



Town of Beaufort, NC

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Town of Beaufort Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

6:30 PM Thursday, November 07, 2024 - Train Depot, 614 Broad Street, Beaufort, NC 28516
Monthly Meeting

Call to Order

Chair Michael Rave called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Members Present: Michael Rave, Barbara Francis-Heckman, Sheresa Elliot, Ron Dupuis and Carol Beard
Members Absent: Dave Inscoe and Doug Williams
Staff Present: Parks Coordinator Rachel Johnson and Interim Town Manager Charlie Burgess
Board of Commissioner Present: John LoPiccolo

Agenda Approval

Agenda was approved unanimously with a change. A representative of the Beaufort Garden Club did not attend the meeting in person but emailed staff a comment to share. This item on the agenda was changed to Community Input to offer citizens a chance to speak on the topic.

Minutes Approval

August 2024 minutes were approved unanimously.

Introductions

Committee members gave brief introductions and stated how long they have been on the committee and what motivated them to seek volunteering to serve on the committee. Carol Beard was welcomed as the newest member and Sheresa Elliot was welcomed back. Both were appointed by the Board of Commissioners to serve 4-year terms in September 2024.

Election of Officers

The committee elected Michael Rave to serve as Chair, Sheresa Elliot as Vice Chair and Ron Dupuis as Secretary.

Public Comment

Members of the public were advised that if they wanted to speak on the Ann Street item that they could do so during the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee's discussion on the topic.

No public comments were made at this time.

Items for Discussion and Consideration

1. Ann Street Water Access Discussion

A) Visioning/Idea Sharing - Each member of the committee, Commissioner LoPiccolo and staff shared their ideas for the park space. Members each visited the space prior to the meeting. Both committee members and the public drew on a map their ideas for the space.

B) Public Input - Two Ann Street residents spoke and staff read several emails that had been received about a potential project at the West End of Ann Street.

Will Ziglar, 117 Ann Street, shared that flooding is an issue at the west end of Ann Street. He said when there are King Tides and/or heavy rains that the storm drains back up and flood the street and parking lot. He would like to see more pervious surfaces, rain gardens, grass and other storm water mitigation. He expressed concerns about the space currently being used for illegal activities.

Chris Tutak, 131 Ann Street, stated that the storm drains back up and flood the area.

C) Recommendations to the BOC - Voted Unanimously to recommend the following potential uses for the West End of Ann Street to the Board of Commissioners:

Create a public park with water access that maintains the existing vistas and strives to mitigate existing stormwater/flooding issues.

Recommendations on how to achieve this include the following:

- Eliminate portions of the existing concrete area
- Make parking spaces permeable
- Include a bike/walking path to the center of the space – no golf carts
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Lush gardens
- Irrigation for the landscaping
- Handicap Access
- Incorporate historical markers – Original location of the bridge into Beaufort, boat building & fishing industries
- Public Art/Water Feature
- Reduce the existing number of parking spaces and move them away from the residence at 102 Ann Street
- Build an observation deck/dock similar in style to Harborside Park for public use
- Bicycle Racks

- Native plants/Rain Gardens
- Explore flood mitigation
- Keep the view open with no obstructions
- Shade – maybe in the form of a swinging bench with a covered area to the side
- Consider community gardening options
- Involve the Beaufort Garden Club
- Design an attractive entryway
- Pocket seating areas
- Green Space

It is the opinion of both staff and the advisory committee that much of the work on this project can be done in-house. The next steps are to create a design concept and seek estimates on the construction of a dock/observation deck.

Staff will present this information to the BOC at the regularly scheduled work session meeting.

Member Reports on Park Usage

Ron Dupuis provided a park usage update. He visited Freedom Park, Louis Randolph Johnson Jr. Memorial Park and the green space on Yaupon Street twice a day in August and September and recorded the number of users at each location.

Staff Updates

Staff provided an update on the fence mural project at Louis Randolph Johnson Jr. Memorial Park. Art students at ECHS are working on a project. An unveiling event will be planned for the spring.

Art in the Park continues through December.

Additional storm drain murals will be painted in conjunction with Duke and UNC's community outreach/citizen science programs. They will be creating a scavenger hunt.

Board Comments

No additional comments.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.