



**Town of Hilton Head Island
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING
Thursday, February 8, 2024, 3:30 PM
Minutes**

1. Call to Order

Chair Zurilla called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

3. Approval of the Minutes

a. Regular Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2024.

A motion to approve the Minutes of January 11, 2024 was made by Commissioner Dowling and seconded by Commissioner Parsons. The Minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0.

4. Appearance by Citizens

Alex Cruden, President of the Hilton Head Island Pickleball Club, addressed the Commission by first reminding the Commissioners of their October 6th, 2020 motion recommending that the Town approve the Master Plan which included a twenty-four pickleball court complex to be built in Chaplin Park. Mr. Cruden described the growing need for the twenty-four pickleball court center as opposed to the separate six court increments that had been previously suggested, stating the association has grown to over 800 members. Mr. Cruden requested that the Commission consider this notion as an action item at their next meeting and recommend it be approved by the Town.

Maggie Shram, an active member of the Hilton Head Island Pickleball Club, addressed the Commission based on the initial request from Mr. Cruden regarding the need for a twenty-four court pickleball center. She went into detail by explaining the growing number of tennis players converting to pickleball as well as the benefit of the socialization for the elderly individuals taking part in the club in which she explained cannot take place effectively if the courts are spread throughout the island as opposed to the one center option being proposed.

5. Reports

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

Mr. Soule provided several updates on all facilities and programs offered at the Island Recreation Center, including adult soccer, family fishing, archery, E-Gaming and

swimming. Mr. Soule also touched on the Island Recreation Center Newsletter and a few remodeling items as well as the plan for a rock wall to be installed. The Island Recreation Center is also offering Pickleball clinics and has been working with Pockets Full of Sunshine on reduced rate packages for the fitness center. Mr. Soule also briefly mentioned the pool dome which is set to come down in March and discussed the high retention rate for the fitness center.

6. Unfinished Business

7. New Business

8. Updates

a. Staff Report - Bryan McIlwee, Director of Public Projects & Facilities

Bryan McIlwee explained that Town Council completed a Workshop on June 14th, 2023 in which they discussed the Master Plans for Chaplin Park and Crossings Park. The discussion, which included the proposals for pickleball courts as well as general park updates.

Mr. McIlwee explained that the Chaplin Park Master Plan proposes six pickleball courts. He stated that he would be bringing the proposal back to the consultants for discussion in light of the desire for additional courts.

Town Council was in support of the Crossings Park Master Plan which proposes twelve pickleball courts along Arrow Road. Consultants are evaluating the possibility for eighteen courts in this location.

The updated Master Plans will be presented to the Commissioners at their next meeting for review.

He went on to state that he has submitted the CIP budget to the Assistant Town Manager which does not include many new items, but instead more funds to be allocated to construction to move forward with parks that have already been approved such as Taylor Family Park, Patterson Family Park, Islanders Park and the next phase of Shelter Cove.

9. Park Commissioner Comments

The Commissioners had a lengthy discussion about the twenty-four court pickleball center as well as the process of recommending this notion to Town Council. Commissioners asked that the Chaplin and Crossings Master Plans and any other relevant material be presented to them ahead of their next meeting in order to make motion regarding the center.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was declared adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Approved: March 14, 2024

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