



Town of Hilton Head Island

TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Tuesday, January 23, 2024, 1:00 PM

Minutes

Call to Order

Mayor Perry called the WORKSHOP to order at 1:00 p.m.

Council Members present: Alan Perry, Mayor, David Ames, Ward 3, Mayor Pro-Tempore; Patsy Brison, Ward 2; Alex Brown, Ward 1; Tammy Becker, Ward 4; Steve Alfred, Ward 5; Glenn Stanford, Ward 6.

Adoption of the Agenda

Mr. Ames moved to approve. Mr. Stanford seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

Chaplin Park Master Plan

Shawn Colin conducted a detailed presentation with the plans with the suggested revisions received to date and invited feedback from Council.

Town Council provided initial comments and feedback at a workshop held in February 2023, which the project team then incorporated into a revised Preliminary Master Plan, which focused largely on retaining the existing tennis facility and the consideration of different options for pickleball and a potential pool facility. This revised plan was reviewed at a second Town Council Workshop that was held in June 2023.

Based on input from Town Council the project team made refinements to develop a Draft Master Plan, which includes:

- Construction of (6) pickleball courts.
- No consideration of a pool facility.
- Wider buffers along Singleton Beach Road and the proposed Beach Operations Facility.
- Viewshed windows from William Hilton Parkway into the park.
- Provision of a sidewalk on the residential side of Burke's Beach Road.
- Inclusion of more refined crosswalks along Burke's Beach Road in lieu of the standard "Continental" pavement markings.
- Connection of parking reservoirs at the proposed Multi-use Park Facility to increase circulation through the park.
- Centrally locate a large pavilion within the multi-use fields.
- Incorporate a drop-off near the Burke's Beach Road and Castnet Drive intersection.
- Include a small restroom building at the Burke's Beach access.

- Maintain Nature Trail access along the Folly.
- Exploration of different orientations of the multi-use fields to understand the impacts to parking and overall site design.

Beyond the Town Council Workshop to review the Draft Master Plan, the next steps include:

- Parks & Recreation Commission (PRC) Review – February 2024
- Refinements to plans - Based on PRC and Town Council feedback
- Town Council Approval – March 2024
- Final Design/Permitting – Spring through Fall 2024

Members of Council had questions, comments and discussion and concern regarding: the reduction of the number of pickleball courts and the need to keep the number at 24; inquiry as to whether there will be bleachers for public seating for tennis and pickleball; confirmation the site is limited and cannot hold all the items that were originally being requested; the need to keep the character of the site; the need to provide bike racks; concern regarding the connected parking and it turning into a thruway; the need to be considerate of the parking needed for beach access; the need to focus on the program elements and not get into the details of the operations as to where something ought to go as opposed to something else; the need to find a location for a pool; and a suggestion the plan move forward with the existing elements with a focus on looking for a home for 24 courts for pickleball.

Mayor Perry asked for comments regarding Chaplin Park excluding pickleball which will be discussed separately.

Frank Soule addressed Council and requested the following needs be considered: outdoor storage, public storage for Island Rec events; lighting on the fields with technology; restrooms near the pickleball courts and dog park; the need for two basketball courts; and the need to cover the playground with shade.

Jack Daly addressed Council regarding the need for artificial turf soccer fields at Barker Field which would alleviate the strain on the soccer fields at Chaplin Park.

Wayne Lilly addressed Council regarding the need for tennis courts in public parks due to continued growth in the sport.

John Parsons addressed Council regarding his concern Chaplin Park is the wrong location for a pickleball complex as it will draw hundreds of people to tournaments.

Frank Babel addressed Council regarding the need for bike racks at Chaplin Park and other locations as well as additional trolleys for transport to the areas.

Carl Britton addressed Council regarding the closure of a connection between Chaplin and Driessen Parks and requested access be restored for the residents.

Crossings Park Master Plan

Shawn Colin conducted a detailed presentation with the plans with the suggested revisions received to date and invited feedback from Council.

Town Council provided initial comments and feedback at a workshop held in February 2023, which the project team then incorporated into a revised Preliminary Master Plan, which focused largely on providing a second 300-foot ballfield and assessing the possibility of a 400-foot ballfield without impacting the existing wetland covenant. This revised plan was reviewed at a second Town Council Workshop that was held in June 2023.

Based on input from Town Council the project team has made refinements to develop a Draft Master Plan, that includes:

- Provision of (12) pickleball courts with parking located on Arrow Road.
- Consolidation of pump track and skate park at Bristol Sports Arena.
- Pursue SCDOT approval of angled parking along Helmsman Way.
- Provision of a multi-use pathway on the eastern side of Helmsman Way connecting the park to Palmetto Bay Marina
- Inclusion of crosswalks to connect spaces separated by Arrow Road.
- Exploration of alternate ballfield configurations and the impacts to parking areas, buffers and overall site design.

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- Parks & Recreation Commission (PRC) Review – February 2024
- Refinements to plans – Based on PRC and Town Council feedback
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Members of Council had questions, comments and discussion and concern regarding: caution and opposition of any encroachment into the preserved wetland areas; acknowledgement and appreciation for addressing bike parking needs; confirmation staff has worked with the local baseball association regarding needs; and concern over angled parking on Helmsman Way.

Mayor Perry asked for public comment.

Jim Hicks addressed Council regarding the lighting on the fields at night. He suggested the lights only operate during times when the fields are in use. He also suggested speakers be readjusted to face the stands rather than the neighborhood.

Alex Cruden addressed Council urging the Town to move forward with the plan.

Jack Daly addressed Council in support of the design and consolidation.

Mike Malecha addressed Council in support of pickleball courts noting the need for additional facilities with a minimum of 18-24 courts.

Marjorie Schramm addressed Council regarding pickleball and how great it is for older individuals.

Melinda Tunner addressed Council regarding the cost and funding sources for each park once the design is complete.

Judy Bastian addressed Council in support of pickleball asking what is the current cost of a pickleball court; is it more economical to build in one location at one time; how much space does it take for 24 courts; and how many council members are against a pickleball facility? She also inquired as to the cost of the pump track. She requested the questions be answered at the end of the workshop.

Trudy Chaille addressed Council in support of pickleball and encouraged them to move forward.

Carl Ceo addressed Council regarding the growth in pickleball and the need for courts.

Frank Babel addressed Council regarding the pathways and the need for alternative transportation.

Frank Soule addressed Council on various specifics of the plan and additional needs regarding lighting, fencing and the need to focus on hockey and other sports.

Charlie Quigg addressed Council regarding the bike path to the Cross Island Bridge and the need for improvement due to it being narrow and in poor condition. He addressed the cut-through that is an alternative but the sightlines are poor and there is a safety problem.

Members of Council had questions, comments and discussion and concern regarding: the need to ensure Island Recreation Association will be in charge of the programming at the park; the need to review suggestions from the public for consideration within the planning; the need to widen the turning radius coming off of US278 onto Adriana Lane; and the need to move all levels of recreation forward, not just one demographic.

Marc Orlando addressed Council noting the need to give final direction and conducted a summary of such which is listed below:

Staff will bring the Chaplin Park Master Plan to Parks and Recreation Commission in March and on to Town Council in April.

- FY25 – begin budgeting and CIP.
- Will continue to look for a 24 courts site with ample parking, seating and spectator stands.
- Will look at disaster recovery options.
- Will calibrate and balance parking along the way.
- Will have two middle school sized basketball courts and a final location.
- Will consider looking at a pool at a proper appropriate site.
- Site plan will be refined.
- Refinement of placement of restrooms and facilities.
- Traffic calming measures will be taken.
- Pricing will not be final but will be an engineer opinion of probable cost.

Staff will bring the Crossings Park Master Plan to Parks and Recreation Commission in

March and on to Town Council in April.

- FY25 – begin budgeting and CIP (inclusive of design and permitting phase which takes between four and five months to obtain a permit on works).
- Construction of a parking lot.
- Site Pan improvements (pedestrian, ADA and bike parking).
- Keep a light imprint on the wetland area.
- Less regimented vehicle parking.
- Study on street parking on Helmsman Way (angled vs. parallel).
- Pickleball Courts (increase as many as feasible).
- Addition of an outfield fence for improved playability.
- Lighting, speakers and technology improvements.

Mr. Orlando explained that once the Master Plan is approved, site planning is really the civil work and the civil work drives the permitting which drives the pricing, and it could be possible to have pickleball courts by December or this time next year if decisions can be made in April.

General Park Discussion

Shawn Colin noted with the Strategic Planning Workshop and budget development coming up in the net couple months there will be opportunities for Council to weigh in on priorities and where resources will be utilized.

He reported on completed projects and provided status reports on those that are in process.

Adjournment

The workshop was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Approved: February 20, 2024



Kimberly Gammon, Town Clerk



Alan R. Perry, Mayor

The recording of this Meeting can be found on the Town's website at www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov