



## **Town of Beaufort, NC**

701 Front St. - P.O. Box 390 - Beaufort, N.C. 28516  
252-728-2141 - 252-728-3982 fax - [www.beaufortnc.org](http://www.beaufortnc.org)

### **Town of Beaufort Parks & Recreation Advisory Board 6:00 PM Thursday, May 01, 2025 - Train Depot, 614 Broad Street, Beaufort, NC 28516 Monthly Meeting**

---

---

#### **Call to Order**

Chair Sheresa Elliot called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Members Present: Secretary Ron Dupuis, Victoria Sullivan, Lora Fasolino,

Members Absent: Taylor McCune and Doug Williams

Staff Present: Rachel Johnson, Parks Coordinator

#### **Agenda Approval**

Agenda amended to remove minutes per staff request.

Lora Fasolino made a motion to approve, seconded by Carol Beaird, and unanimously approved.

#### **Minutes Approval**

Removed from the agenda. April and May minutes will be on the June agenda for approval.

#### **Public Comment**

There were four members of the public present, but no specific comments were made during public comment.

#### **Staff Report**

Parks Coordinator Rachel Johnson provided an overview of the Town's budget process, the role of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and the recommendations made in the Parks Comprehensive Plan to address questions that had arisen throughout the month concerning how to get the Town to include a dedicated line for Parks in the upcoming budget cycle. Johnson explained that the Parks and Rec advisory committee identifies projects and activities and makes recommendations to staff to share with the Board of Commissioners. There is not currently a full-time parks staff person to oversee and create a parks budget. There is currently a completely separate account for parks projects where donations and recreation fees paid by new developments are kept separate from the General Fund. Parks and Rec has never had a budget line item. Park maintenance is captured in the Public Works budget. The Advisory Committee has been in place

since 2011 and has recommended to the Town BOC since that time to hire a Full Time Parks Director and to create a line item in the Town's General Fund that is funded each year for Parks.

Since there are new members on the Advisory Committee (4 out of 6 members have been on the committee less than 6 months), Ron, Sheresa, and Rachel provided insight to how the current Comprehensive Plan and Priorities were developed. There is high energy from new members but new projects and new direction of the Committee needs to be evaluated and discussed against the current priorities decided in 2024. Changes can be made but must be agreed and voted on by the Committee.

One of the recommendations from the Committee in 2024 and included in the Comprehensive Plan was to hire full-time Parks and Recreation Director as step one. The next step would be to create an annual Parks budget.

Additional funding discussions were brought forward in regards to Trestle Walk/Town Creek trail. Johnson reiterated that this project is not yet funded. It has been included in a Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) presented to the BOC for several years; however, the BOC has not ever officially approved the CIP. Johnson and Town Engineer Sam Bell applied for grant funding in February for this project. The grant project has yet to be awarded and is not anticipated to be awarded until mid-late summer.

#### 1. Ann Street Park Update

Johnson provided an update on the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board's recommendations to the BOC. The Board of Commissioners approved all the recommendations from the Advisory Committee at their April 14, 2025 meeting. It was a unanimous vote with 1 BOC member abstaining from voting.

The presented recommendations are as follows:

##### Beaufort Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Recommendations to the BOC

After carefully reviewing all of the public input received over the past few months regarding a park at the West end of Ann Street, the Beaufort Parks & Recreation Advisory Board unanimously recommends a park design that includes an observation deck at Ann Street Park.

The park conversations brought forward the community's desire for additional kayak access locations in Beaufort. The Board recommends that due to multiple factors involving the current at the Ann Street Park location that the Town look into adding additional kayak launches at the end of Moore Street, on the Town-owned property on West Beaufort Road and consider other Town-owned street ends such as Fulford Street. The West Beaufort Road location has also been identified by the advisory committee as a potential location for the addition of kayak storage racks.

The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board recommends that these projects move forward as soon as possible in order to address the public's request for additional kayak launch locations. There are currently kayak launch points on Front Street to include Fisherman's Park, Grayden Paul Park, Curtis Perry Park, and Derwood's Landing. Carteret County Parks & Recreation operates a kayak launch on Town Creek.

The recommendation is to consider Ann Street Park as a Passive Pocket Park containing open green space, native plantings, a rain garden, and an observation deck. All Town of Beaufort park rules would apply to include noise and hours of operation regulations. Park Rules & Regulations governing Town parks are outlined in

Chapter 96 of the Town of Beaufort Code of Ordinances. They are also attached below for quick reference. The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board feels the existing ordinance adequately addresses many of the community's concerns regarding parking, noise, and litter.

Public Input for the project has been received in multiple ways to include in person during a community conversation forum, a site visit, public comments during Parks & Rec meetings from October 2024-April 2025, emails, handwritten notes, and phone calls to staff. All of the input was shared with the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board so that every comment was taken into consideration in the process of making the above recommendations.

The Park would be completed in 2 phases. Phase 1 is the land side of the park and can be completed almost entirely in-house utilizing Town staff and funded from the existing Park Improvements Project Fund. Phase 2 includes the observation deck and the bulkhead/living shoreline portion. Staff is in the process of applying for grants to fund this portion of the project. Staff needs the BOC's approval of the proposed concept design in order to move forward with Phase 1 & 2.

The concept design has been updated and reviewed by the committee several times. Additional recommendations not captured by the concept design include:

**Town of Beaufort Code of Ordinances Chapter 96: Parks and Recreation**

Sec. 96.03. - General prohibitions applicable to all parks and recreation facilities.

Within the limit of any Town of Beaufort park or within any recreational facility, it is unlawful for any person to:

- (1) Litter;
- (2) Use profane or abusive language;
- (3) Use illegal drugs;
- (4) Possess alcohol, except by permit;
- (5) Smoke;
- (6) Possess glass containers;
- (7) Amplify sound, except by permit;
- (8) Solicit or panhandle;
- (9) Engage in commercial activity, except by permit;
- (10) Obstruct entrances to the park;
- (11) Dump household/business trash into public receptacles;
- (12) Vandalize property;
- (13) Leave vehicles overnight;
- (14) Camp;
- (15) Light fires or fireworks, except by permit (park grills not included);
- (16) Gamble;
- (17) Possess weapons. This does not prohibit concealed handgun permit holders from legally carrying a concealed handgun in accordance with N.C.G.S. 14-415.11.

- (18) Golf, hunt, skateboard, roller blade, operate ATVs or drones;
- (19) Park in the grass; or
- (20) Possess off-leash pets, owners must pick up and dispose of pet waste.

Johnson also reported that staff is working on an application for a CAMA grant in the amount of \$125,000 for the construction of the observation deck portion of the park.

## 2. Other Park Projects Update

The BOC approval also included approval for the committee and staff to begin investigating the potential of additional kayak launches at other locations, to include: West Beaufort Road, Fulford Street, Moore Street. Public Works has identified a maintenance need at Grayden Paul Park to replace the existing floating dock. \$85,000 is being asked for in the upcoming FY budget to replace the dock.

The Beaufort Garden Club has been working on a replica of the Alphonso to place in Grayden Paul Park and has recommended a renovation of the park space. As the park space is adjacent to the boardwalk renovation project, the plans to renovate this space are on hold so they can be completed in conjunction with possible changes in the immediate area. The replacement of the floating dock will likely occur prior to any other work due to the current condition of the dock.

Art students at East Carteret High School have been working on a semester long art mural that is almost ready for installation at Louis Randolph Johnson Jr. Memorial Park. The splashpad opened May 1.

## Items for Discussion and Consideration

### 1. Park Inventory Analysis: Lora Fasolino

New member Lora Fasolino had made a request during the March meeting to have Committee time and an agenda item to present and discuss Beaufort Parks inventory and usage. Lora mentioned she had been on the Parks and Rec Advisory Committee before (ended 2019) and that there were several new members on the committee now. Her presentation displayed page 42 in the Parks and Rec Comprehensive Plan that shows an aerial view of all parks in Beaufort and their location. Her presentation focused on understanding what type of park each of the parks were and their location.

Lora mentioned that if parks have historical markers there should be a review of signs to determine if there is any crossover information shared. Each sign could explain the historical significance and could be a topic of the park. The comment was made and the question was asked if each park needed a historical marker.

Dog parks were brought up and the fact we had 1 in town at Freedom Park. Beau Coast has a dog park, but its private for the residents of Beau Coast and there is another Town owned space that is a pseudo-dog park at the Ann Yaupon Street Open Space. Ron had completed a usage survey of the Yaupon space last summer and it was underutilized but probably is used in the early morning and early evening for dog walkers. Rachel added that all parks need to be ADA accessible when the question of parking came up.

Lora brought up future projects for the Committee to discuss and execute:

- Moore Street Pocket park
- Other Street and Pocket parks
- Yaupon Dog park

Trestle Walk/Beaufort Greenway/West Beaufort trail

Community Garden

Ron brought up that a new non-profit group had been formed called the Beaufort Community Foundation and they are having a kick-off meeting at the Backstreet Pub on Sunday May 4 from 3-5pm. It would be great if the Foundation and the Parks and Rec Advisory Board can work together with similar goals.

Lastly, Ron brought up since there are so many new members and most have not been to all the parks to see their location and what they provide, maybe members can meet once or twice a month to visit specific parks as a group and discuss and observe what the parks provide and any opportunities for the members to see. Doug did this for Ron when he became a member and it has been beneficial. Ron volunteered to organize this.

2. Election of Chair

This item was moved to the June meeting by consensus.

**Board Comments**

This was Sheresa Elliot's last meeting as she is moving out of the area. The Committee thanked her for her awesome service as a board member and Chair. She thanked everyone and stated that it had been a pleasure to serve on the Committee, but would like very much to see the projects continue that were identified in the Comprehensive Plan which so many members worked very hard to develop. There should be a process to prioritize and select new projects in the future.

**Adjourn**

Minutes by Ron Dupuis, Board Secretary, and Rachel Johnson, Parks Coordinator