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Rotary Club of Bluffton and Town Celebrate Nearly 20-Year Partnership with
Oscar Frazier Pavilion Donation

The Rotary Club of Bluffton donated the Oscar Frazier Park Pavilion to the Town of Bluffton at Tuesday's Town Council meeting. The pavilion is the latest donation from the Rotary Club of Bluffton, whose members have built several amenities at the Oscar Frazier Park. The Club's donations to the Town include the Rotary Community Center, the playground at the area outside of the Community Center affectionately referred to as "The Field of Dreams," as well the recently completed pavilion. In total, the three projects which the Rotary Club of Bluffton has donated are valued at more than \$1.3 million dollars.

"The members of the Rotary Club of Bluffton have personified the Rotary Club's motto of 'Service Above Self,'" Town Manager Marc Orlando said. "About 20 years ago, club members recognized a need for a place where the community could gather, and the club built the Rotary Community Center. The Club has held a vision for the "The Field of Dreams" and the members have continuously invested in this park ever since. The Rotary Club of Bluffton has set the standard for public-private partnerships to accomplish much-needed projects in our community."

The Rotary Club has raised all the funds needed and coordinated the construction for all the projects at Oscar Frazier Park, including the Rotary Community Center, the playground and the pavilion. The Club then donates the amenity to the Town and the Town will manage and maintain the amenities in perpetuity.

Dot Jeger, project manager for Rotary Club of Bluffton, said club members wanted their community projects to bring residents from different neighborhoods and socio-economic levels together in one place.

“As Bluffton continues to grow, so has the need for community parks,” Jeger said. “It been wonderful to see Rotary plant a seed and other civic groups, businesses and individuals join us in our mission to provide high-quality, creative amenities for all to enjoy. Our partners, donors and in-kind donations have made the pavilion, the Community Center and the playground all possible. The Bluffton community spirit continues to shine through each project we do.”

To date, the Rotary Club of Bluffton has contributed:

- The Rotary Community Center
- Field of Dreams Park Phase I: Together with the 2018 Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class and Rotary Club of Bluffton, implemented the Imagination Train playground and other enhancements to the park playground. The 2019 Hilton Head – Bluffton Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class added a xylophone to the park as well as sensory playground equipment for children with special sensory needs.
- Field of Dreams Park Phase II: Pavilion with restrooms and art wall feature.

The Rotary Club of Bluffton has plans for providing additional features to the Oscar Frazier Park “Field of Dreams,” such as pathways and a formal event area.

Jeger said the covered pavilion with restrooms cost approximately \$257,400 with \$87,150 from fundraising events and donations, \$67,000 worth of grants and \$103,200 from in-kind donations.

“We are a part of an awesome community which has a deep pride in our town,” Jeger said. “While there is an untold amount of sweat equity in each project, the Rotary Club of Bluffton is successful due to our countless partners, including the Town of Bluffton leaders and staff members. The collaboration of all will leave a legacy for community to enjoy for years to come.”

The Rotary Club of Bluffton has been honored among its fellow Rotarians for its success in its service projects. Earlier this year, the Bluffton club was awarded “Club of the Year,” for District 7770 which is comprised of about 80 clubs in the eastern half of South Carolina. Dot Jeger, who has been the project manager of the “Field of Dreams” Improvement Projects, was honored in the District for a “Partnership in Service Award” for her leadership. Ms. Jeger was also appointed Assistant Governor for the local region. This is the second time a member of the Rotary Club of Bluffton has held this position. This position advises the clubs in the southern Beaufort County which include: Okatie, Bluffton and the three clubs located in Hilton Head Island.

Quotes from Mayor and Town Council Members:

Mayor Lisa Sulka:

“We are extremely proud of the nearly 20-year partnership between the Town and the Rotary Club of Bluffton. There are untold hours of planning, fundraising, meetings and constructing these projects. The success of these community service projects is a shining example of Bluffton’s community spirit.”

Mayor Pro Tempore Larry Toomer:

“For more than two decades, the Rotary Club of Bluffton had held its annual oyster roast in the winter. It is been my professional and personal honor to partner with the club on this event, knowing that each ticket sold will be converted into a project which the community will enjoy for

years. Whether the Rotary is fundraising or building the next project, club members have the gift of bringing Bluffton together for the good of all.”

Councilman Fred Hamilton:

“The late Councilmember Oscar Frazier and my second cousin knew providing playgrounds for children lifts the entire community. I can feel Oscar smiling down on us as the park, named in his honor, keeps getting better and better as civic groups join together and create more recreational opportunities and build on his original vision.”

Councilman Dan Wood:

“Every great community has great parks. As a member of the Rotary Club of Bluffton and a member of Town Council, this is a perfect example of what can be accomplished by working together to provide more amenities. Each project at Oscar Frazier Park has connected neighbors and further builds our community.”

Councilman Harry Lutz:

“Oscar Frazier Park is a hub for Bluffton with its ball fields and dog park. The Rotary Club of Bluffton has created a family-friendly corner of this park with its playground and pavilion. The success of all the Rotary projects is demonstrated by the amount of people enjoying the park on a daily basis.”

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