



Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina
Recreation Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 10, 2026

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

The Recreation Committee of Council met at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 10, 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, Rebecca Fanning, Town Administrator Joe Henderson, Amanda Hawver, Fire Chief Anthony Stith, Bridget Welch, and Max Wurthmann. There were four (4) members of the public and no (0) members of the media present.

B. Chair Melanie Burkhold called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m., and stated the press and public were duly notified pursuant to State Law.

C. Presentation: Thomas and Hutton Sith Park engineering plan (Mark Yodice)

Mark Yodice, Thomas and Hutton reviewed the stormwater drainage plan for Stith Park, specifically the proposed parking area near the tennis courts. He presented a few different options and their projected costs for the Committee to consider moving forward. The first is adding a storm pipe with an outfall at the marsh that would include a bioswale and would add roughly \$170,00 to the stormwater project. The second is to pipe it directly with filters with no cost increase, and the last is to add a "bio-area" that includes a small body of water nearby, at an additional projected cost of \$180,000. He also mentioned the possibility of adding a landscape berm near the wastewater treatment plant that would potentially cost between \$153,000- \$155,000. Ms. Burkhold clarified the cost of berm which is \$53,000.

The proposed parking lot has two ADA spaces and 17 golf-cart only spaces, with a projected added cost of \$170,000. An existing fire hydrant and power pole would both have to be relocated, potentially costing \$150,000. For this plan, approximately 12 parking spaces along Middle Street would also be removed to comply with SC DOT requirements. It has also been suggested to create parallel ADA parking along Middle Street, which would require a permit

from SC DOT, some sidewalk reconfiguring, possibly landscape removal, and the loss of three to four regular parking spots. Estimated costs for this option are \$40,000-\$48,000. He then took questions from the Committee.

Fire Chief Anthony Stith voiced support for the golf-cart/ADA lot and stated he would prefer there to be no street parking from Station 22 to Station 21 at all. Mr. Novak suggested adding an ADA compliant path to the playground from the existing Town Hall ADA spaces and having all the new spaces for golf-carts. There was further discussion from the Committee and Chief Stith, as well as input from the audience. Names and addresses were not given by the audience comments, nor did anyone sign up.

Chair Burkhold requested an estimate on the newly proposed plan from Mr. Yodice and also to reach out to the businesses that will be affected by losing parking spaces.

Motion was made by Justin Novak, seconded by Ned Higgins, to recommend doing only golf-cart parking there on the gravel lot, recapturing those two ADA spaces and setting the ADA spaces behind Town Hall, in order to avoid all of these issues. Votes were not taken.

Motion was made by Melanie Burkhold, seconded by Ned Higgins, that we get some numbers from Thomas and Hutton concerning just a golf-cart parking space, that we utilize the parking spaces behind Town Hall, that we would confirm the number of spaces along Middle Street, as well as notify appropriate businesses and surrounding neighbors of this change. Votes were not taken.

Mr. Novak restated his original motion:

Motion was made by Justin Novak, seconded by Ned Higgins, to get a plan and costs for the golf-cart only gravel lot at the location, as well as the ADA spaces behind Town Hall, and recommend that Thomas and Hutton do that and bring it back to us for consideration on an expedited basis, if possible, passed unanimously.

Mr. Yodice then discussed the landscape berm and provided imagery. Director of Resilience and Natural Resource Management Rebecca Fanning gave detailed growth projection and information for the landscape planned. The estimated cost is \$53,000 and Mr. Yodice will provide a more detailed budget. He then took questions from the Committee.

Mr. Yodice presented more details about each stormwater plan discussed earlier and took questions from the Committee. Each of these options are add-ons in addition to the overall \$1.3 million drainage plans. These all also include cleaning out the Town-owned ditch

running alongside the right of the field. Ms. Fanning spoke more about the bio-retention area option, which the Recreation Committee decided to go with last fall. She also addressed water-quality concerns that had been brought up by residents. Mr. Yodice again went over the three options and took questions from the Committee.

Mr. Henderson stated they would like to move forward with choosing a plan at the February Town Council meeting to factor in the costs to the FY2027 Capital Budget. The first ready for the Capital Budget is set for April 2026.

Motion was made by Justin Novak, seconded by Ned Higgins, for the Recreation Committee to recommend that Thomas & Hutton present option two and option three to Town Council at the February meeting without a recommendation from the Recreation Committee on either option, so Council can decide how best to proceed, passed unanimously.

Mr. Yodice stated he does not anticipate the entire being closed during the construction, just sections at a time.

D. New Business (Discussion and Action Items)

1. Update on Stith Park Tot Lot, drainage and gold cart parking:
 - Thomas & Hutton will oversee engineering, bids, and construction
 - Implementing annual safety inspections of play structures at Stith and Poe parks by Just For Fun Playgrounds, LLC
 - Painting the little white house in the Tot Lot, needs some repair and cleaning
 - Clarification on park benches
 - Location of the tire swing to be replaced with infant swings because they block the entrance
 - Repairing the gates at the Tot Lot
 - Discussion of park closure during the drainage work at Stith Park
 - Discussion of four additional certified mats for under the swings for safety criteria for Poe Avenue Park

Chair Burkhold recommend having annual safety inspections from Just For Fun Playgrounds, LLC for \$325 per park.

Motion was made by Melanie Burkhold, seconded by Justin Novak, that Just For Fun Playgrounds does annual safety inspections at the park, at both Stith and Poe Parks, passed unanimously.

Mr. Henderson stated Chief Stith and his team do quarterly safety inspections on all playground equipment as per insurance requirements, but this would be a good additional measure.

With the \$2,850 saved on mulch, Mr. Henderson recommended installing more benches in the Tot Lot, and Chair Burkhold also requested four mats, a swinging bench, and two round-back benches.

Motion was made by Justin Novak, seconded by Ned Higgins, to allocate the \$2,850 credit from the mulch to seating in the Tot Lot to be determined by staff in coordination with Marcus of Just For Fun Playgrounds, passed unanimously.

Mr. Henderson stated the self-latching gates have been retrofitted and are working and that the small white house has been cleaned and will be painted soon.

E. Old Business (Staff update available)

F. Pending Items (Discussion/ Action not required)

G. Public Comment:

H. Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. Novak, seconded by Chair Higgins, to adjourn at 11:55 a.m., passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Bridget Welch