



Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina
Recreation Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Friday, August 23, 2024

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

The Recreation Committee of Council met at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, August 23, 2024 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, Charles Drayton, Rebecca Fanning, Greg Gress, Town Administrator Joe Henderson, Amanda Hawver, Fire Chief Anthony Stith, Bridget Welch, and Max Wurthmann. There were twelve (12) members of the public.

Chair Ned Higgins called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., and stated the press and public were duly notified pursuant to State Law.

II. Discussion of Stith Park Master Plan:

a. Review Options

b. Discussion on how Town could proceed

John Winters and Samantah Myzel from Thomas and Hutton presented the Stith Park Master Plan, going over the various objectives they had while drafting the plan. These include building a nice space for the Town to enjoy for years to come that keeps with the character of the Island. He mentioned it could also help with flooding, which would tie into the Island-wide Stormwater Master Plan. They also incorporated suggestions from the last public Open House into the design of the playground. This could include expansion of the pickleball courts, a gathering space for daily use, and possibly a public pool. There were also suggestions for how to expand use of the Mound and the existing Town dock.

Mr. Novak thanks Thomas and Hutton for their hard work on this project. Mr. Winters then took questions from the Committee. He also provided multiple possible design renderings but noted none of these were finalized and are not the only options. He also mentioned a potential timeline and cautioned that permitting can often take quite a long time and would have to be done before construction could start. There were different options presented in all the plans, some included a potential pool, as well as community pavilion, green space, etc.

III. Public Input with Questions and Answers for the Consultant

- Ralph Byers, 3025 Middle St – supports getting a pool, especially for those that are not interested in other physical activities. He also suggested ways residents could get involved with funding
- Barbara Spell, 1702 Atlantic – does not support getting a pool and voiced concerns about its safety, as well as the safety of having people on the Mound

Ms. Latham commented that the pool was proposed after the last Recreation meeting at the request of multiple residents.

- Susan Middaugh, 2420 Raven Dr – expressed concerns about having the play space on the Mound and as well as the safety, risks, and costs of having a pool
- Melanie Buckhold, 1660 Atlantic Ave – expressed concerns about the safety of a pool, as well as the extra work, liability, and costs it would incur. She also questioned if the current playground equipment was up to code and if there is a need to replace it
- Karen Byko, 2862 Middle St – is happy about this plan and supports the idea of a common community meeting space but would like to see drainage made the first priority
- Scott Millimet, 2902 Brownell Ave – thanked Thomas and Hutton for looking at all options for the plan and believes the pool would be for all ages and the cost could be spread out over a number of years
- Marshall Stith – 415 Station 22 – thanked Thomas & Hutton and Council for planning at a slow pace to explore all possible options. Requested a buffer be put in place to block the noise created by the new Water & Sewer plant prior to full park renovation. Also suggested the dock be cleaned up for safety reasons.

Mr. Novak thanked Thomas & Hutton and the community for their involvement in the planning process. He feels this can transform the community and preserve the history of Sullivan's Island. The planning will be ongoing, and he and others should be open to more options and discussion.

Chair Higgins asked if there was a way to survey residents to get a big picture for moving forward. The Committee's next steps are to present Council with a number of options and to decide what to move forward on. Mr. Novak suggested getting more input from Council and agreed with pushing a survey out to residents for more input and requested that staff work on getting one out.

There will be another Open House on September 17 discussing the results of the survey. On October 15, the Committee will coordinate with Thomas & Hutton and on November 19, the survey will close on the website.

IV. Adjournment:

Motion was made by Councilmember Novak, seconded by Councilmember Latham, to adjourn at 10:17 a.m., passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Bridget Welch