

Hilton Home2 Suites by Hilton: The JIA and Buckhead America had a ceremonial ground breaking in December for the third and final hotel in the Beach Village. Construction work is scheduled to begin in mid-March. The hotel will be located in front of the Westin hotel facing Beachview Drive and will have 107 rooms. Room rates have not been announced but are typically moderate for this particular Hilton brand, which is an extended stay hotel.

Dual Branded Hotel - Courtyard by Marriott and Residence Inn: These two hotels, operating off one lobby, will be built on the site of the old Ramada Inn/Georgia Coast Inn, which is a bit north of the Hampton Inn. The Courtyard will have 109 rooms and the Residence Inn will have 90 rooms and both are scheduled to open in January 2020. The daily room rates have not yet been announced.

The original schematic plans for the two hotels presented by LNWA - Leon N. Wiener and Associates (co-owners of the Westin, the Hampton, the former Buccaneer property, and Ocean Oaks and a minority owner of all the Jekyll Island Club Resort properties) were rejected by the JIA board for aesthetic and other reasons. New schematic drawings for the hotel were presented to the JIA in December, resulting in the following changes:



Height of structure: The original plans for the hotel complied with the JIA's building height limit of 45 feet (the JIA reduced the height limit from 72 to 45 feet after the 67-foot Westin Hotel was built), but the hotel had a "flat roof," which was deemed aesthetically unpleasing and also did not comply with the JIA's Design Guidelines. Unfortunately, the JIA board decided to resolve the flat-roof problem by allowing the hotel to exceed the height guidelines by a yet-to-be specified number of feet. This is the second time that LNWA submitted a flat roof design in order to meet the 45-foot height limit and then secured a height limit waiver for aesthetic reasons, the first violation being the recently-opened Ocean Club Suites, adjacent to the Westin hotel.

Location: The hotel was set back 30 feet further from the dunes than originally planned. LNWA agreed to plant native plants to enhance and protect the dunes. The hotel was also moved further north to avoid destroying a number of Live Oak trees and incurring expensive tree mitigation costs.

The Former Buccaneer Hotel: The Buccaneer Hotel parcel (adjacent to the Days Inn) was supposed to be the site of a replacement hotel but, upon the request of the leaseholder - LNWA (Leon N. Wiener and Associates) - the JIA board recently changed the parcel's classification to "Development Land," which means the 6.9-acre tract can be used for any of a number of development purposes. LNWA is supposed to conduct a marketing study by 2019 to determine the best use for this land, the most likely being another upscale residential community. Whatever became of Jekyll's tradition of affordability?

Beachview Club Hotel: The Beachview Club Hotel was acquired by Georgia Coast Holdings (the owners of the Holiday Inn Resort) in February of 2017. The hotel is currently being renovated and is not open for business.