



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

Town of Beaufort Parks & Recreation Advisory Board 6:00 PM Thursday, June 05, 2025 - Train Depot, 614 Broad Street, Beaufort, NC 28516 Monthly Meeting

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Vice Chair Doug Williams.

- Board Members Present: Doug Williams, Taylor McCune, Carol Beard, Victoria Sullivan, Lora Fasolino
- Board Members Absent: Ron Dupuis & 1 Vacant Seat
- Staff Present: Rachel Johnson, Parks Coordinator
- Duke Engage Interns: Gianna Rodriguez, Brittany Mitchell, and Connor Ennis

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the April 3, 2025 meeting were approved as submitted. May and June minutes will be presented

Public Comment: No Public Comment was made. Bruce Mann was present.

New Business:

1. Presentation: Duke Engage Interns – “Third Spaces” Research

The Duke Engage Interns delivered a robust and data-driven presentation focused on the concept of “third spaces” within Beaufort. Their research included observational data collected from stakeouts at various times of day at two key locations: the Beaufort boardwalk and John Newton Park.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Community usage trends and peak visitation times.
- Observations on how public spaces are utilized for informal gatherings, relaxation, and social interaction.
- How these spaces could be utilized for both fuel tanks and greenspace.
- Parking considerations.

The interns also discussed potential opportunities for community space development, specifically addressing the area adjacent to John Newton Park where the Beaufort Waterfront Operations and Finance Committee has proposed the installation of fuel tanks in the West parking lot. The interns suggested this area could be reconsidered as a valuable community green space.

Gianna also gave a brief update on her second project involving the painting of storm drains and the creation of a scavenger hunt to bring awareness to the sensitive nature of the Town's stormwater system.

The presentation created a robust dialogue between board members. Members asked the students questions about their project, about third spaces and discussed different possibilities among themselves. Staff reminded the Board no recommendations were asked to be given at this time and that the presentation was to start the conversation.

2. 2025 Parks Planning – Johnson stated that the Town Manager sends his apologies for not attending tonight's meeting but that he plans to attend the August meeting. The goal for the board will be to schedule a day long meeting in the fall to create a CIP Plan for Town Parks based upon the Parks Comprehensive Plan.

Old Business

1. **Ann Street Park Update**

Rachel Johnson reported that the Town has been invited to submit a full application to the Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) for a \$120,000 grant. This funding would support the development of the waterfront deck component of Ann Street Park.

Johnson anticipates construction on the park will begin in the fall to winter months of 2025-2026.

2. **Elect a Chair**

The Board held an election for the position of Chair. Although Ron Dupuis was not present at the meeting, he had submitted his resume and expressed his willingness to serve in the role. Doug Williams was asked if he had an interest in serving as Chair. He declined but proceeded to nominate Ron Dupuis for the position. The nomination was seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously by the Board.

Ron Dupuis was elected Chair of the Beaufort Parks & Recreation Advisory Board.

Staff Report

Upcoming Events

Johnson shared several upcoming events and encouraged board participation:

- **June 20 – Movie in the Park** in partnership with Purpose Church.
- **Free Food Fridays** at Randolph Johnson Park: A 10-week series beginning this month, every Friday at 11:00 AM.
- **Community Picnic in August:** Planning is underway.

Board Discussion

None

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by:

Rachel Johnson, Public Information Officer, Parks & Events Coordinator & Deputy Clerk

