



**Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina
Recreation Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 17, 2024**

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

The Recreation Committee of Council met at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at Town Hall, all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act have been satisfied. Present were Council Committee members Ned Higgins (Chair), Jody Latham, and Justin Novak. Staff members present were Jason Blanton, Rebecca Fanning, Town Administrator Joe Henderson, Amanda Hawver, Fire Chief Anthony Stith, and Bridget Welch. There were three (3) members of the public.

Chair Ned Higgins called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m., and stated the press and public were duly notified pursuant to State Law.

II. Discussion of Stith Park Master Plan:

a. Review of the problems at Stith Park

- i. Flooding**
- ii. Playgrounds need update**
- iii. Park has not had regular maintenance and should, moving forward**
- iv. Residents are concerned about costs**
- v. Moms would like a tot playground to separate from 5-12yo playground**

Justin Novak spoke about how the idea for updating the park came about around 2021 and how Thomas & Hutton got involved. Desire for a community gathering center, along with updated playground equipment and grounds, was expressed by residents and Council members. There was money available from bond surplus funds which had a time limit for its use. Fixing the flooding in the park was the first priority when considering how to move forward with creating a master plan. Mr. Novak expressed his support for the progress made so far and spoke about his personal desire to see the park improved and the best way to go about doing it. He would like to see some progress on making decisions about flooding, site work, hardscapes, and parking areas. More specific details about playground equipment, etc, can be made later.

Jody Latham agreed with the points made above and feels parking is an important issue, alongside fixing drainage. Ms. Lathan and Chair Higgins were unsure about the need for hardscaping, so Mr. Novak explained his vision more. He feels it would be best for the budget as well as accessibility during construction to focus on hardscaping during construction for drainage. They both feel the tot park should get more attention and Chair Higgins would like it to stay in its current location. Ms. Latham suggested maintaining the tot lot and having tennis courts that can also be used for pickle ball courts.

b. Discussion on how Town can move forward in light of these problems

III. Public Input

- Melanie Burkhold, 1660 Atlantic Ave – would like the tot lot to stay in its current location and focus on renovating it and making it safer. Also questioned were additional funds for drainage and park improvements. Suggested having maintenance staff work on clearing out the bamboo forest.
- Barbara Spell, 1702 Atlantic Ave – is pleased with today’s agenda and thinks the Committee should focus on what residents want. Also feels the tot lot should not be moved or a grove created. There is concern about committing future Town Councils to plans that are approved by the current Council of the construction is done in phases.

Motion was made by Mr. Novak, seconded by Ms. Latham, that the Recreation Committee instruct Town staff to begin the RFP process to seek a request for proposal on the construction documents, the drainage sitework, the parking sitework, and the hardscape sitework as set forth in the conceptual plan phased out spreadsheet

Mr. Novak stated the motion would allow staff to find companies that could help the plans move forward and does not mean the Town is committed to the conceptual plans that they currently have. Town Administrator Joe Henderson confirmed and stated anything over \$50,000 requires a sealed bid and will use the design-build method of construction.

Motion was made by Mr. Novak, seconded by Ms. Latham, to amend his first motion, passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Mr. Novak, seconded by Ms. Latham, to amend the motion on the table to direct Town Staff to put together an RFP for the construction documents sitework, drainage sitework, parking, landscape, hardscape information for presentation to Council, passed unanimously.

IV. Adjournment:

Motion was made by Councilmember Latham, seconded by Councilmember Novak, to adjourn at 11:00 a.m., passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Bridget Welch