



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

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 PM. Those present were: William A. Zurilla, Chairman; John G. Parsons, Vice-Chairman; Thomas Dowling; Christina Kristian; Michael Manesiotis; Jack Daly; and Charlie Quigg.

2. Pledge to the Flag

3. Approval of the Minutes

a. Regular Meeting Minutes of February 8, 2024

Chairman Zurilla noted changes needed to the minutes of the February 8, 2024 meeting. Upon motion by Mr Quigg, seconded by Mr. Dowling, the minutes as corrected, of the February 8, 2024, meeting were approved. The motion was passed unanimously.

4. Appearance by Citizens

Public comments concerning agenda items were submitted electronically via the Open Town Hall Portal, and these comments have been provided to the Commission Members and are attached to the minutes.

Paul Elders commented on the increased traffic at the Singleton Beach intersection due to improvements being made at Chaplin Park, and urged that speed bumps or additional traffic signs would be helpful for pedestrian and bicycle safety. He indicated his support for location of pickleball courts at the interior of Chaplin Park as opposed to locating them at the wetlands behind the parking overflow.

5. Reports

a. Bike Walk Hilton Head Island - Frank Babel

Frank Babel, from Bike Walk Hilton Head, provided a detailed background of the bike path system in Hilton Head Island from how it evolved in 1970 to the present day. He explained how the Bicycle Advisory Committee, now Bike Walk Hilton Head Island, was founded with the mission to make Hilton Head Island safer and more bike friendly, and the continuing progress made since then with the help of the Town and Chamber of Commerce. Since 2011, he reported the Town has received three Gold Level Bike Friendly Community Awards - one every four years. He outlined the economic impact to

the community that is derived from this designation and plans for the future to become a Platinum Level Bike Friendly Community by 2027 - the Pathways to Platinum. Although he acknowledged there are budget challenges to face, he outlined the future planning of an expanded bike path system along Main Street, within the US 278 Bridge Corridor Project, and within existing and future park areas. Mr. Babel indicated a need for a robust bike etiquette and bike safety program for the Island, and an acceptance from the community of the value of the growing number of E-Bikes. He expressed his thanks for the continued support of elected officials and a dedicated and knowledgeable Town staff.

Questions and concerns from the Commission members were addressed by Mr. Babel.

6. Unfinished Business

7. New Business

a. Crossings Park Master Plan - Bryan McIlwee, Director of Public Projects & Facilities

Bryan McIlwee, Director of Public Projects & Facilities, presented for review the Master Plan for redevelopment of Crossings Park, which included a background of Crossings Park and Bristol Sports Arena and numerous refinements recommended based on input from Town Council and the community, as shown on the Staff Report Memo and Master Plan included in the Agenda packet. Staff is recommending a review of the Master Plan for redevelopment of Crossings Park by the Commission and that a recommendation of approval be made to Town Council. Comments received at this meeting will be used to prepare a Final Master Plan for presentation to Town Council in April, and upon approval by Town Council, the design and permitting of the park will begin through the remainder of the year into 2025, as permitting with the State is taking 6-9 months depending on the impact.

Comments were made by the Commission members and questions were addressed by Mr. McIlwee and Sean Colin, Assistant Town Manager - Community Development. A motion was made by Mr. Daly and seconded by Mr. Manesiotes to recommend to Town Council the approval of the Crossings Park Master Plan, with the following conditions: making the largest ball field 2 a minimum of 320 feet, to make it regulation size; and that a complex of 22-24 pickleball courts be included. The motion was passed unanimously.

A member of the Hilton Head Island Pickleball Club commented on the need for a world-class pickleball complex that is nationally recognized, and a discussion followed.

b. Chaplin Park Master Plan - Bryan McIlwee, Director of Public Projects & Facilities

Bryan McIlwee, Director of Public Projects & Facilities, presented for review the Master Plan for redevelopment of Chaplin Community Park, which included a background of the Town's largest and most diversified public park space, and outlined the numerous refinements recommended based on input from Town Council and the community, as shown on the Staff Report Memo and Master Plan included in the agenda packet. Staff is recommending a review of the Master Plan for redevelopment of Chaplin Community

Park by the Commission and that a recommendation of approval be made to Town Council. Comments received at this meeting will be used to prepare a Final Master Plan for presentation to Town Council in April, and upon approval by Town Council, the design and permitting of the park will begin through the remainder of the year into 2025.

Comments were made by the Commission members and questions were addressed by Mr. McIlwee. Comments from the public were made and discussed among the Commission members. A motion was made by Mr. Parsons, seconded by Ms. Kristian to recommend to Town Council the approval of the Chaplin Community Park Master Plan, with the following conditions: if possible, pickleball courts be limited to 6. The motion was passed unanimously.

c. FY25 CIP Discussion - Bryan McIlwee, Director of Public Projects & Facilities

Bryan McIlwee, Director of Public Projects & Facilities, presented the list of projects that Staff is recommending be included in the fiscal year 2025 budget. He explained that the Parks and Recreation Commission has the authority to recommend to the Planning Commission those projects it determines as priorities for inclusion in the FY2025 budget. The Planning Commission then makes a recommendation to Town Council for the projects to be included, with Town Council having the final authority to vote on those projects to include in the FY2025 budget. He outlined in detail the proposed list for projects related to parks and recreation, including beach; pathway; park projects; general park enhancements; capital projects for Island Recreation Association, Coastal Discovery Museum and Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park; and addition of security cameras and connectivity. All projects and the scope of each is shown on a Staff Report Memo, which is included in the agenda packet.

Comments and questions from the Commission Members were addressed by Mr. McIlwee. A motion was made by Mr. Daly and seconded by Mr. Parsons to recommend to the Planning Commission that the list of projects presented pertaining to parks and recreation be included in the FY2025 budget, with the condition that the South Forest Beach ocean pathway project be included in the FY2025 budget. The motion was passed unanimously.

8. Updates

Mr. Parsons noted that the Town-Owned Property Dashboard located on the Town website has a complete list of Town-owned properties, restrictions, what can and can't be built, date acquired and purchase price. He reported that he would be working with Staff to present a more detailed report at a future meeting. Suggestions for the report were made by Chairman Zurilla.

9. Park Commissioner Comments

The Chairman and Commissioners thanked Mr. McIlwee and his staff for their hard work on all these projects, which will be wonderful enhancements to the community.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was declared adjourned at 5:37 PM.

Approved: April 11, 2024

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