated there was no ordinance in place against feeding deer but he would continue working on a solution.

E. Funding of FY 2017/18 Natural Resource Projects

Mr. Jordan reported the 2017/2018 fiscal year budget was approved and is effective as of July 1st. As discussed and recommended the budget includes \$35,000.00 for Environmental Programs and \$77,000.00 for the Kiawah Island Conservancy.

VII. Citizen Comments:

Ms. Beverly Gholson stated she was coordinating the Shorebird stewardship with Mr. Given if there were any question. She also stated that she would like to see an ordinance passed to the Municipal Code that banned helium balloons on the Island.

VIII. Chairman's Comments:

None


IX. Committee Member Comments:

None

X. Adjournment:

Mrs. Sager made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:15. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chitwood and unanimously passed.

Submitted by,



Petra S. Reynolds, Town Clerk

Approved by,



Jim Jordan, Chairman

9-21-17

Date