

Kiawah Island Arts Council Survey Summary Of Findings

In 2004, the Town of Kiawah Island created the Kiawah Island Arts Council to organize opportunities for local audiences to experience the visual and performing arts. The Council has pursued this mandate by offering a variety of performances and events to the greater Kiawah community over the past four years and has just concluded its 2007- 2008 season. At this point, development of future programs is already underway, and, as part of this planning process, the Council is considering the results of its recent opinion survey.

The survey was intended to assess the property owner response to programming in 2006 and 2007. Of the 4,000 surveys that were distributed, 200 people returned responses. It is worth noting that of those responding, 85% attended up to 5 performances, 38% attended 6-10 performances and 18% attended 11-15 of the seventeen performances offered during that period. These responses provided useful information regarding: (1) preferences in terms of types of performances; (2) thoughts on Council activities to date; (3) recommendations for new types of programming and (4) some misconceptions about the nature of program funding.

Preferences

The survey approached the subject of program popularity by attempting to gauge the likelihood that respondents would attend certain types of events. The most popular programs were determined by adding responses in the "Very Likely to Attend" or "Sometimes Attend" categories and measuring this total against the total number of responses. For example, 123 out of 163 respondents, or 77%, were very likely to or expected to sometimes attend Pops musical performances, which the survey identified as the most popular type of musical performance. Classical music ranked a close second in this category with 76%, followed by Jazz (65%); Country and Western (52%) and R&B (50%).

The survey also looked at music formats. Orchestra performances were the most popular (86%) followed by Big Band (75%), Chamber Music (68%) and Choir (59%). The preferred form of ballet performance was Theatre (84%) with Classical (66%) and Modern (60%) ranking second and third, respectively. More general Art and Cultural activities were also evaluated. Cinema ranked first (78%) with these other activities receiving percentages over 50%: Lecture (71%); Painting (68%); Photography (56%); and Gullah (52%).

The survey also looked at scheduling preferences. Overall, 78% thought the Council should hold between seven and fifteen events during its 9-10 month season and were most likely to attend events held in October/November and March/April. There was a clear preference for afternoon and evening programs.

Suggestions/Comments

The comment section of the survey provided many interesting ideas and recommendations. Cinema/film was a frequent suggestion with one respondent proposing, "How about a weekly Cinema: 'Friday Flicks' with a mix of independent films, classics and academy award winners? Have Popcorn, Desserts, Coffee and BYOB." Some wanted to see some Rock & Roll performances. One respondent proposed musicals done in concert form with just cast and orchestra while another recommended theater, lectures and readings by writers or poets.

Many respondents noted that they don't live on Kiawah full time, but look forward to attending Arts Council events when they are here. One respondent spoke for several others by noting, "Great Job! (sic) We are not there more than 6 weeks a year, or we would attend them all."

There were only a few complaints. One person felt the venue charged too much for food and drink in connection with the performance. Another was frustrated about missing some performances due to scheduling conflicts with other events on or off Island. The remainder of the negative comments reflected a misconception about the source of funding for Arts Council events.

Misconceptions

A significant number of respondents were concerned that all Kiawah property owners were somehow funding Arts Council events, some thinking that use of "taxes" was somehow involved. In fact, the Town levies no real estate or other tax on property owners. The Town's revenues are largely from Accommodations Tax, Business Licenses, Building Permits and Franchise Fees.

In terms of providing an overall evaluation of the Arts Council program, the comments indicate a very positive response: "Great programs and a significant addition to the quality of life for the Kiawah Island Community." "The arts council is doing a wonderful job presenting quality entertainment in appropriate venues. We applaud their efforts." These are just some of the many favorable comments made by survey respondents.

The Arts Council will consider the guidance provided by this survey and other comments from members of the community as it arranges performances for future seasons. The Council hopes to continue to offer an enticing array of arts and cultural activities to Kiawah community audiences.

Detailed survey results are available on-line or upon request to the Town.



TOWN NOTES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TOWN OF KIAWAH ISLAND

First Ever for Kiawah Island!



The first ever Leatherback Turtle nest on Kiawah Island was found on Thursday, May 22 by the KI Patrol Nesting Team of Linda and Joe Pezzullo and Janice and Bill Rogers. The team came upon a huge crawl and body just about 200 yards east of Captain Sam's Inlet at 6:45AM that day. The SCDNR Sea Turtle Coordinator DuBose Griffin was notified, as leatherback nests are not common in SC. She and an associate, Kelly Sloan, came to Kiawah later that morning. They and the resident team, along with other members of the patrol, analyzed the site, probed and dug for more than 1 1/2 hours until DuBose located the egg chamber.

The chamber contained 23 eggs and 69 spacer eggs (unfertilized and smaller than the fertilized egg). The eggs were re-located to a site better situated to minimize tidal over wash. The outside dimensions of the track were more than 5 1/2 feet. This nest will be observed daily along with all the loggerhead nests already laid on the island. Members of the patrol have been on the beach daily since May 14 both looking for crawls and nests and observing nests already found and marked. Activity begins at first light each day as team members travel via TOKI vehicles the length of the beach without regard to weather conditions. Hatchlings should emerge from the nest in late July.

Save the Date! 20th Anniversary Celebration, Saturday, September 13th from 4-7 pm at the Sandcastle.

Donald H. McIver's Farewell Address

I would like to thank the current council and Dennis for being the true gentlemen that they are. They have always treated me and their fellow councilmen with the utmost respect. While we didn't always agree on every issue, our deliberations and discussions were always courteous and respectful. Their demeanor made my time in these chambers truly enjoyable.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank the Town staff for their support over the years. We truly have an exceptionally talented and dedicated group of employees. I wish there was some easy way to communicate to the residents and property owners how lucky we are to have this group of people. In many respects, they are the foundation of what keeps the Town at the pinnacle of resort communities.

As I end my term on Council, I would like to offer a couple of observations and challenges. First and foremost, I would challenge this Council, and future councils, to always keep the Comprehensive Plan's guiding tenant in mind: "Kiawah is a residential community with a resort." As the Resort redevelops west beach and its other properties, the commercial interests will inevitably put more pressure and tensions on Kiawah's residential

community. Council needs to resist unreasonable pressures and guard our residential areas and quality of life with the veracity of a pit bull.

I would also suggest that we cannot continue to ignore the challenges that will occur some day at Kiawah's front door. The land along our Parkway between the bridge and the roundabout will be developed. It is not a matter of if, but of when. Today, this property is under county zoning and as such almost anything could be built from water parks to mini-storage facilities to undesirable housing. A portion of this property could go a long way to solving a number of the Community Association's long range need for amenities as we outgrow the Sandcastle, for boat storage and a more efficient pass office. Simply stated, I believe we can either be proactive with respect to this property, or we can wait a couple of years and say "could of, should of, and would of".

I thank you for allowing me to publicly say thank-you.



Meeting Highlights

Citizens Presentation:

Chris Brooks-Rural Mission

Mr. Brooks discussed the background and projects of the Rural Mission. He presented a request for funding in the amount of \$7500 that would be used to purchase construction equipment to further their efforts.

David Richardson-Sea Island

Cooperative Healthcare Corporation

Mr. Brooks explained the services of the Sea Island Cooperative Healthcare Corporation. He stated that he wanted to continue the relationship between the communities and the Sea Island Cooperative Healthcare Corporation. Mr. Richardson stated that he would like the Council to consider funding the Corporations feeding programs and support their efforts to build affordable housing for the workers on the islands.

Budget Ordinance Approving the Fiscal Year 2008/09 Budget-Second Reading

Mr. McIver stated that there were minor changes between the first and second reading of the budget but none were significant. Mayor Wert noted that the Town held a public hearing for the budget on May 19th. The Ways and Means Committee unanimously recommended the budget to Town Council for approval. The budget was approved.

Revised Article 12 Section 303 (2)-Second Reading

Mayor Wert stated that the Council held a public hearing for amendment to Article 12 Section 303 (2) was held on May 6th. The amendment passed unanimously.

Proclamation

Mayor Wert presented Mr. Don McIver with a clock in appreciation for his 8 years of dedicated service as a Councilmember and 6 years of service as the Ways and Means Committee Chairman. Mr. McIver will be relocating at the end of June 2008 and will have to resign from Council. Mayor Wert proclaimed June 10, 2008 as Mr. Donald H. McIver day and urged all citizens to recognize his contributions.

Approval of the Charleston Area Regional Transportation Authority FY 2009 Budget

Mayor Wert introduced the CARTA FY 2009 Budget and stated that in order for the Regional Transportation Authority to comply with state law, the budget is subject to approval from each

member jurisdiction. Council approved the CARTA budget.

Beach Patrol Contract Amendment

Mrs. Rucker stated that the current beach patrol provider, A-Services Group, LLC requested a \$15,000 annual increase to cover the cost of a service vehicle and the increasing cost of gas. The Ways and Means Committee unanimously recommended to Town Council the approval of a one time \$15,000 supplement with the contract to be reviewed annually. Council unanimously approved this request.

Solid Waste Contractor Annual Rate Increase

Suburban Disposal requested a 6.1% price increase based on the unexpected rise in fuel costs. The Ways and Means Committee unanimously recommended the approval of a 6.1% price increase to become effective on July 1, 2008. Council approved the requested increase.

HVAC Replacement

Town Council approved up to \$8,500 for the purchase of a Carrier Sea Coast unit from Signature Heating and Air; this includes funding for an extended service warranty

Resolutions

Council passed Resolution 2008-1 which resolved that the Town of Kiawah Island supports the construction of the proposed cross island limited access road and improvement of all roads on Johns Island. Council also passed Resolution 2008-2 which is a proactive measure to adopt a Debt policy that demonstrates fiscal responsibility and planning.

Committee Reports:

Public Safety

Mr. Orban stated that surveys have been completed on the mitigation area in Cassique and the design will be reviewed within the week and then forwarded to the Corp of Engineers and OCRM for approval. The Town also met with Berkeley Electric who will be adding new circuits of electricity on the Island beginning August 1, 2008.

Johns' Island Roads

Mr. Burnaford stated that Mr. Paul Roberts has put together a proposal and recommendation for the Cross Island Expressway which has been presented to the County Council, the Town Councils of Seabrook and Kiawah Island, and Mayor Joseph Riley. Mr. Burnaford read a response letter from Mayor Riley expressing his

thanks to the Town and KICA for their work and endorsing the proposal. He stated that there will be public hearings on this proposal. Mr. Burnaford stated that the Town of Seabrook, the Seabrook Community Association and the Kiawah Island Community Association have given the proposal their approval. Mr. Burnaford urged attendees to contact County Representative Paul Thurmond to let him know their feelings on the road.

Financial Affairs

Mr. McIver stated that mitigation costs associated with the Kiawah Island Parkway project are an estimate of what it will cost to complete the mitigation at the Cassique site. Mr. McIver stated that this was a response to Mrs. Diane Lehder's budget public hearing question. Mr. McIver also thanked Mr. Ken Gunnells for all of his hard work on the budget this year.

Town Administrator's Report

Mrs. Rucker reminded attendees that June 1 marked the official beginning of the 2008 Atlantic Hurricane Season and the County is operating under OPCON 5. The Town hosted the Annual Disaster Awareness Day at the Sandcastle on June 12 from 10:00am-3:00pm which was well attended and the Kiawah-Seabrook Exchange Club did a great job preparing food for the event. Thank you all for participating in this year's event. The Town received a \$40,000 DHEC grant for the expansion of recycling efforts on the Island.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Wert thanked KICA for their efforts with the roads issue. Mayor Wert thanked the Kiawah-Seabrook Exchange Club for the display of flags on Memorial Day. He noted that Kiawah Island's Municipal Election is December 2, 2008 with all five seats open. The filing period starts September 3, 2008 and ends October 3, 2008 at 12:00 Noon. KICA will host a "Meet the Candidates" night on Tuesday, November 18th at the Sandcastle. Mayor Wert announced that he will run for an additional term as Mayor.

Council Members Comments

Mr. Burnaford stated that he will seek Council re-election in 2008. Mr. Burnaford also reported that the Town has received a letter by a lawyer engaged by the Kiawah Property Owners Group c/o law firm Bender and Ravenel in Columbia. Mayor Wert read the letter in which KPOG alleges that the Town of Kiawah Island has failed to provide required notice under the SC Freedom of Information Act.

Meeting Highlights Continued...

Mayor Wert reported that Attorney Dennis Rhoad wrote a letter to Mr. Bender explaining the multiple ways in which the Town does notice meetings. That letter was written on May 5, and no response has been received from Mr. Bender, to date. Mayor Wert noted that this is the first time in his six years as Mayor that anyone has challenged the way meetings have been noticed.

Councilman Steve Orban

Mr. Orban stated that the Town's 20th Anniversary Party will be on Saturday, September 13, 2008. Mr. Orban stated that there will be a limited number of speeches and it will be a great party; not a political event. The Emergency Committee met on May 21 to discuss the responsibilities of entities during the event of an emergency. Mr. Orban stated that Mr. McIver's financial oversight and management for the Town has been greatly appreciated.

Mayor William G. Wert

Mayor Wert stated that he and Mr. McIver have worked very well together for the past six years and he has been invaluable as the Town's financial arm and the Town owes him a great debt. Mayor Wert also stated that Mr. McIver did a great job of hiring Mrs. Rucker and Mr. Gunnells.

11th Town of Kiawah Island Municipal Election

The Town of Kiawah Island operates as a Mayor-Council form of government, i.e. strong mayor. The Town Council is composed of a Mayor and four Council Members. Each member is required to be a qualified elector, or one who has resided in the municipality for thirty (30) days prior to the election and who is eligible to vote. Terms for Mayor and Council Members are two years. On December 3, 2008, the Town will hold a municipal election for its 11th Council term, spanning from January 2009-December 2011. The filing for candidacy for this upcoming election will begin on Wednesday, September 3rd at 9:00 am and end on Friday, October 3rd at noon. A statement of candidacy and economic interest form must be completed at the time of filing along with the appropriate filing fee and recorded with the Town Clerk. For more information on the upcoming election, please contact Catherine Wilson, Town Clerk at 768-9166.

Meeting Dates

Ways and Means Committee Meeting,
June 30, 2008 at 8:00AM

Town Council Meeting,
July 1, 2008 at 2:00PM

20th Anniversary Committee Meeting,
July 2, 2008 at 1:00PM

Planning Commission Meeting,
July 2, 2008 at 3:00PM

Environmental Committee Meeting,
July 3, 2008 at 1:00PM

Arts Council Meeting, July 3, 2008 at 3:00PM

Public Safety Committee Meeting,
July 15, 2008 at 3:00PM

Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting,
July 21, 2008 at 4:00PM

New Homes Under Review by the ARB

66 Surfsong

The above homesites have been presented to the ARB for conceptual review, the first of three reviews by the ARB prior to approval. Call 843-768-3419 for more information.

Green Initiatives

In an effort to reduce our impacts on the environment, the Town of Kiawah Island has decided to "go green"! Some of the steps we have taken include: utilizing environmentally friendly office cleaning products, using compostable cups, plates, and utensils, developing an office composting program, and serving organic coffee, grown in a sustainable and environmentally responsibly manner.

The Town's composting program will reduce the amount of trash that is sent to the local landfill. This is important because trash, even if it is "biodegradable", is sealed off from an outside air supply in landfills which prohibits decomposition. For example items like banana peels and newspapers have been unearthed after more than 40 years in a landfill and are still recognizable and even readable. In addition to saving space in local landfills, composting will supply TOKI with rich organic soil that can be used around Town Hall to improve our flower beds and native vegetation. Help do your part, implement a "green" routine into your day today!