



Town of Beaufort, NC

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Town of Beaufort Parks & Recreation Advisory Board 6:30 PM Thursday, May 02, 2024 - Train Depot, 614 Broad Street, Beaufort, NC 28516 Monthly Meeting

Call to Order

Four (4) Advisory Board members in attendance:

Michael Rave, Chair

Barbara Francis-Heckman

Johnna Davis

Ron Dupuis, Secretary

Absent Members: Sheresa Elliot, Brian O'Haver and Doug Williams

Staff Present: Rachel Johnson, Parks Coordinator & Town of Beaufort Advisory Board liaison

Two additional Guests from Beaufort Garden Club:

Monica Hunter - Presenter

Victoria Sullivan

Michael Rave, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:36pm

Agenda Approval

Agenda was approved as presented.

Minutes Approval

Minutes were approved with no changes.

Public Comment

No members of the public were present to make comments.

Items for Discussion and Consideration

1. Beaufort Garden Club's Proposal for Grayden Paul Park

Discussion points:

- Chair Rave thanked Ms. Hunter and Ms. Sullivan for coming and stated that the project should have three items to think about
 1. Funding
 2. Maintenance of the park after the changes
 3. Post improvement activities
- There should be consideration of what type of plants should be included, which the Garden Club has input. Park appears “old and tired” and needs a face lift.
- The park is a great opportunity for Beaufort for gatherings and community activities and should be welcoming in its appearance.
- Activities in park include
 1. Weddings
 2. Pirate invasion activities
 3. Prom pictures at the gazebo
 4. Space is used on a first-come, first-serve basis. Visiting boaters use this as a day dock.
- Ms. Hunter reviewed a presentation proposing updating Grayden Paul Park honoring the park's unique history involving a derelict sharpie schooner. History of the park should be focused on the sharpie schooner with information placards in the park.
- Presentation reviewed provided brief history of park and the schooner
- The schooner is approximately 12 to 13 feet long and could be used as a planter or centralized photo op area in the park
- Discussion concerning irrigation for the park. A project that would have to be funded.
- Ms. Hunter reviewed a proposed new layout of the park with minor changes. Both Ms. Sullivan and Ms. Hunter expressed the need for an Architectural design to be completed professionally for the park before moving forward. The presentation included 10 recommended upgrades, which the Board voted on:
 1. Move the 3-bin trash can to a less visible location, such as the concrete pad in front of the pittosporum shrubs. **Board Vote – YES**
 2. Consider new edging for the existing gardens that can be extended to any new areas requiring edging so the ending is uniform. **Board Vote – YES**
 3. Lights for the Gazebo. **Board Vote – YES**
 4. New waterfront bench in front of the Gazebo. Lower seat height. **Board Vote – YES**
 5. Rotary GP sign. If removed, redesign the street view landscaping with help from the Beautification Committee. The other option is to paint the sign with the uniform colors like the Randolph Johnson park sign. **Board Comments: There is no attachment to the sign at this point. Need to follow-up with this action.**
 6. Main diagonal pathway will add interest and address the wear pattern from people not using the existing walkways. Built from concrete or other hardscape material that compliments the overall aesthetics. **Board Comments: On Hold until new design is complete. Permeability will be a consideration.**
 7. Optional pathway that connects the Alphonso boat planter from the corner to the water view bench. Possibly a different material or texture than the other walkways. Again, would add visual interest and address wear patterns. **Board Comments: On Hold until new design is complete.**
 8. Drip watering system to be able to increase the success of planted areas and reduce hand watering efforts. System designed such that extension can be added as needed for future landscaping. **Board Comments: Explore options for watering and build into design requirements.**

9. Level the area in front of the benches that have compressed over the years and/or any other areas that need leveling prior to new paths, etc. **Board Comments: On Hold until new design is complete.**

Consider planting Live Oak for future shade. Board Comments: On Hold until new design is complete.

Staff Comments

Some of these actions could be included in future grants that are being considered. These actions will not be taken to the Commissioners at this point until Funding and Design are finalized.

Board Comments

Funding and Design requirements need to be understood but the Board thanks the Garden Club coming forward and presenting the material for review. The Board will be happy to review again once additional activities regarding funding and design have been researched. Chairperson Rave thanked Ms. Hunter and Ms. Sullivan for their time and excellent presentation.

Adjourn

Ron Dupuis Motion, Johnna Davis Second

Meeting Adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Notes taken by Ron Dupuis, Secretary