



August 2, 2018

In this issue: Foundation seeks support to acquire Open Space

"Make no little plans: they have no magic to stir men's blood and probably themselves will not be realized."

Daniel Burnham, American Architect & Planner, 1907

"Please.. come back to us with ideas on acquiring open space. We need to do it now!"

**Several Islamorada Foundation Donors, Jan 2018
Annual Foundation Dinner Under the Lights**

While these statements were made over 100 years apart, both ring true for The Islamorada Foundation. We listened, acted, made big plans and have exciting news!

We reported in our May 2018 newsletter that we have added new Board members, developed our first Strategic Plan and began meeting with stakeholders to build partnerships for Plan implementation. This Plan establishes that we have targeted 7 parcels of land for acquisition to create open space and passive recreation.

In mid-May, our Board decided to proceed with a purchase offer for one of the targeted properties. We negotiated an offer with the property owner and entered into a contract in late May, with a price of \$1.2 million.

Phase 1: Acquiring the Property. Fundraising through charitable gifts is underway to acquire the property. Our goal is to complete the purchase on October 1, 2018.

The 1.39 acres is located at 81031 Overseas Highway between US 1 and the Old Highway and includes a blighted, 8200 sq ft commercial structure, which housed several restaurants, including Dino's Italian, The Atlantic Grill and Club Iguana. A recent appraisal confirms the purchase price. A Phase 1 background environmental study shows no substantive issues.

With your support, we can collectively purchase and transform this fantastic property, overrun with invasive vegetation, into an enriched piece of community open space.



Phase 2: Developing and Revitalizing the Property. Mike Corby, a principal of Integrated Architecture of Grand Rapids, Michigan and part-time seasonal resident of Islamorada has generously helped us prepare a development plan for the property as shown below. Once acquired, we will revitalize the property by:

- * Removing invasive vegetation and re-vegetating with native species.
- * Maintaining much of the existing native vegetation, including several full growth trees.
- * Demolishing the existing building which is beyond renovation and make the materials available for recycling.
- * Developing two new pickle-ball courts and a shaded playground for children.
- * Developing landscaping and rain gardens to prevent runoff and non point pollution.
- * Creating pedestrian, cyclist and vehicle access with ample parking.
- * Providing public restrooms, drinking fountains and education/information kiosks
- * Establishing areas to picnic, holds small events, relax and meditate with universal access so that people of all ages, needs and abilities can enjoy the property.



Rendering of completed Phase II - click image to see more

As this newsletter is going to press, the estimated costs for Phase II are being calculated. A future newsletter will itemize costs as we seek donations and grants to complete the development plan as soon as possible after the property is purchased.

As with the Village-owned Southwinds Park, we will manage the site and facilities through Foundation Volunteers.

This will become a remarkable accomplishment to the credit of a large number of people, one that will be repeated through selfless giving by those who love Islamorada and want to preserve the look and feel of our network of Islands. **Please join us in making and acting upon "big plans" for our Islamorada!**

For more information or to contribute to the protection and conservation of open space in Islamorada, please contact us:

[Contact us to pledge your support](#)

IslamoradaFoundation.org

**The Islamorada Foundation
P.O. Box 1315
Islamorada, FL 33036**

About The Islamorada Foundation

The Islamorada Foundation was founded in 2010 to work privately with the community in a common effort of providing the means, motivation and leadership in preserving Islamorada Parks and Green Space.

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