

2022 KICA BOARD CANDIDATE

Mark Griesbaum

46 Cotton Hall
KICA Member Since 2003
Full-Time Resident
Single-Family Home
Frequent Sandcastle User
Governor's Club Member

KICA Security and Enforcement Task
Force Member

MY KIAWAH OWNERSHIP STORY

We began visiting Kiawah Island 27 years ago when we vacationed here and visited Charleston. It was love at first sight. We stayed several years in a row at the old Kiawah Inn. We loved Kiawah and Charleston so much that it became our regular summer vacation over July 4th week, until we purchased our first property in 2003 in the Parkside Villas. We purchased our current home on Cotton Hall in 2005 and retired here full time in 2017. Our daughters and their husbands love visiting us in the summer. We now have a 3-year-old granddaughter and a newborn granddaughter. My wife Paula and I have been married for 42 years, and together for 48 years since our days of dating in High School. We have met an incredible number of friends these past 4 ½ years who have helped us call Kiawah



our real home! Friendships and involvement in community activities make Kiawah a very special place. We have become involved in committing time to services and involvement at our church (Holy Spirit Catholic Church), and within KICA, whether it is on committees, or Backpack Buddies or various Kiawah Cares projects.

Today, my wife Paula and I spend time exercising every morning at the Sandcastle, attending events on Kiawah such as Piano Bar, Saturday Car events, KING events, etc. Paula and I also love Charleston where we enjoy our season tickets to the Charleston Stage productions at Dock Street Theatre, and Charleston Pops at the Coliseum. I participate in the weekly Governor's Club Blitz on Wednesdays, the various tournaments and club events, and organize a group of men to play golf on Fridays.

MY RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

I have served on 5 Boards or commissions. I believe my demeanor, ability to listen, ability to understand different views, and implement solutions have made me successful

and a trusted member of those groups. My experiences include:

- President of a Community Association in Downers Grove, Illinois for 10 years
- Planning Board Commissioner for Downers Grove, Illinois for 10 years
- Board Member and Chair for the i.c.stars organization for the past 5 years (www.icstars.org)
- Board Member and past President/Chairman for SIM Chicago for the past 14 years (www.sim-chicago.org)
- Board of Governors for the Harbour Club, Charleston, SC. Home - Harbour Club at WestEdge (myharbourclub.com)

My involvement and leadership in these organizations' boards and commissions would be of great benefit to the KICA Board. These experiences have taught me to listen to all views from the stakeholders of the organization. Listening to town residents while I was on the Plan Commission in my hometown was a very rewarding time. The Plan Commission was instrumental in the future development and plans across the entire town of 45,000 residents. It was critical to understand the views of developers, staff, residents, and neighboring towns as we made decisions concerning projects, changes to zoning, and planned building. My board experiences are very relevant as we navigate through the proposed development next to Freshfields, and many other planned developments. My intention would be to follow the processes and governance of the entities involved so that a solution that benefits all can be found. The best solutions come from collaboration across differing viewpoints and skills. Let's use the incredible talent and brain power that exists on Kiawah to implement solutions.

MY FOCUS

It is important that we understand the interactions and strategies of the entities that

impact Kiawah: the Kiawah Island Resort, Kiawah Island Club, Kiawah Conservancy, The Town of Kiawah, and The Partners. I will work to help our owners on Kiawah understand how these entities affect each other, and, even more importantly, how they impact all of us.

To me, KICA is the best positioned to facilitate our understanding of how these organizations intersect and what decisions each of them makes that impact us.

Another reason is that I believe there are Board-related areas that can be improved. The interactions among the KICA Board members these past 2 years has been disappointing. Following governance is critical for a Board, and listening to all stakeholders is also important. Earlier this year members of the Board felt that over 1,000 households who signed a petition were "insignificant," and did not meet a required minimum. I will never consider this an insignificant number. Doing the right thing will always guide my behavior.

My career experiences and my Board experiences can help the KICA Board be a more functional Board. It is important to heal our obvious "factions" that exist, so that decisions can be made in a collaborative manner (flood mitigation, safety/security, overall infrastructure, etc.).

KICA has invested over \$1 million in a new technology. I have the knowledge of the software industry to help make sure we are receiving the benefits we should expect from this investment.

I am motivated to run for the KICA Board because I see opportunities for building upon this wonderful place to live. I ask for your consideration of my candidacy.

[VIEW MARK'S VIDEO INTERVIEW.](#)