



Town of Beaufort, NC

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Town of Beaufort Parks & Recreation Advisory Board 6:00 PM Thursday, May 07, 2026 - Train Depot, 614 Broad Street, Beaufort, NC 28516 Monthly Meeting (Approved 06.17.26)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chair Ron Dupuis.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Chair Ron Dupuis, Vice Chair Doug Williams, Carol Beard, Lora Fasolino, Bruce Mann, and Victoria Sullivan

Board Members Absent: Taylor McCune

Staff Present: Community Engagement Director Jen Welborn

Elected Officials present: None

Agenda Approval

The agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

Lora Fasolino commented that she would like to see future agendas more focused on the CIP and the PRAB's priority items, short-, mid-, and long-term goals. Chair Ron Dupuis agreed, stating that the agendas have been focused on Eury Park improvement process, and that they would return to priority items as soon as their work on Eury Park was completed.

Minutes Approval

1. PRAB Regular Meeting 04.02.26

The Board unanimously approved the PRAB Regular Meeting 04.02.26 minutes as presented.

Public Comment

There were 2 public comments.

Mary Phillips, Chair of the Beaufort Community Foundation, thanked the board and Welborn for their work on the Eury Park improvements project and for hosting the community input sessions. Phillips reviewed a few bench options and spoke on pricing, possible plaques, meetings with staff, and commented that 5 DUMAR (Edenton style) benches, including freight costs, were within the Community Foundation's budget.

Becky Bowler, who currently serves on the Town's Historic Preservation Commission, and has served on the Beaufort Planning Board, Beaufort Community Foundation board, and Garden Club, explained her close relationship with Mr. Eury's daughter, Leigh Vette, and expressed appreciation for the PRAB's prioritization of the Eury Park improvements, especially considering Mr. Eury's declining health.

Staff Report

1. Ann Street Park Update

Community Engagement Director Jen Welborn gave a brief update regarding the progress of the Ann Street Waterfront Park project. The Town had received the necessary CAMA permit and Town Engineer Sam Bell, in collaboration with Public Works Director Mark Eakes, was working on the observation deck specifications in preparation for publishing a request for bids. Legal staff continues to review a bulkhead-related matter. Subcontractor, TA Loving is finishing current work in the area.

More information can be found on the Town's website here: <https://www.beaufortnc.org/parks/project/ann-street-waterfront-park>

2. Rock the Docks Update

Welborn gave a brief update regarding the Town's Rock the Docks summer concert series, which is scheduled for Thursdays from 5-8 PM in John Newton Park, running from May 21 to August 6, 2026, including the band lineup and sponsorship information.

3. Summer Kids Feed & Art in the Park Update

Welborn briefed the PRAB on an annual event called "Summer Kids Feed," hosted by local Pat Wesson. The event consists of free meals in Louis Randolph Johnson Jr. Memorial Park every Friday during the summer, from 11 AM – 12 PM. Wesson also coordinates meals to the Boys & Girls Club every Friday. This year, the event will also have small arts & crafts projects available, which Welborn is helping to coordinate. Beaufort Town Hall, Fire Station 1, and Fire Station 2, will all serve as collection points for food donations from June 1 through August 1, 2026. Welborn stated that the PRAB could pick one or two Fridays to host the event, to which there was general interest.

Old Business

1. Eury Park Community Input Sessions – Results & Recommendations to the Board of Commissioners

The Board reviewed the results of the community input sessions regarding the proposed improvements to Lynn Eury Park. Chair Ron Dupuis explained that there was a total of 57 inputs recorded and that he had categorized them into the following, in order of frequency:

- Other/Misc/Overall: 21
- Benches and Tables: 19
- Landscaping: 7
- Path: 4
- Boats: 3
- Slabs: 3

The Board agreed to discuss and vote on each item, then discuss the "Other comments" category at the end.

Benches and Tables:

Bruce Mann stated that he reviewed the data and created a spreadsheet, finding approximately 76 individual attribute comments total. He stated that 85% of respondents preferred lighter color benches, 71% preferred Pollywood, and that there was a mixed preference for benches with backs vs. without backs (approximately 50/50). Additional discussion points included an ADA-accessible table, coordinating tables with bench designs, and that the Town currently has benches in various styles and colors throughout Town.

Bruce Mann made a motion to recommend 5 Pollywood benches, including 3 without backs and 2 with backs, in the color gray and Edenton style. The motion was unanimously approved.

Lora Fasolino made a motion to recommend one ADA-compliant and one regular hexagon style Pollywood tables in soft gray to match the chosen benches. The motion was unanimously approved.

Landscaping:

There was a brief discussion about additional trees, the neighboring Grayden Paul Park, and various forms of shade.

Bruce Mann made a motion to recommend no additional shade in the park, including sails, trees, and umbrellas. The motion was unanimously approved.

Victoria Sullivan, a member of the Beaufort Garden Club, discussed the need for a spigot on the east side of the park, especially if potted flowers would be included in the new landscaping. She mentioned the possible use of an existing spigot near the boats, and options for trenching and installing a new spigot. The group also discussed the addition of a drinking fountain.

Bruce Mann made a motion to recommend the installation of a spigot for water plants on the east side of the park and a water fountain for people and dogs, if possible. The motion was unanimously approved.

Path:

Bruce explained that respondents favored a pervious brick pathway. The group noted that the bricks at Topsail Marine Park, which is similarly positioned to the water, were holding up well.

Lora Fasolino made a motion to recommend a brick semi-circle pathway, to include embossed bricks, and to defer to the Public Works department for laying and installation guidance. The motion was unanimously approved.

Boats:

The group discussed Mr. Eury's desire to maintain the existing water views and proposed no additional structures or obstructions.

Slabs:

Bruce Mann made a motion to recommend the removal of the existing concrete slabs, while noting that some respondents felt that the slabs may have some historical significance. The motion was approved with Lora Fasolino abstaining from the vote.

Other Items:

The group discussed bike racks at Grayden Paul Park, Town Hall, and across from Inlet Inn, adding a binocular viewing station, possibly at Grayden Paul Park, using QR codes within the Town parks to share the history of each location, and the desire for no sculptures or children's playground/climbing equipment. They also discussed completing park improvements as quickly as possible due to Mr. Eury's health and the property's HOA restrictions.

Chair Ron Dupuis made a motion to recommend the use of a QR code to share the history of Eury Park. The motion was unanimously approved.

Summary of Recommendations:

- **Benches:** 3 benches without backs and 2 with backs, Edenton style, Pollywood seats, gray
- **Tables:** 1 ADA compliant and 1 regular, hexagon-style, Pollywood tables in a soft gray, to match the benches
- **Landscaping:** No additional shade structures (including trees, sails, umbrellas, etc.)
- **Water:** Spigot on East side of the park to water flowers, and possible fountain for humans and dogs too
- **Path:** Semi-circle brick layout (permeable), with embossed bricks, defer to Public Works for installation details
- **View:** Maintain existing water views, no additional obstructions
- **Slabs:** Remove the concrete slabs (Note that some people believe the slabs to have historical significance.)
- **Other Items:**
 - QR code to share the history of the location
 - No sculptures
 - No children's climbing features
 - Support completing the work quickly
 - Support of the name change to "Eury Family Park"
 - HOA considerations discussed
 - Bike racks in other parks
 - Binocular viewing station in Grayden Paul
 - Grayden Paul pathways and other improvements

Board Comments

Carol Beird presented a list of potential locations to place additional bike racks throughout Downtown Beaufort. Welborn stated that there may be some funds available for bike racks in the FY 25-26 budget.

Vice Chair Doug Williams stated that he thought nametags for PRAB board members would be helpful at events like community input sessions. Welborn stated that she would work on ordering some.

Bruce Mann stressed the need to advance and focus on PRAB priority items and the budget cycle.

Chair Ron Dupuis reiterated the need to focus on PRAB priority items and a desire for a commissioner liaison for the group.

Staff Comments

Community Engagement Director Jen Welborn thanked the board for their discussion and decisions regarding the Eury Park improvements, stating that she thought the process went smoothly.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM.