

Regime Council Meeting Offers a Wealth of Information



Kiawah Island regimes are a unique subset of various communities spread throughout the island. Consisting of numerous homes, cottages and villas, regimes on Kiawah are a diverse mixture, requiring equally diverse management, time and care. Living in these regimes is no different, and so the Kiawah Regime Council (KRC) was born.

The KRC, whose mission is to provide access to ideas and information to all regime members for the maintenance, protection and enjoyment of their regime properties, held its first meeting of 2013 on April 29 at the Sandcastle Community Center. The meeting featured presentations from representatives of many of Kiawah's major entities, as well as updates on KRC task forces and projects.

Community Outreach and Neighborhood Revitalization

KICA's Chief Operating Officer Jimmy Bailey was the first to speak at the meeting, highlighting the outreach efforts of *Kiawah Cares*, as well as KICA's efforts to rejuvenate some of the island's aging properties.

According to Bailey, *Kiawah Cares (KC)* - a community partnering program linking Kiawah members with Johns and Wadmalaw island organizations and businesses in need of support - is really beginning to make a difference in the Sea Islands. Since its inception, volunteers with *KC* have participated in over 60 programs, reaching over 4,000 people. Recently the organization sponsored the formation of the Community Alliance for the Sea Islands (CASI), a forum designed to provide an information hub where representatives from various community groups can meet to discuss interests, needs, ideas and projects with a view to eliminating inefficiencies and promoting collective action. Bailey emphasized that regime members are well suited to volunteering for many of the *KC* projects. *[For more information on KC, visit kica.us and click on Kiawah Cares]*

Bailey also highlighted the current efforts being made to revitalize the West Beach area with a view to maintaining property values and enhancing the quality of life for all residents. In this spirit, the association held a Landscape Symposium in May, which gave members a one-stop shop for expert advice on landscaping and property maintenance. *[For more information on the Symposium, see the article on Page 5.]*

Developing the Spit

The development of Captain Sam's Spit has been a much-discussed topic recently across Kiawah and beyond. Kiawah Partners Chief Consulting Planner Mark Permar presented at the KRC meeting, providing some insight into the development. Permar presented a thorough description of KP's plans for the spit, complete with conceptual drawings of the proposed development, to be called Cape Charles. In addition to answering numerous questions from meeting attendees regarding the plans, Permar also provided information about studies conducted on the impact of development to the local wildlife. *[For more information on the development of Captain Sam's Spit, visit kica.us (News/Captain Sams).]*

100 Days in Office

Kiawah Island's mayor, Charles Lipuma, described his "First Hundred Days" in the office. During this time, the Town Council passed a unanimous resolution supporting the need to improve safety on Johns Island roads and the construction of an extension to I-526. Additionally, the town continues to watch the rates at Kiawah Island Utility, where it has already intervened in one rate case. Also, to enhance communication with residents, the town is redesigning its website. Mayor Lipuma was enthusiastic about the cohesiveness of the new town council and added that the town is focusing on the long-term financial stability of the island. *[For more information on the Town of Kiawah Island, visit kiawahisland.org.]*

Resort Rentals

Missy Wurtheman, Kiawah Island Golf Resort's general manager of villa operations, spoke with attendees about the resort's villa rental program, emphasizing the desire of the resort to work closely with villa owners. Rentals for the 2013 season appear to be increasing by 10 percent over last year and show a significant upturn since the low point reached in 2009. *[For more information on the resort's villa rental program, visit kiawahresort.com (Accommodations/Resort Villa Rentals).]*

Working on Compliance

Amanda Mole, manager and staff architect of the Architectural Review Board (ARB), reviewed information concerning new materials approved for some cottages. She introduced Jill Nichols, new compliance coordinator for the ARB, and stated that the board is working with the resort regarding compliance issues at the Night Heron pool and in the West Beach area. *[For more information on the ARB, visit kiawaharb.com.]*

Kiawah Real Estate Trending Upward

Though sales still remain slow, indicators show the market is getting firmer. This was the overall message from Kiawah Island Real Estate Sales Executive Lewis Driskell. Driskell demonstrated trends in real estate sales over the past decade and indicated that sales may be beginning to stabilize. Lenders are increasingly willing to extend financing and Kiawah inventory is down, which is beginning to drive selling prices upward. *[For more information on Kiawah real estate, visit kiawahisland.com.]*

Finally, following these presentations, those in attendance had the opportunity to hear from the three major KRC task forces: Revitalization, Rentals and Financial Responsibility. More information on these task forces as well as the KRC in general, visit kica.us (*Island Living/Regimes*). The next, and final council meeting for 2013, is scheduled for Nov. 4, 2013 at the Sandcastle.

Contributed by Digest Member Volunteer Shauneen Hutchinson.