



Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina
Recreation Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 2, 2021

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

The Recreation Committee of Council met at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 2, 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, Joe Henderson, Jason Blanton, and Bridget Welch. There were ten (10) members of the public.

Chair Kaye Smith called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m., and stated the press and public were duly notified pursuant to State Law.

II. Public Comments:

The following were opposed to the installation of pickle ball courts at Poe Park:

- Cynthia Garland, 2 Citadel Street
- Bill Garland, 2 Citadel Street
- Bill Harwell, 1751 I'On Avenue

The following had concerns about how the pickle ball issue was advertised:

- Barbara Spell, 1702 Atlantic Avenue

The following were in support of installing pickle ball courts:

- Michael Borland, 1607 Atlantic Avenue
- Amanda Poletti, 1771 Atlantic Avenue
- Donivon Glassburn, 1738 Middle Street
- Kimberly Brown, 2018 Pettigrew Street

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

A. Status of Tennis Court Lighting, Engineers Illumination Plan and Resurfacing:

Mr. Benke stated engineers are currently working at an LED lighting package for the courts and will give an estimate hopefully by the next Council workshop. Chair Kaye Smith confirmed the court resurfacing will be done once the lighting construction is complete. She also brought up the concern of algae at the courts at Poe Park. Mr. Benke mentioned possibly power-washing the courts to address this issue.

B. Status of Mound:

Chair Kaye Smith mentioned the contractor has made a lot of changes regarding maintenance of the Mound and there is still not a definite contract or timeline for its completion.

C. Farmer's Market 2022:

Chair Kaye Smith mentioned past issues with having the market due to COVID-19, as well as difficulty in finding farmers to provide fresh vegetables to sell. She suggested possibly changing the format of market and having a combination of crafts and food. She also questioned having it with all the ongoing construction in the Town.

Councilmember Novak stated he feels it would be beneficial to offer it to community as an outdoor event. Chair Kaye Smith agreed and suggested considering moving to a monthly basis, rather than weekly. The goal is to start next Spring.

D. Status of Park Drainage Engineering Study:

Mr. Benke discussed the history of the stormwater drainage in the park and stated the current system of a buried PVC pipe is not effective as the pipe is not in good condition. Moving forward, it would need to be determined if replacing the pipe and upgrading the outfall would be a feasible solution to the flooding issue in Stith Park. Step One of a Master Plan would need to first address drainage, before updating the Tot Lot or any other improvements.

E. Status of Trash and Recycle Bins:

Mr. Benke stated they should be delivered the upcoming week and they had been shipped on December 1.

F. Pickle Ball Courts:

There was discussion about areas for the possibility of installing pickle ball courts on the Island. There are few areas available that are not on the historic registry and are owned by the Town.

Chair Kaye Smith does not feel it is necessary to create another recreation area, in addition to the two the Town currently has. Councilmember Hammond stated he does not agree that Stith Park is the “easy” solution and careful consideration should be put into decided where, if at all, courts should be installed.

Mr. Benke mentioned the three vacant lots between Middle Street and Thompson near Station 17 are not historical and are currently listed as residential lots that could potentially be sold in the future. The same is true for the lots in front of Citadel Park, they are not a designated recreation area. There are more town-owned residential lots near Station 15, by the Fish Fry Shack.

The committee stated none of the members on the committee are pickleball players. It was also stated these plans are still conceptual and discussions are being had about whether pickle ball courts will even be installed. There are no current concrete plans or funds dedicated to installing courts.

G. Master Plan for Stith Park:

Mr. Benke suggested conducting a study of Stith Park to determine what needs and can be done in terms of a refurbishment, similar to the study that was done at the commercial district. Along with power, security, and others, stormwater issues would be a major focal point of the study. The committee agrees a Master Plan is the best first step for a park renovation, which would include the possibility of pickle ball court installation. This will be proposed, as well as a request for an RFP, to Council to discuss further at the December 6, 2021 Workshop meeting.

IV. Adjournment:

Motion was made by Councilmember Justin Novak, seconded by Chair Kaye Smith, to adjourn at 9:37 a.m., carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Bridget Welch