



Town of Beaufort, NC

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Town of Beaufort Parks & Recreation Advisory Board 6:00 PM Thursday, July 01, 2021 - Zoom Monthly Meeting

Call to Order

Chair Liz DeMattia called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. via Zoom.

Member Absent: Marcus Truskey

Members Present: Liz DeMattia, Michael Rave, Peter Crumley, Johnna Davis, Sheresa Elliot and Brian O'Haver

Staff Present: Rachel Johnson

BOC Member Present: Anne Carter

Agenda Approval

Agenda approved unanimously with the change of moving the Staff Report after Items of Discussion & Consideration.

Public Comment

None

Staff Report

1. Beaufort Woman's Club Grant Letter

Staff shared the denial letter from the Women's Club for a grant at RJ Park.

2. Meetings 2021

Meeting schedule for 2021 was shared. Meetings are the first Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

Liz DeMattia made a motion to approve the schedule as presented. Motion was seconded by Peter Crumley. Motion carried unanimously.

Items for Discussion and Consideration

1. Middle Passage Dedication & Marker Project Request

Staff received a request to consider the installation of a Middle Passage Dedication Marker at Topsail Park. Project organizer Heather Walker made a presentation and fielded questions from Board members. (Presentation attached).

Rave commended the presentation and indicated he was excited for this opportunity for Beaufort.

Questions arose about the placement. Walker explained there are two locations identified in the Town as Middle Passage locations with Topsail Park being one and the other at the end of Turner Street where the public restrooms are located.

The Board unanimously approved the following recommendations to the BOC with Liz DeMattia making the motion and Brian O'Haver seconding it:

1. Recommend granting permission to place the proposed marker at Topsail Park
2. Recommend the BOC consider designating Aug. 23 as the United Nation's Day of Remembrance and to permit a remembrance ceremony to be conducted annually at Topsail Park.
3. Recommend the BOC and staff work to understand if a dual dedication of this project and the Garden Club's Menhaden Melody project would be feasible.
4. Recommend the BOC & staff explore dedication options at the end of Turner Street as another future site.
5. Recommend dedicating Topsail Park as a memorial park to the African Ancestors.

2. Non-Verbal Communication Board Consideration

Staff has been approached by a private citizen about considering a non-verbal communication board in Randolph Johnson Park. The citizen offered to donate the communication board.

The board was agreeable to the project and asked staff to pursue it.

3. RJ Park Dedication

Discussed and planned the ceremony and logistics for the upcoming park dedication event.

Board Comments

Brian O'Haver said he would like to see shade in Topsail Park.

Adjourn