



**Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina
Recreation Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 20, 2026**

A. Call to Order & Freedom of Information Act Requirements:

The Recreation Committee of Council met at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, July 20, 2026 at Town Hall, all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act having been satisfied. Present were Council Committee members Melanie Burkhold (Chair), Ned Higgins, and Justin Novak. Staff members present were Jason Blanton, Charles Drayton, Rebecca Fanning, Amanda Hawver, Fire Chief Anthony Stith, Bridget Welch, and Max Wurthmann. There were two (2) members of the public and no (0) members of the media present.

B. Chair Melanie Burkhold called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., and stated the press and public were duly notified pursuant to State Law.

C. New Business (Discussion and Action Items)

1. Approval of June 22, 2026, Recreation Committee meeting minutes

Motion was made by Ned Higgins, seconded by Melanie Burkhold, to approve the June 22, 2026 Recreation Committee meeting minutes, passed 2-0, with Justin Novak abstaining.

2. Discussion and update, possible action on Stith Park storm drainage plan

Chair Burkhold displayed a Thomas & Hutton 2016 Technical Memorandum for the Mound at Stith Park, which included documentation of extensive stormwater runoff and erosion and recommended mitigation measures. Jason Blanton clarified that there were steps taken to improve erosion on the south side of the Mound, including establishing vegetation for stabilization and blocking it off to foot traffic for a time. Chair Burkhold referenced the #1, #5, and #6 (erosion blanket, drainage system on top of the mound with outfalls to the west, south and east, and wheat straw rolls) which were the top recommendations that the town did not implement. Chair Burkhold stated that the current drainage plan was based on the site conditions as they were, not the conditions today with the Palmetto log fort, asphalt walkway and vegetation clearing on the west side, asphalt driveway, and parking spaces. She stated concern that these new impervious surfaces did not trigger the Town's stormwater ordinance. She would like Thomas & Hutton to do another stormwater study of the area at a cost of \$10,800. Thomas &

Hutton sent an email stating based on observation; the pipes will accommodate the new structures, but Chair Burkhold feels that is not sufficient.

Councilmember Higgins stated he is comfortable with moving forward based on the answer received from Mark Yodice of Thomas & Hutton, which said the log fort and ADA spaces will not have a significant impact on the overall stormwater drainage plan for Stith Park.

Councilmember Novak agreed, stating Thomas & Hutton are providing the oversight, signed off on it, and would be responsible and does not see the need to spend \$10,800 on an analysis.

Chair Burkhold stated that taxpayers would be responsible for any change orders or a system that requires additional maintenance, and that the plan needs to be done correctly. Chair Burkhold stated concerns about the Town not following its own stormwater rules.

Councilmember Novak stated that the stormwater ordinance applies to the RS district, and the mound is not zoned RS. Director of Planning and Zoning Charles Drayton stated that the stormwater section is in the general language and applies to all zoning districts.

Director of Planning and Zoning Charles Drayton stated he believes there is a stormwater plan for the area that has been approved by Council. Councilmember Novak asked Mr. Drayton if there is a stormwater plan, and the zoning director stated that would be his understanding.

Public Comment:

- Laura Schroeder, resident – stated that if she was building a home and then added additional impervious surfaces, she would be required to submit another stormwater plan. She stated that is how she sees this. The assumptions changed after the stormwater plan. She stated she is in support in spending \$10,000, less than 1% of the total project cost, agreed with Chair Burkhold that before we spend 1.1 million, the stormwater drainage needs to be adequate.

Chair Burkhold stated that she wants it to be known that she has been an advocate for the drainage plan, didn't approve the budget overall but was supportive of the allocation of \$1.1 million towards this project. She stated that the original plan for the fort was to have gravel and now there has been vegetative clearing and asphalt. She supports spending \$10,800 to perform due diligence, and for the money to come from the Recreation budget.

Motion was made by Chair Burkhold to amend the previous motion on June 22, 2026 to recommend Sea Island Land Development for the Stith Park drainage and landscape berm contingent on the following: to implement the Addendum to the Sullivan's Island/Stith Park drainage improvements dated July 10, 2025 with the following revisions: Scope of work to include the top of the Mound and west side; Scope of services: Part A to include the south, east, and west sides of the Mound; Scope of services to include Part B: Any

recommendations or mitigation measures in the addendum shall explicitly revisit, reference, and build upon the findings and analysis of the Thomas & Hutton Technical memorandum dated November 10, 2016, which may assist the Town in meeting the requirements of the Stormwater Ordinance. Motion failed with no second.

Motion was made by Justin Novak, seconded by Ned Higgins, to recommend the contractor Sea Island (Land Development) without the contingencies expressed and move this forward to Council, passed 2-1, with Chair Burkhold opposing.

Chair Burkhold is opposed because she finds it not very responsible to not follow up on our own stormwater plan moving this forward with no contingencies.

3. Discussion and possible action of opening the Town Hall parking to the public after hours and on the weekends

Chair Burkhold reviewed the sign wording and proposed adding a second sign to the same pole overnight parking policies. Mr. Higgins would like to see where the signs will be located before recommending them to Council. There was further discussion about the wording and locations, as well as adding a sign for Water & Sewer employee parking.

4. Discussion and possible action on the wording of the signs for the Town Hall parking

Motion was made by Chair Burkhold, seconded by Justin Novak, to recommend to Town Council tomorrow night, July 21, 2026, new parking hours: the main parking lot, official town business and employee parking only from 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, public parking after 6:00 p.m. all day weekends and holidays; no overnight parking, violators will be towed at vehicle owner's expense, and the back gravel area public parking anytime, public parking for the Palmetto Log Fort, Town Hall, Town facilities, and Park use; passed 2-1, no overnight parking, violators will be towed at vehicle owner's expense, with Ned Higgins opposing.

5. Discussion of adding eight golf cart parking spaces in front of the restrooms at Town Hall

Chair Burkhold stated safety is her first concern and she would like the idea to be considered but to keep discussing it for now. She said it would need to be clearly designated as a parking area and suggested widening the entrance area.

6. Discussion of cleaning, painting, and replacing the rotten wood on the historic bandstand

The Committee would like to see estimates on costs of improvements needed on the Bandstand.

7. Discussion in developing a "wish-list" for the parks where people can donate an approved picnic table, bench, etc...

Some suggestions included benches, tables, and springer dolphins.

8. Discussion of adding a “Booboo box” (Little library but filled with band aids) to the Tot Lot, donation

Ali Berney from the LENS foundation suggested this and will be built by resident Eric Brooks. The box will not have any medication inside and will be at least six feet away from play equipment.

Public Comment:

- Laura Schroeder, resident – suggested adding a sign that tells people not to add anything to the box and provide a contact number for any issues.

Councilmember Novak asked Fire Chief Anthony Stith for his opinion of the Boobox, and the Chief suggested running it by the Town attorney before installation. Councilmember Novak agreed.

9. Discussion of extending the fence at cove Inlet Bridge, raising the two benches to allow views and maintenance

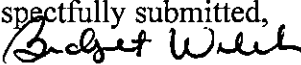
The current view at the Cove Inlet Bridge is blocked due to the height of the benches and there was discussion about seeing what can be done about changing either the bench or the fence. Chair Burkhold suggested extending the fence so people do not go into private property to fish. Mr. Novak asked Mr. Drayton to provide property lines at the next meeting before making a decision. Chair Burkhold would also like Rebecca Fanning to provide a maintenance plan for the area and then discuss options moving forward.

D. Old Business (Staff update available)

E. Public Comment

F. Adjournment

Motion was made by Chair Burkhold, seconded by Ned Higgins, to adjourn at 10:53 a.m., passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget Welch