



Town of Beaufort, NC

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Town of Beaufort Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

6:00 PM Wednesday, June 17, 2026 - Train Depot, 614 Broad Street, Beaufort, NC 28516
Special Meeting
(Approved 08.05.26)

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, Bruce Mann, Taylor McCune, and Victoria Sullivan

Board Members Absent: Lora Fasolino (attended via phone call)

Staff Present: Community Engagement Director Jen Welborn, Planning Director Kyle Garner

Elected Officials present: None

Agenda Approval

The agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

Minutes Approval

1. PRAB Regular Meeting 05.07.26

The Board unanimously approved the PRAB Regular Meeting 05.07.26 minutes as presented.

2. Greenways Executive Committee Minutes 05.13.26

The Board unanimously approved the PRAB Greenways Executive Committee Minutes 05.13.26 minutes as presented.

Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

Staff Report

1. Ann Street Park Update

Planning Director Kyle Garner provided an update on the Ann Street Waterfront Park project. He discussed progress on the bulkhead agreement, observation deck engineering, and coordination with TA Loving's underground utilities replacement project on Ann Street. Additional discussion included grant funding, project permitting, neighboring property considerations, and the anticipated project timeline.

2. Rock the Docks Update

Community Engagement Director Jen Welborn provided an update on the 2026 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 sponsorships, fundraising efforts, and upcoming performances. Welborn noted that sponsorships had exceeded \$25,000, covering the cost of the mobile stage and the 12-week concert series.

3. Summer Kids Feed & Art in the Park Update

Welborn updated the Board on the Summer Kids Feed program and Art in the Park activities. She discussed opportunities for PRAB members to assist with arts and crafts during the Friday summer program and reminded the Board about the ongoing food collection at Town Hall and Fire Stations 1 and 2 through August 1, 2026, benefiting local children.

4. Greenway Executive Committee Report

Chair Ron Dupuis and Bruce Mann provided updates on the Greenway Executive Team activities. Planning Director Kyle Garner provided additional background information on the Beaufort Greenways planning from a staff perspective. Discussion included the "Trestle Walk" project, potential grant opportunities, fundraising efforts, and future Greenway priorities.

5. Moore Street Water Access

Garner reviewed the history of the Moore Street water access easements and discussed CAMA permitting requirements, neighboring property considerations, potential grant opportunities, and possible next steps for improving public water access in this area.

Old Business

1. Eury Park – Board of Commissioner Requests

The Board reviewed comments and requests received from the Board of Commissioners regarding the proposed Eury Park improvements. Discussion included bench styles, colors, materials, tables, and maintaining consistency with the Board's previously approved recommendations. Staff was asked to obtain the Beaufort Community Foundation's preferred bench specifications in writing for the Board's future consideration. Welborn confirmed that she would contact the Beaufort Community Foundation for this information.

2. 10-Year Plan planning schedule discussion

The Board discussed scheduling a work session to update the Parks & Recreation 10-Year Plan. Dupuis encouraged all board members to come prepared to the session.

Dupuis made a motion to schedule the work session to discuss the PRAB 10-Year Plan on Thursday, October 1, 2026, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the Beaufort Train Depot in lieu of their October 1, 2026, regularly scheduled meeting.

New Business

1. Arts in Beaufort – Menhaden Fisherman Statue/Bench Presentation

Vic Fasolino and BJ Vincent of Arts in Beaufort presented a proposed gift to the Town of Beaufort, a menhaden fisherman statue and accompanying bench. The presentation highlighted the history of Beaufort's menhaden fishing industry, the proposed sculpture and bench design which had already been

completed and delivered, and the inclusion of a QR code that would provide visitors with an audio narrative highlighting the history and importance of the menhaden fishing industry and African American's contributions to it.

The Board discussed several potential locations for the installation, including John Newton Park, Grayden Paul Park, and Ann Street Waterfront Park. Discussion included visibility, accessibility, visitor engagement, and how the sculpture would complement its surrounding environment.

Victoria Sullivan made a motion to recommend that the Town would benefit from this lovely gift and to place it in John Newton Park, "Position 1" as seen in the PowerPoint (large mulch area where the picnic table sits). The motion passed unanimously in a (6-0) vote.

2. 10-Year Plan – Planning & Discussion Schedule

This item was discussed under Old Business.

Board Comments

Carol Beird suggested sending thank-you letters to Rock the Docks sponsors.

Ron Dupuis thanked staff for their flexibility and continued work on Board projects.

Bruce Mann discussed upcoming grant opportunities, naming one due in August 2026, and strongly encouraged continued progress on Beaufort Greenway initiatives and grant applications.

There was general consensus for Garner and Mann to further discuss possible grant opportunities.

Staff Comments

There were no staff comments at this time.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 PM.