

Bike Safety Letter

The Citizens Association would like to lend our voice in agreement to Mindy Egan's letter submitted on April 18th.

Figure 1 shows the sign/planter in the area behind the JI club. Apparently, this planter gets moved about because the picture Mindy included in her letter shows it a bit more in the center; in either case the sign/planter does not leave much room for bikes, especially three wheel or surrey style bikes.

Motorized vehicles going around the planter have worn down the dirt along the sidewalk so that there is a 2" lip from the dirt to the walk which can be problematic on a bike of any style (Figure 2).



Figure 1

This path runs behind the Club over to this sign and is shown on the visitor guide as a pedestrian & bike path. Realistically the path is being used by various other motor vehicles, GEM cars, golf carts, Cushman utility carts, etc. It is a dangerous location already because of the type of traffic vying for space on the path without the added obstacle of the sign/planter.

While the planter part of the sign is ok from an aesthetic viewpoint, from a safety point of view a small removable post would seem a better way block traffic from driving on that section if that is the intent of the sign.



Figure 2

Another item pointed out in Mindy's letter is a problem with vehicle/pedestrian usage of the same space when cars exit from the Club parking area. In most cases the driver's intent is to drive towards the Club's porte cochere but as it is not clear which way to turn, at times they turn right which takes them to the roundabout that can be congested. A sign marking that the porte cochere is to the left would hopefully keep drivers from accidentally turning to the right.

As the JICA Board discussed Mindy's letter, one member remembered that at one time there was someone who traveled around the island specifically looking for potential public hazards both on the bike paths and along the roadway. My understanding, after contacting JIA, is that there is currently no one who specifically looks for those types of hazards. I was advised to contact the GSP for issues that would be their responsibility to investigate and to contact JIA Operations with other safety issues like the ones discussed here. The JICA Board would like to encourage JIA to assign someone the responsibility to periodically audit the island for potential safety hazards along the roads, bike paths and beaches and file a report with the Public Safety Officer for review and needed actions.

Thank you for your consideration,

Craig Patterson
President, Jekyll Island Citizens Association