



**Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina
Recreation Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 19, 2021**

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

The Recreation Committee of Council met at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 19, 2021 at Town Hall, all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act having been satisfied. Present were Council Committee members Kaye Smith (Chair), Greg Hammond and Justin Novak. Staff members present were Administrator Andy Benke, Amanda Hawver, Chief Anthony Stith, Randy Robinson, and Bridget Welch. There were two members of the audience.

Chair Kaye Smith called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m., and stated the press and public were duly notified pursuant to State Law.

II. The list of items below was reviewed and discussed:

A. Christmas Fireworks 2021:

Chair Smith requested to finalize the date, discuss the fireworks contract and decide on any COVID restrictions for the event. Chief Stith stated the event will take place on Friday, December 3, 2021, with the Wando Chorus performing at 6:00 p.m. and fireworks will immediately follow at dusk. Mr. Benke stated the contract is finalized for the first weekend in December for the same price as the previous year. This year will not have Santa Claus or pizza.

B. Possible Park/Recreation Capital Improvement Projects:

Chairman Smith would like to discuss and prioritize project options for the park and recreation ahead of the financial meeting.

1. Mound Drainage-there is no estimate as to how much the project will cost. Chair Smith asked for a time estimate and what needs to be done before an engineer can come survey the project, specifically for drainage. Mr. Benke stated the Fire Station build is a 14 month project and is projected to finish in October 2022. He also mentioned the Water and Sewer projects should be finishing by the end of November

2021, and the field opening is anticipated as the end of October 2021. The drainage will mainly focus on the field area at the base of the hill. Mr. Benke continued by saying the engineer would need to focus on how to get water moved to the ditch on the eastern property line. It may be possible to add dirt to the bottom of the southwest base of the mound to redirect water. Chair Smith confirmed the first order of business is to have an Engineering study done and asked how this would be paid for. Mr. Benke suggested it could possibly come out of the 2020 Bond allowance, from the American Rescue Plan money, or from the General Fund. Mr. Benke suggested that a proposal be created as soon as possible to present to Town Council.

Councilmember Novak and Chair Smith inquired about whether or not other drainage projects could be incorporated into the mound project, but it will most likely be a stand alone issue due to the scope.

Chair Smith requested a rough estimate for the entire project, which was not provided, as it will need to take the engineer's findings into consideration.

2. Pickleball Courts-Requests have been made from residents for additional pickleball courts on the Island. Mr. Glassburn (a resident) was there to give some information on the background and reasons for these court requests. He provided a short presentation laying out a plan for potential pickleball specific courts. The courts are currently shared with tennis courts, creating some friction and wait times between pickleball and tennis players. One concern is how additional courts will affect parking. They are also open to other locations or converting a current tennis court.

Councilmember Hammond agrees the courts are a good idea but would like to have some public opinion on the matter. Councilmember Novak also agrees it is worth considering but would like to know a bit more about how this will affect traffic and if adding impervious surface to the Island will affect water drainage. All agree that lights would not be necessary, and Chair Smith would like to consider making the parking golf-cart only.

Mr. Robinson suggested putting drainage underneath the courts as an option. Mr. Benke reminded everyone that they will need to go through the storm water process before any courts can be installed.

The consensus is that is an idea worth pursuing and will be presented to Town Council at some point. Mr. Glassburn and the committee agree input from residents is needed, as well as a more in-depth look into if the drainage could be a positive addition for the Town. All agreed to add it to the budget.

3. Tot Lot and Tot Lot Fencing-Chair Smith feels the park needs some improvement to better serve residents. She suggested EarthScope Company as a possibility, which combines several playground materials to build a set best suited for the area. Councilmembers Hammond and Novak suggested taking a fair amount of funds available to overhaul the playground, as there is currently a surplus in the budget. The committee feels this will be a significant improvement for kids on the Island, as well as a way to keep attracting young families.

Motion was made by Councilmember Greg Hammond that the Recreation committee will recommend to Council that we move forward with comprehensive plans for the park, seconded by Councilmember Justin Novak, carried unanimously.

There is a bid to fix the current fence at the playground. Improvements will include making it sturdier and make it so people cannot climb on it. For safety reasons, Councilmember Novak suggested making the improvements to the fence prior to creating a comprehensive park plan. Mr. Robinson stated the fence estimate will be around \$11,000 and will be sturdier because it is a commercial grade fence, as opposed to the current residential grade fence. Councilmember Novak suggested a few more proposals for the fence be drawn up while waiting on a timeline for the comprehensive park plan.

III. Adjournment:

Motion was made by Councilmember Greg Hammond, seconded by Councilmember Justin Novak, to adjourn at 9:18 a.m., carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Bridget Welch