



**Town of Hilton Head Island  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING  
Thursday, July 11, 2024, 3:30 PM  
Minutes**

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Zurilla called the meeting to order at 3:35PM. Present were: Chair William Zurilla, Vice Chair John Parsons, Christina Kristian, Michael Manesiotis, Ruthie Kucharewski, and Charlie Quigg attending remotely. Ray Kisiah was absent.

**2. Pledge to the Flag**

**3. Adoption of the Agenda**

**4. Approval of the Minutes**

**a. Regular Meeting Minutes of April 11, 2024**

Chair Zurilla calls for approval of the minutes. Commissioner Quigg moves to change the minutes to add his presence to the minutes.

**b. Regular Meeting Minutes of June 13, 2024**

Chair Zurilla calls for approval of the minutes. Commissioner Kristian moved to approve the Minutes of June 13, 2024. Commissioner Manesiotis seconded the approval. The Minutes of June 13, 2024 were unanimously approved.

**5. Presentations**

**6. Unfinished Business**

None

**7. New Business**

**a. Consideration to Support a Partnership with Best Buddies and Miracle Recreation for Construction of an Inclusive Playground at Shelter Cove Community Park - Bryan McIlwee, Director of Engineering**

Chair Zurilla introduces Bryan McIlwee, Director of Engineering to introduce the New Business. Bryan McIlwee introduces the Partnership of Best Buddies and Miracle Recreation to develop an inclusive playground on the Island in Shelter Cove. As stated on the Agenda, today is the Consideration of a Resolution to Recommend to Town Council to support a Partnership for an Inclusive Playground with Miracle and Best Buddies. This would be the first all inclusive playground in the United States.

Miracle is a playground manufacturer that has been around for a century and is used all over the country. Best Buddies is a non-profit organization that supports inclusion for mental and physical disabilities. They are partnering together to build a new inclusive playground. It would be a collaboration with the Town of Hilton Head. Bryan McIlwee pulls up the presentation from Miracle and Best Buddies and introduces Sue Churchich to speak more on the topic.

Sue Churchich speaks about the history of Miracle Recreation; they are the largest and oldest playground manufacturer in the United States. They have already worked on playgrounds all across the Low Country, including Bluffton and Hilton Head. Best Buddies formed a partnership with Miracle to start inclusive playgrounds all around the United States. These playgrounds will use products that not only assist with physical disabilities but also intellectual. When they heard Hilton Head had approved upcoming projects they wanted to partner with them on the playground. This playground will bring a lot of media attention and positive notoriety.

Bryan McIlwee asks if the Commission will approve the Partnership. He explains that the park is already approved in the budget this year. Chair Zurilla asks if we purchase the equipment through their Source Well contract if that is the same as putting out to bid. Bryan McIlwee explains that he already asked our procurement officer. Source Well provides services to government as an efficient procurement program. We have already used a similar procurement process for the park benches. The process is more efficient than putting out to a public bid. Vice Chair Parsons asks if the signs and colors will be as illustrated. Sue confirms that the park does require to have a sign with notoriety to Best Buddies, however the colors can be customized to whatever the Town approves. Bryan asks Sue if they would be able to provide another presentation with an updated and customized illustration for this specific park. Sue confirms they can provide that later in the progress of the project. Commissioner Kucharewski asks what percent of the population will be able to use the park. Sue confirms that 100% of the population can use the park since it is all inclusive. Commissioner Manesiotis asks if we can provide more shade to the park. Sue confirms that yes, we can add that in to the design to provide relief from the heat. Commissioner Kristian asks if we considered to use a partnership with other businesses. Bryan explains that this why we are voting on the recommendation, this is just a recommendation for the park at Shelter Cove only. This is not a recommendation to solely partner with them for all parks. Chair Zurilla asks if Miracle will take care of the media and promotional events for the park. Sue explains that Best Buddies can create a walk or a gala as they have done in the past for other projects. Commissioner Kristian asks if that means that the price tag for the Town would decrease if funding increased. Bryan confirmed yes, that would be possible. Vice Chair Parsons asked if we have a policy on donor recognition. Bryan explains that the Town does not have a policy at this time. Chair Zurilla asked who Agency Shmagency is, Sue explained that they are a marketing agency that connected Miracle and Best Buddies.

Chair Zurilla calls the vote for the approval of the Recommendation. Vice Chair Parsons brings to point that the Town should advise on naming rights for the Shelter Cove Park.

Bryan confirms that that would be a different issue to address to the Town Council. Chair Zurilla calls for the vote again. Commissioner Manesiotis asks if they would get a renderings to approve. Bryan confirms that they plan to get an updated rendering, however we need a vote on this recommendation before we put together the work order for the job. Chair Zurilla calls for the vote. The Recommendation was unanimously approved.

## **8. Public Comment - Non Agenda items**

## **9. Commission Business**

Chair Zurilla mentions that he met with the Staff at the Town and the Commission would like to be more involved with the Town park projects. The Commission would like to create sub committees to work on each park, maybe a singular person would be assigned to each park and act as a liaison for the Board. Commissioner Manesiotis agrees that it would be a good idea to have a person sit in on park meetings and represent the Board, to be able to keep everyone up to date on the park progress. Commissioner Kucharewski mentions that she would like to see more color in the park projects and agrees that the Commission should have more involvement in park progress. Vice Chair Parsons asks if this would involve them attending public meetings. Bryan states that members are always welcome to attend any public meetings, but this would be more about involving the members at internal Staff meetings or project kick-off meetings. Vice Chair Parsons speaks to the issue that the Parks and Recreation Commission is handed issues that are already being put into motion. He would like for the members to be more involved on the front end. Bryan confirms that the intention is to bring the Commission in on projects at an earlier stage and keep the members more involved throughout the process. Vice Chair Parsons expresses his concern that Town Council shouldn't be able to deny a project that the Staff and members have took time working on. Bryan confirms that the intention of more involvement would help the Parks and Recreation Commissioners to have more knowledge of projects and be able to bring up any issues ahead of reaching Council.

Chair Zurilla closes the discussion stating that we will continue to work on a way to proceed with more involvement. Commissioner Quigg agrees that it is a good idea to see items before they go to Council. He shares that at other institutions, they tour the parks they are working on. He urges that this would be a good idea for Parks and Recreation. All members agree this would be a good idea to coordinate. Bryan confirms we can look into creating a tour of the parks as a part of a training session for the Commissioners.

Commissioner Kucharewski asks if we will be doing anything for Parks and Recreation month this month. Bryan McIlwee states that there is a proclamation on July 23rd that anyone can attend if they would like. Chair Zurilla introduces new Commissioner Kucharewski and closes the meeting.

## **10. Chairman's Report**

## **11. Staff Report**

## **12. Adjournment**

Chair Zurilla adjourns the meeting at 4:35PM.

**The recording of this Meeting can be found on the Town's website at [www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov](http://www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov)**