

**MINUTES
TIDE COMMITTEE
March 31, 2021**

Present via Zoom: Pat Kostell, Chairperson, Peter Beck, Cameron Andrews, and Ron Scroggy. Also present was Assistant Town Administrator Mark Aakhus and Municipal Clerk Angela Davis.

Absent: Marie Bost, Charles Yeomans, and Betsy Daise

Call to Order: Chairperson Kostell called the meeting to order. She acknowledged that three Committee members were absent and ask Angela Davis if anyone had given notice. Angela Davis indicated that she received an email from Betsy Daise regarding her absence but had not had any communication with Maire Bost and Charles Yeomans.

Approval of Minutes: Peter Beck moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Ron Scroggy, and approved unanimously.

Comments from Assistant Town Administrator: Mark Aakhus mentioned the idea of having in-person meetings for the Committee instead of Zoom meetings moving forward. Chairperson Kostell moved to bring it up in "New Business" so everyone on the Committee could voice their opinions.

Old Business

Chairperson Kostell commented on the wonderful turn out of the Keep Edisto Beautiful Litter Cleanup that was held on March 20, 2021. She complimented Kelly Moore for doing a great job in organizing the event. Chairperson Kostell informed the Committee that this was the most volunteers Keep Edisto Beautiful has ever had, totaling at 60 people. The volunteers covered 16.72 miles of roadways and collected 180+ bags of garbage, totaling for 5,845 lbs. of litter. The next cleanup will be in the fall and will be a beach sweep. The dates are unknown at this time.

New Business

In- Person Meetings: Chairperson Kostell proposed the idea of in-person meetings to the Committee and asked everyone to voice their opinion if they had one. Cameron Andrews agreed to in-person meetings. Peter Beck agreed to in-person meetings but mentioned that he may not be present for the next meeting if it were in-person. Ron Scroggy mentioned that he would prefer the Zoom meetings because of travel. Ron Scroggy also mentioned that he would prefer if people attending the in-person meetings had fully received their COVID-19 vaccination. Chairperson Kostell agreed with in-person meetings and commented on Ron Scroggy's idea, saying there was no way to regulate Committee members being fully vaccinated to attend meetings but would encourage all to be vaccinated. The Committee unanimously decided that it would be best to have in-person meetings

and Zoom meetings for those who are traveling or uncomfortable coming to Town Hall for meetings. Peter Beck mentioned the Chamber room had a good sound system that would be able to host in-person and Zoom meetings at the same time. Mark Aakhus informed Chairperson Kostell that he would work on setting this up for the Committee.

Toole Design: Chairperson Kostell chose slides 3, 5, 6, 17, 20, 21, 22, & 23 from the Toole Design Recreation Presentation to share with the Committee and discuss.

Slide #3: Chairperson Kostell suggested the Committee members read these. Ron Scroggy suggested adding a new principal regarding respectfulness or mindfulness to nature. Chairperson Kostell agreed and mentioned that later slides show examples of promoting mindfulness to nature and asked if Mark Aakhus agreed. Mark Aakhus agreed and mentioned we could add more information regarding respectful, mindfulness, and education moving forward. Chairperson Kostell commented that this should be a constant reminder.

Slide #5: Peter Beck questioned "amenities", Chairperson Kostell informed Peter Beck that these questions would be addressed in future slides. Chairperson Kostell voiced that she was disappointed in the low number of residents who took the community outreach survey. The Committee members agreed that the projection is accurately represented with residents being 1/3rd of the responses. Chairperson Kostell asked to move on.

Slide #6: Chairperson Kostell started with the first chart, "Which park do you visit the most?". Chairperson Kostell mentioned that 48% utilized Bay Creek Park and that it could be skewed because most people do not think of the beach as a park. She believes the beach would have higher numbers compared to Bay Creek Park. Peter Beck mentioned picture number three and asked for clarification on the beach accesses that were least mentioned. Peter Beck suggested this may be because these beach accesses are walking accesses only and do not have any parking available. Mark Aakhus commented that beach accesses 9, 10, and 38 have parking. Pat Kostell mentioned have parking across the street from accesses. Mark Aakhus informed the Committee that the Town will be placing signage in these parking areas to notify the public that it is not available for overnight parking which will allow for more visitor parking. Chairperson Kostell mentioned accesses 21 and 22 being popular because these accesses are close to the Wyndham Resort, as well as access to bathrooms, facilities, chairs, etc. Chairperson Kostell mentioned to Peter Beck that Toole Design thought it would be beneficial to see the least mentioned beach access points to try and foster them. Chairperson Kostell moved on to the second picture of the slide. Chairperson Kostell asked Mark Aakhus to comment on the bicycle parking facilities. Mark Aakhus stated we had parking facilities on most beach access points but a few are missing. Aakhus mentioned that new bike parking has been installed at Bay Creek Park and a few more access points. Mark Aakhus also spoke about the concept of adding crosswalks to the two laned road on Palmetto Blvd., not the four-lane section of Palmetto Blvd. because

SCDOT would not allow crosswalks on the four-lane section without improvements. SCDOT believes the distance being walked is too dangerous. Chairperson Kostell voiced concerns with SCDOT's decision in denying the crosswalks. She mentioned the idea brought up in the Toole Design Presentation of bringing out the sidewalks and adding extended curbs to the sidewalks to alleviate walking distance. Mark Aakhus commented stating that the Town has investigated this idea; however, extending sidewalks and adding extensions would cause issues for parking and that the pedestrians would still have to cross four-lanes of traffic. Chairperson Kostell asked if anyone had any comments. Ron Scroggy pointed out that the more amenities that Edisto has the more people will come which will hinder parking, etc. Mr. Scroggy mentioned that he would like to "Keep Edisto as much of Edisto as possible" and not try to turn Edisto into a commercial beach and encourage large crowds. Chairperson Kostell agreed that Edisto is not competing to be like other beaches in South Carolina. She stated that Edisto is unique and wants to preserve what Edisto has. Chairperson Kostell voiced concern about the 39% of people who had issues with the walking surfaces. Mark Aakhus stated that most of these amenities are suggestions from tourists/visitors. Chairperson Kostell asked to move on.

Slide #17: Chairperson Kostell asked if anyone had comments. Mark Aakhus points out that beach access 1A does not have space for vehicle or bicycle parking. Chairperson Kostell suggested more maintenance be done on walkways to trim vines and foliage.

Slide #20: Chairperson Kostell walked through the two different designs suggested by Toole Design for Bay Creek Park. Mark Aakhus mentioned that the Town will be asking Toole Design to come up with a third option. This third option will keep Bay Creek Park as is and clean up McConkey Square for additional parking. Chairman Kostell mentioned that the ditches around McConkey square have been filled to extend parking. Chairman Kostell brought up boat parking. Mark Aakhus mentioned some spaces would be available for boats. Cameron Andrews mentioned that he would rather have green space than parking space. Ron Scroggy agreed that having more green space would be beneficial in reducing run off into creeks.

Slide #22: Chairperson Kostell suggested a walkway to the water at Burley Lyons Park because of the mud build up. Mark Aakhus mentioned that the parking spaces will be gravel and not paved parking, allowing 2-3 cars. Ron Scroggy mentioned that he agreed with the idea of the wooden walkway to help get across the mud. Mr. Scroggy also commented that he believed this is more of a walking/biking destination verses parking destination. Chairperson Kostell agreed with Mr. Scroggy. Mr. Scroggy suggested a dog park. Chairperson Kostell informed Mr. Scroggy that the dog park is a part of Tract M.

Slide # 23: Mark Aakhus suggested cleaning up the nature walk (extension 7), cleaning walkways and foliage, opening the walkway entrance to seem more designated, and added that the Town is waiting on the rope fence to arrive. Chairperson Kostell mentioned the crosswalk across Jungle Rd.

Peter Beck asked for a timeline and a plan from the Town.

Mark Aakhus informed the Committee that the Town has three grant opportunities. Mr. Aakhus pointed out slide #44 on the Presentation, 10-Year phasing.

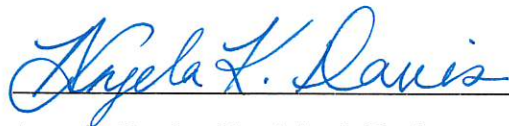
Chairperson Kostell mentioned that bike paths were a big issue with the TIDE Committee. Chairperson Kostell asks about raised wooden bike paths and suggested these would be a great addition to the Town.

Peter Beck moved to put bike paths as number one priority, seconded by Cameron Andrews, and was approved unanimously.

Ron Scroggy asked if Toole Design presented a trash/litter plan. Mark Aakhus informed the committee that there was no trash/litter plan in the Toole Design Presentation, but Toole did suggest moving the cans, towards the beach. Chairperson Kostell agreed to moving trash cans toward the beach. Mark Aakhus reminded the Committee to be aware of trash trucks being able to collect trash from cans.

Chairperson Kostell asked if anyone wanted to move to adjourn. Peter Beck moved to adjourn, seconded by Cameron Andrews, and was approved unanimously.

APPROVED BY THE TIDE COMMITTEE



Angela Davis, Municipal Clerk

March 31, 2021