

# **JICANet Update**

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## **JIA & Linger Longer Suspend Partnering Agreements**

The JIA has released the following statement:

The Jekyll Island Authority announced today that by mutual consent they have suspended contract deliberations with Linger Longer Communities LLC on a series of private partnering agreements. The partnering agreements were intended to contractually reflect the Revitalization Partnering Agreement (RPA) approved approximately one year ago. The RPA followed the selection of Linger Longer Communities as the successful proposer in a public Request for Proposals (RFP) back in 2007.

While contract negotiations with Linger Longer on specific terms have been ongoing for the past year, the Jekyll Island Authority has independently progressed with plans on a new beach village. A cohesive project design team is in place and work will continue on the new beach park, convention center as well as road and utility work. Focus will now shift to identifying appropriate developers that can accomplish the individual hotel and retail village components.

Robert W. Krueger, Jekyll Island Authority Board Chairman, recognized the efforts of Linger Longer Communities and Jekyll Island Authority representatives to achieve a goal which was unachievable in today's marketplace. "I want especially to thank Linger Longer representatives for their interest in Jekyll Island and their support throughout this difficult process. We acknowledge the hard work and hours of due diligence spent by both parties, and I am confident Linger Longer and the Reynolds Group will continue to be an outstanding leader in the hospitality industry. While a difficult decision, in the end it was important to make a decision in the best interest of Jekyll Island and the citizens of the State of Georgia."

“The economy has created much uncertainty,” stated Jones Hooks, Executive Director with the Jekyll Island Authority. “In my 30 plus years in community and economic development I have not seen things so bad.”

To complete the beach village and accomplish the goals established for the project, the Jekyll Island Authority will move forward with current plans and each private-sector opportunity will be matched with a firm best suited to successfully complete it. By breaking the project up among several developers, financing should be more obtainable. This approach also puts the Jekyll Island Authority in control over timing.

“We will have retail operations in temporary facilities starting in the third quarter, and we must show a definite timeline,” continued Hooks. “We also must bring new hotel lodging units on line as soon as the new convention center is ready. These and other circumstances have dictated this decision.”

The amount of private-sector investment is expected to be at least if not more than the \$120 million. Each private-sector component – two hotels, 30,000 sq. ft. of retail with condominium lofts and vacation ownership units - will represent a unique hospitality investment opportunity.

The Jekyll Island Authority officially broke ground on the beach village project on Monday, December 7th with a ceremony attended by Governor Perdue. Construction is now underway for the new 20-acre Great Dunes Park which along with a new 78,000 sq. ft. convention center will be key integrated public components of the beach village project. Fifty million dollars in public bonds have already been secured and set aside to fund the state-owned portion of the project.

“It is not unusual at all for public investment to be used to stimulate private investment,” stated Hooks. “We are completely confident that we can secure the private development investment needed, and that this project will come together as highly successful and highly profitable for the businesses involved.”

The design team that will continue working on the project includes the well-regarded architecture and engineering firm HHCP from Maitland, Florida. Thomas and Hutton are providing on-going engineering work, and landscape architect Glatting Jackson Kerchler Anglin. Southern Wilderness of Edison, Georgia has been selected as the contractor for the initial phase of Great Dunes Park. The groundbreaking celebration for the public Great Dunes Park and the beach village project which occurred yesterday is unrelated and not affected by this announcement.

The Jekyll Island Authority Board is expected to take formal action on the RPA at its regular monthly meeting on December 14th.

**[Jekyll Island Garden Club Bazaar Information](#)**

Thanks to Garden Club member, Megan Jefferies, at Jekyll Realty, the JIGC has secured a garage for storing collectibles, furniture, and white elephant items designated for the annual Bazaar on Saturday, January 16, 2010. If you need to move items out of your house due to a lack of storage, please call Chris Lyon at 635-3127. If storage isn't a problem, PLEASE hold your donations until our drop-off dates of January 14th & 15th at the convention center. Check your cupboards, closets, drawers, and sheds to look for Bazaar donations (and to make room for your upcoming holiday gifts!)

### **Jekyll Island Entry Wins Kudos in Brunswick Christmas Parade**

The Downtown Development Authority, sponsor of the Brunswick Parade honored the Jekyll Island Authority with the second place trophy in the Business Category for their float called "Jekyll Island it's All good" and their entourage that included a fleet of Red Bugs and the GSTC van. Sincere thanks go to Red Bug Motors and all their staff; the JIA staff and their families; and the many Jekyll Island residents that braved the wet weather to take part in this wonderful event. All your hard work prior to the event and your sunny faces and friendly dispositions during the parade helped us bring home the trophy and spread the word that "it's All good" on Jekyll Island.

### **Reminders of Previously Announced Events**

- Town Hall Meeting, Thur Dec 10 5:00 - 6:30 pm, upstairs at Morgan's Grill

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---and that's the news from Jekyll Island where history lives, nature abounds and we're back to doing it our way! Darrell Davidson, Interim JICANet Editor

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