



Public Services & Facilities Committee Meeting
9:00am, Tuesday, February 11, 2025
1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC and
broadcasted live on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofisleofpalms>

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Present: Council members Pierce, Miars, and Hahn

Staff Present: Director Kerr, Director Pitts, Asst. Director Asero, Director Ferrell, Chief Cornett, Director Hamilton

2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Council Member Pierce nominated Council Member Miars for Chair of the Public Services & Facilities Committee. Council Member Hahn seconded the motion. There being no other nominations, a vote was taken with all in favor of Council Member Miars as Chair of the Public Services & Facilities Committee.

Council Member Hahn nominated Council Member Pierce as Vice Chair of the Public Services & Facilities Committee. Council Member Miars seconded the motion. There being no other nominations, a vote was taken with all in favor of Council Member Pierce as Vice Chair of the Public Services & Facilities Committee.

3. Citizen's Comments -- none

4. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes – November 6, 2024

MOTION: Council Member Pierce made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2024 meeting. Council Member Hahn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Presentation – Susan Hill Smith, interpretive sign proposal

Ms. Smith's presentation is attached to these minutes. She said this could be an ATAX-funded purchase. She wants the signs to be a "value add" and not a distraction from the site. Council Member Pierce suggested asking the IOP Chamber of Commerce if they would be interested in sponsoring any part of the project.

Director Kerr said Ms. Smith will work with Laura Lovins and the Environmental Advisory Committee on the placement, design, and content of the signs and then come back to the Public Services & Facilities Committee with a timeline and costs.

6. **Old Business -- none**

7. **New Business**

A. **Discussion with Dominion Energy regarding the use of the NSSF Fund for an undergrounding master plan**

Zach Swalhah and Elizabeth Jablonski from Dominion Energy spoke with the Committee about the possibility of using the City's NSSF fund to prepare a undergrounding master plan. Mr. Swalhah said that Dominion Energy can help the City identify infrastructure hot spots where undergrounding projects would be most useful.

Council Member Hahn suggested the City could take out a bond to pay for all of the power lines to be undergrounded and then use the money accrued in the NSSF to pay the bond each year. Mr. Swalhah said he would discuss that suggestion with his superiors. Director Kerr said the bond issuing agencies may be concerned about the availability of funds in the future to pay back the funds. He will speak with the bond attorney about the viability of the idea.

When asked about areas of the island not conducive to undergrounding, Mr. Swalhah said he does not think there are areas like that. He added that their issues often lie with getting easements from customers to place transformers and switchboxes in their yards.

Council Member Hahn asked Mr. Swalhah to generate a list of the areas across the island most prone to interruption during a storm.

B. **Discussion of parking reconfiguration layout option for the Intracoastal side of the marina parking lot**

Council Member Miars referenced the layout in the meeting packet and spoke about the advantages of this plan for both the City and the restaurant. She also clarified how deliveries would make their way through the lot.

MOTION: Council Member Miars made a motion to recommend this parking lot configuration to City Council. Council Member Pierce seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. **Discussion of authorized uses of the public dock**

Chief Cornett said that if there are "no" signs posted (those signs telling people what they are not permitted to do), then he can charge for Misuse of Public Property if something were to happen outside of the permitted activities. He said that the previous gate limiting access to the dock worked but had limitations. He suggested starting with signage to include a number for people to report misuse.

Council Member Pierce said bolder signage is needed to indicate mooring will not be permitted. Asst. Director Asero suggested that metal "No Mooring" sign could be affixed to the edge of the floating dock.

Discussion ensued about Goat Island residents using the dock for the transport of large items such as HVAC units. Director Kerr said the City has spoken with Goat Island about that but believes the communication needs to be stronger. Council Member Pierce said the issue of working with Goat Island on the disposal of larger items from their homes needs to be a future agenda discussion items with City Council.

D. Review of 10-year capital plan for Public Works Department, Recreation Department, Drainage, Front Beach, Beach, and Marina

Director Kerr pointed out that the increase in the maintenance line item in General Government is for work that needs to be done on City Hall. Director Hamilton said staff needs direction from City Council on the purchase of the front and rear loaders as well as the work needing to be done on City Hall. Council Member Pierce asked that items not be put in the budget twice; a note should be added where necessary.

The Committee reviewed the requests in the 10-year Capital Plan for Public Works, Recreation, Drainage, Front Beach, Beach, and Marina. Discussion ensued as to which projects, such as the shelter improvements, could be pushed out another year.

Director Kerr and Director Hamilton will continue to refine the numbers for the Waterway Boulevard project – what portion is the City paying, how much the State is paying, and how much is being paid via grants.

Council Member Pierce would like verification on the amounts needed for upcoming beach management projects. He also said he is not comfortable leaving money for City Hall renovations in the budget since no official decision has been made yet. He suggested moving it to FY27. Council Member Miars would like to see how City Hall renovations will affect the budget.

8. Miscellaneous Business

The next regular meeting of the Public Services & Facilities Committee will be Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 9am.

9. Adjournment

Council Member Pierce made a motion to adjourn and Council Member Miars seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:21am.

Respectfully submitted,
Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk

Initial proposal for Public Dock Interpretive Displays & Signs - Feb. 25

Submitted by Susan Hill Smith, 843-270-9947, susanhillsmith@gmail.com

Goals

By placing interpretive (educational) signs at the Isle of Palms Public Dock and adjacent salt marsh walkway our community can:

- Celebrate/share the area's natural resources, geography and history with residents and visitors.
- Highlight the location's role in the larger Intracoastal Waterway.
Educate about wildlife, the salt marsh ecosystem and related marine environments.
Encourage conservation, including practices that limit impact of visitor traffic.
Provide a greater sense of place and connection to nature that enhances quality of life.

Action Plan

- I will donate my professional skills as a writer, editor and content creator.
- Laura Lovins, chair of the Environmental Advisory Committee, wants to collaborate. She is a South Carolina master naturalist and has a marketing/comms background.
- The EAC & staff could review our work along the way, with check-ins with Public Services & Facilities Committee and final review by City Council.
- I may want to draw on the expertise of local organizations - Barrier Island Ecotours, SC Aquarium, maybe Coastal Expeditions and/or DNR - in developing and verifying scientific content.
 - Could we explore sponsorships with them - and possibly Islander 71 & IOP Marina - that involve displaying their logos in exchange for their support and/or donations?
- We will probably need funds to cover design, photos and/or illustrations.
 - We might be able to involve local artists/ photographers.
 - There are art catalogs of birds, fish, animals etc. that we might draw from easily.
 - Some national companies specialize in interpretive signs.
- Construction and installation of 2x3-foot signs for the Town of Mount Pleasant came to \$1800 & \$2600 in two examples shared with me by Senior Planner Kate Miller, who has overseen the creation of several interpretive sign projects.
 - If we attach most of the signs to railings (rather than posted in the ground), the average cost per sign may be less. Some or most of the signs probably won't be that big.
 - However, we need to make sure the signs can withstand the elements of that location.
- Very early, rough estimate for costs for 8-9 signs of varying sizes, including graphic elements/design and construction - \$20,000-\$22,000 - which could be covered by ATAX and/or Marina designated funds.
 - Would we need to present to the ATAX Committee for approval? Desiree said there's a specific ATAX fund in the budget geared to this kind of activity (used to support Mary Alice's project) and that the City could submit the application for it.
 - Would we need to wait until FY 2026 to receive funds?

Timeline

- We can develop the written content over the next 2-4 months.
- It would help to at least have funds for graphic design/content available in FY25. If complete funding is available in FY25, we might be able to finish during summer. Otherwise we might not be able to finish until fall.

Sign Placement

- I looked at the site with IOP resident and landscape architect Kelly Messier, who has previously submitted a landscaping design for greenspace there.
- Kelly suggested placing a double-sided, free-standing sign (maybe 6 feet wide) between the two bench swings & thought it could be pulled off without detracting from the natural space or views, which is a goal we discussed. However, and talking about this with Desiree and Douglas realize that it might be best to keep that large open space for gatherings and activities.
- Otherwise, in walking the site, we both felt it provided plenty of room & opportunities to place multiple signs.

Draft of Content Framework

- **Cornerstone Signs** (2 signs) - place prominently around the entrance and/or around the swings on the dock
 - **Map-driven geographical display**
 - Text shares the geography, natural history of the location & touches on development of IOP Marina.
 - Primary map should focus on Marina and include IOP, Goat Island, Gray Bay, Morgan Creek, and salt marsh islands.
 - Capers Island & Copahee Sound could possibly be folded in
 - Secondary map should zoom out with related text that highlights larger Intracoastal Waterway.
 - Info on protecting our natural resources - no littering etc.
 - **Overview of salt marsh**
 - Text, photos and/or diagrams explain ecosystem - highlights grass, pluff mud, fiddler crabs, algae, plankton, insects.
 - Highlight salt marsh conservation here & along Eastern seaboard.
 - Touch on salt marsh's protective role in the bigger picture.
- **On the Dock** (3-4 signs)
 - **Sharks**
 - Bonnet heads (explain difference from hammer head) sandsharks, black tips, spinners & others (get expert input on best examples)
 - **Creek & waterway fish**
 - Redfish, trout, flounder, whiting (get expert input on best examples)
 - **Sewee tribe**
 - Place around kayak launch. Include their connections to the island & highlight their skills as canoe builders.
 - **Dolphins**
 - Different species some that stay in brackish water vs ocean
 - Stranding fish behavior (unique behavior sometimes happens next to dock)

There is an extensive sign by NOAA & Lowcountry Marine Mammal Network on opposite side of the Marina store, so this can focus more on sea turtles.

- **Along and around the path (3-4 signs)**
 - **Birds**
 - Herons, egrets, osprey, roseate spoonbills (get expert input on best examples)
 - *Could be more than one sign* - different kinds of herons could be separated out
 - **Shellfish - fruits of the sea**
 - Oysters, mussels, larger crabs, shrimp (spend time in marsh as juveniles) & how they are harvested
 - Place on the path closer to restaurant
- **Sea turtles & manatees**
 - They spend time in creeks, too!

Examples of Interpretive Signs and Displays







<https://vackersign.com/>



<https://www.panniergraphics.com>



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JOY PARK AND NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVE

Welcome to Joy Park on Beautiful Silver Lake

The Past at Joy Park

Native Americans

The Ojibwa and Dakota likely passed through this site and may have camped at Silver Lake.

Silver Lake

In the late 1800s, a small car from St. Paul to the Silver Lake Station brought people to the lake for fishing, sailing and swimming. Steamboat rides were only 25 cents.

Kennel Club

In 1888, the Northwestern Kennel Club purchased 10 acres and built a small two-story building. A separate building kennelled over 100 dogs to be trained for hunting. The Kennel Club burned down in 1901 and was never rebuilt.

The Joy Family

Samuel Joy built a three-story home overlooking the lake in 1911. He and his brother owned Joy Brothers Motor Car Company in St. Paul and had a hobby farm north of Joy Road. Their Hobson cattle herd was known throughout the state. Jack's wife, loved wildflowers and planted them in the yard. Her garden no longer exists, but there is a hint of them every spring when the wildflowers bloom in these woods.

Parkland

Sam died in 1934 and his family stopped raising cattle in the late 1940s. A tornado touched down on the Joy farm around 1961, moving the farm off its foundation. Jack's wife died in 1950 and their grandson Bill lived on the property for the rest of his years.

Explore • Discover • Play

Under a magnificent canopy of oaks, along the shores of Silver Lake, Joy Park blooms. Wildflowers carpet the woodlands, waterfowl are plentiful, and the fishing is good enough to keep the anglers coming back.

Minimakha, the creature of Joy Park, welcomes you to her home!

Visit Minimakha at the playground, then head out on the park trails and explore! Minimakha lives both on the land and in the water. Her name comes from the Dakota words for water (Min) and land (Makha). See if you can find the lake, the woodlands, and the woodlands life house.

Minimakha has left you a secret message.

There are four signs in the park. Each sign has a word with scrambled letters. Find the signs, unscramble the letters, and reassemble the words to provide the message. Look for Minimakha's footprint on the map to the left to see the location of the signs.

Here's the first word to unscramble:

E P E K

Our park is a "JOY" in any season. Wander through the woods on an early spring day to find wildflowers blooming, or try your luck at ice fishing when the lake freezes over in the winter. There are always natural wonders to see and enjoy at Joy Park - winter, spring, summer or fall. Open the cubes above to see images from the park's woods, wetlands, lake, and transitional areas during all four seasons.

Funding for interpretive signs at Joy Park was provided by the City of Minneapolis, the Lake County Historical Society, and the Minnesota State Office of Cultural Heritage.

Frameless Upright - Posts with flange and rotational cubes with seasonal habitat images.

<https://vackersign.com/>









