



**Town of Hilton Head Island
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING
Thursday, November 14, 2024, 3:30 PM
Minutes**

1. Call to Order

This meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

2. Pledge to the Flag

3. Adoption of the Agenda

Chair Zurilla called for a motion to approve the agenda. The agenda was approved unanimously.

4. Approval of the Minutes

a. Regular Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2024

Chair Zurilla called for approval of the September 12th meeting minutes. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

5. Presentations

a. Island Parks and Rec Association Update - Frank Soule, Parks and Rec Executive Director

Chair Zurilla introduced Frank Soule from Island Parks and Recreation, who provided updates on various programs. Senior programs had grown, aided by a successful direct mail campaign. A new bus service to the center was popular, and day trips filled up quickly. The public pool has remained busy, especially from 8 to 11 AM, hosting high school teams and offering swim lessons for second-graders. A dome was set to be installed the following week for year-round use. Staffing has been a challenge.

Youth soccer was concluding that weekend, while adult soccer was about to begin. The after-school program serves over 100 kids, and adaptive recreation and fitness classes have continued to expand. Festivals remained well attended, and cleanliness was frequently praised.

Vice Chair Parsons inquired about disc golf; Soule noted they lacked permanent access to the track but had temporary holes in place, with 500 participants in six weeks. Old golf courses were ideal for permanent setups. Ms. Kristian asked about nature clubs, which were not yet offered but were in development. Mr. Manesiotis asked about field conditions, and Soule reported they were in good shape, with team rotations and new

developments aiding maintenance.

6. Unfinished Business

7. New Business

a. Staff Support Update - Jeff Netzinger, Engineering and Projects Director

Jeff Netzinger introduces himself as the new Engineering and Projects Director and Board Coordinator for the Parks and Recreation Commission.

8. Public Comment - Non Agenda Items

Frank Babel announced his retirement and highlighted the arts magazine brochure. He raised concerns about the challenge of attracting people to the parks and suggested the Commission consider birding as a potential draw. He emphasized the need to find ways to increase community engagement with the parks.

Vice Chair Parsons proposed creating a specialized bike and park map, similar to the existing historic map, detailing park facilities and available activities. Mr. Babel suggested incorporating it into social media or the website. Mr. Manesiotis recommended including the history of the parks.

9. Commission Business

a. Confirm 2025 Meeting Schedule

Chair Zurilla explained that meetings would now be held at 3:00 PM on a bimonthly schedule with a summer break. The proposal was put to a vote and it passed unanimously.

b. Commissioner Nominees for ongoing CIP Project Meetings - Richard Loudin, Public Projects Program Manager

Chair Zurilla introduced Richard Loudin, Public Projects Program Manager, and asked for volunteers for each project. Mr. Quigg expressed concern about Commissioners serving as the main liaisons, but Mr. Loudin confirmed that town staff would handle that role.

Mr. Loudin introduced the Pathway Program projects, outlining each one to give the Commission an overview. Commissioners volunteered for various projects and agreed to evaluate the process, with the option to revisit it if needed.

10. Chairman's Report

Chair Zurilla acknowledged the staff's efforts in clearing trees along the pathway to improve the visibility of the park. Vice Chair Parsons suggested adding a bike rack to the location.

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11. Staff Report

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:48 p.m.