

TIDE Committee
May 3, 2023
3:00 p.m.
Edisto Beach Town Hall

MINUTES

Present: Betsy Daise, Chair, and Camille Lemon, Virginia Stephenson, Lisa White, Gary Cantrell, and Clark McCrary

Absent: Edye Graves

Staff Present: Town Administrator Mark Aakhus and Assistant Town Administrator Dee Stalvey

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 by Chair Daise.

Approval of Minutes – March 1, 2023

Ms. White made a motion to approve the minutes of March 1, 2023. Ms. Stephenson seconded this motion, which was approved unanimously.

Introduction of New Committee Members

Chair Daise welcomed the newest Committee Members, Gary Cantrell and Clark McCrary.

Town Administrator Update

Grant Projects

- The Vine Street Bike Path has been completed. The bathroom on Jungle Road has been fully surveyed, and we are working on the RFP. A kiosk will be placed across the street from Jungle Road Park.
- We received the PARD grant for the Burley Lyons Park boardwalk in the amount of \$40,000. This is an 80/20 split between the Town and the State.

Project Updates

- The salt cedars at the causeway were trimmed by a contractor.
- The mowing contract for Town parks and the Civic Center is out for bid, which will then need to be approved by Council.
- Dominion is continuing the tree cutting, and they are cutting approximately 23 trees per day. We have ensured Dominion is removing debris in a timely manner. There will be a total of approximately 950 trees cut by Dominion.
- Signage for Bay Creek Park will be removed, cleaned up, and repainted to match the new look of the signage.

Old Business

Keep Edisto Beautiful

- Kristi Outland, KEP Director, was not in attendance at this meeting. Mr. Aakhus noted we will try to schedule Kristi for a future meeting. Committee members reminded all that beach adoption guidelines are handled by KEB.

- Ms. White made a motion to bring this item to Town Council to revisit the KEB board structure, as well as the status of KEB. Mr. Cantrell seconded this motion, which was approved unanimously.
- Beach adoption Liability Form – No report.
- Beach Adoption Guidelines – No report.

New Business

Tree Information

- Ms. Stephenson distributed a Science News article regarding trees. She noted the Palmetto trees are not the best tree to plant, according to the article but she also noted replanting needs to be done on Edisto.
- Live oak trees need plenty of room to grow. The Nuttall Oak grows upward, not out, and does not droop. These trees were planted at Lyons Park. Oaks have deep roots and can withstand many conditions.
- Ms. Stephenson mentioned the high levels of carbon in the atmosphere hold more heat, and it is important to reduce this. Leaf canopies can prevent flooding, help with the absorption and disbursement of water, and help prevent erosion. There are no trees on Palmetto Boulevard until beach accesses 10 or 11. If trees were planted, it would help in the disbursement of water.
- Native trees common to our area are the best because they support birds and nature. Those noted were Live Oak, Nuttall Oak, Eastern Red Cedar and Cherry Laurel. There should be approved requirements for planting trees, which would include distance from houses, electrical wires, etc. There needs to be a tree-planting program to help educate the public. As well, a tree-planting program for the lower beach accesses would be helpful.
- There was discussion regarding using the beach accesses for parking, not vegetation. Mr. Aakhus noted there are restrictions from DHEC and OCRM, and we will look to the State for recommendations. He also noted that the 2025 nourishment program with the USACE includes vegetation. A formal plan will need to be established before going to Council. Mr. Aakhus will make Council aware of this discussion.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Ms. White made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Cantrell seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

APPROVED BY THE TIDE COMMITTEE



Donna Iskra, Municipal Clerk
June 14, 2023