



**Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina
Recreation Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 8, 2025**

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

The Recreation Committee of Council met at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at Town Hall, all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act having been satisfied. Present were Council Committee members Ned Higgins (Chair), Jody Latham, and Justin Novak. Staff members present were Jason Blanton, Nehemiah Clarke, Charles Drayton, Rebecca Fanning, Town Administrator Joe Henderson, Amanda Hawver, Fire Chief Anthony Stith, and Bridget Welch. There were two (2) members of the public.

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

B. Approval of the minutes from the December 17, 2024 meeting

Motion was made by Ms. Latham, seconded by Mr. Novak, to approve the December 17, 2024 meeting minutes, passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Mr. Novak, seconded by Ms. Latham, to amend the agenda to move Mr. Walsh's agenda item up to the top, passed unanimously.

C. Discussion and Action Items

1. Update on Stith Park drainage and golf cart parking:

- **Thomas & Hutton will oversee engineering, bids and construction**

The Town received proposals and will present them to Council during the April meeting in Executive Session.

Public Input:

- **Barbara Spell, 1702 Atlantic Ave – expressed concerns about parking and construction laydown area during any park renovations, citing safety and aesthetic issues. Requested Council to consider alternate areas and that no trees be removed.**

Mr. Henderson stated no decisions have been made about this area and that Thomas & Hutton will address that with their engineering plans. He also said when CWS was doing construction in the same area, they were required to protect any oak trees in the area so cutting down trees is unlikely.

- **Awaiting the first step – engineering**

2. SC250:

- **Hope to get input from Mike Walsh**

Mike Walsh from the Battery Gadsden Cultural Center spoke about event options for the SC250 celebration and would like to hear more suggestions. He thinks a kick-off event would be a good idea but does not feel one would be ready in time for the actual SC250 start, which is May 9, 2025. He also mentioned past events for Carolina Day and how they could be incorporated in the future. Mr. Novak and Ms. Latham provided input, and both agree the Town should be involved with these celebrations. Mr. Walsh mentioned it was unlikely the events would be able to be held at Fort Moultrie and having events on Town-owned property is a better possibility. Mr. Henderson suggested reaching out to the SC250 state committee for assistance.

Public Input:

- Barbara Spell, 1602 Atlantic Avenue – suggested creating a Sullivan’s Island volunteer group and asked about possible funding.

Mr. Henderson stated the Town has allocated \$50,000 in the Capital budget for events related to SC250. Mr. Walsh stated people can find more information about SC250 on Battery Gadsden’s website at www.batterygadsden.org.

3. Pocket Parks:

Suggestions have been made to potentially use some of the Town-owned properties around the Island to create small areas for people to view the marsh. Chair Higgins expressed interest in an empty lot down near Star of the West.

- **Hope to get input from Mark Howard**
- **Explore pilot project at west tip of the Island**

Mr. Drayton gave an overview of available parcels that could be converted into a pocket park, also known as station stub-outs. He showed where pocket parks are mentioned in the Comprehensive Plan and stated they have applied for an \$8,000 grant to fund the first park, if the plan moves forward. Fire Chief Anthony Stith mentioned the parcel on Star of the West was the former site of a public boat landing. All members of the Committee are interested in exploring the idea. Mr. Novak feels due diligence should be done regarding how it impacts the surrounding

property owners, cost, maintenance, etc. and also thinks they should focus on one to start with and see how it goes. Chair Higgins advised staff to begin due diligence on the Middle Street area and Mr. Henderson stated staff can present a site plan to the Recreation Committee and if a formal plan is made, it will be presented to Council. The site plan will be made with input from all the Department heads.

4. Pickleball Courts:

- **Update and enhance what we have, before new courts built**
- **Poe Park – redraw lines, patch worn areas, or resurface the whole court**
- **Should the Town provide nets?**
- **Put regular court maintenance into the Town’s five-year plan**

Chair Higgins feels the Town should focus on repairing and enhancing what we already have before installing any new courts. Mr. Henderson presented photos of the current conditions of the courts and stated resurfacing is recommended every six years and ours have not been done in over ten. He said the initial quote for this work is around \$25,000 and there is a line item for park maintenance in the current operating budget that could fund it.

Motion was made by Mr. Novak, seconded by Ms. Latham, to recommend to full Council that the resurfacing and restriping of the tennis courts at Poe Avenue be undertaken, passed unanimously.

Chair Higgins asked about the possibility of the Town providing moveable Pickleball nets for the public to use. Mr. Henderson stated he would put together a budget for this possibility. Mr. Novak requested taking a closer look at all that would be involved with providing these nets, nothing they are not fixed structures like the current tennis nets.

5. Tennis backboard

- **Open discussion on preserving this well used structure**
- **Offer possible extra pickleball court in the future, at minimal cost**

Chair Higgins stated the tennis backboard is used frequently and would like to see it preserved rather than it being removed and/or being converted fully into a Pickleball court. Ms. Latham supported the idea of keeping the backboard. Mr. Novak encouraged the Committee and residents to look back on past discussions that were had about this topic to keep in consideration.

D. Public Input

E. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bridget Welch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bridget Welch