

KICA LONG RANGE PLAN RATIONALE: "Up From the People"

By Herb Ailes and Tom Keating, LRPC Co-chairs

We are sometimes asked to explain the process being used for the KICA Long Range Plan. The approach can be characterized as coming "up from the people" rather than the more conventional "handing down" from management. Both approaches have merit.

The Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) believes that it would serve our membership well to find out what the members want done, rather than our moving ahead without your input. The LRPC began a compilation from three sources:

1. Twenty-seven focus groups were formed representing as many different interests as could be identified.
2. Members' input was repeatedly solicited.
3. The KICA Advisory and Operating Committees were asked to develop their individual Long Range Plans.

From this wide range of inputs--which are available for member review from the KICA library -- the committees formulated 21 Major Issues. The LRPC then convened 21 separate Citizen Volunteer Subcommittees to examine these Major Issues and come back to the Board via the Standing and Operating Committees with recommendations as to how KICA could address them. At this point, KICA has had several hundred members involved. The process is about halfway complete. Every month, *Kiawah Island Digest* will print one of the Subcommittee reports, and at intervals will issue special reports summarizing the specific results of the "up from the people" process.

The Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) believes that its plan of going directly from the members to specific recommendations to the KICA board will lead to a Long Range Plan that is actually functional, rather than one destined to become a shelf ornament. We hope the results will support this rationale.

Town Comprehensive Plan

On Kiawah, we are fortunate to also have a Town Comprehensive Plan, required and somewhat defined by South Carolina law. The Town plan is a very thorough "top down" document, complete with "Key Issues" (35), "Goals" (26), "Policies" (107), "Action Items" (45), and supporting sections. The Town plan was prepared with the help of consultants and the Charleston County Planning and Zoning Department, and provides for

review every five years. The first review, which is currently underway, illustrates the long vision of the plan in that of the original 48 Action Items, about 35 remain unchanged. About 13 Action Items have been eliminated or completed, including such major projects as construction of the Town Municipal Center and the second Fire Station.

Where KICA and the Town Come Together

Between our two organizations, both the LRPC and Town officials have noticed several items of alignment between our organizations. Examples include:

- 1.** Emergency preparations and emergency planning.
- 2.** Land planning (zoning and the ARB).
- 3.** Environmental issues.
- 4.** Community building and the sense of community.
- 5.** Code law enforcement, security and covenant compliance.
- 6.** Road code and road maintenance.
- 7.** Expanding community facilities and maintenance of community facilities.
- 8.** Publications.

We would like to dovetail the work of our two organizations to complement one another's work. The LRPC has presented a summary of its work to the Town Planning Commission, and has provided copies of all focus group inputs and completed subcommittee reports. The LRPC has received a draft copy of the Town's comprehensive plan, and has met with the Town Planning Commission, and Town Council representatives, to discuss better ways to coordinate our efforts for our mutual benefit.

The LRPC believes this open exchange of information will benefit both plans. More importantly, it is what the membership is telling us it wants - cooperation and coordination between KICA and the Town.

The LRPC hopes you will follow the progress of these important works in the coming months.