



Town of Beaufort, NC

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Town of Beaufort Parks & Recreation Advisory Board 6:00 PM Thursday, April 03, 2025 - Train Depot, 614 Broad Street, Beaufort, NC 28516 Monthly Meeting

Call to Order

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

Six (6) Advisory Board members in attendance; one (1) absent:

Sheresa Elliot, Chair, Ron Dupuis, Secretary, Carol Beard, Lora Fasolino, Taylor McCune, Victoria Sullivan

Absent: Doug Williams

Staff Present: Rachel Johnson, Town of Beaufort Parks Coordinator

Agenda Approval

Carol Beard made a motion to approve as presented. Ron Dupuis seconded the motion. All in Favor Unanimous.

Minutes Approval

March 2025 Meeting Minutes

Carol Beard made a motion to approve as presented. Ron Dupuis seconded the motion. All in Favor Unanimous.

Minutes Approval

Introduction and welcome of new committee member Victoria Sullivan.

Public Comment

Bruce Mann, 207 Fulford Street, spoke about his desire to see the Town install a kayak launch at the end of Fulford Street. He sent an email to staff in 2024 while the Comp Plan was being prepared. He said Fulford Street is an ideal location as it is before the sidewalk ends on Front Street.

This comment led to committee discussion, including looking at the location on the Carteret County GIS map. The discussion centered on how to move forward with a potential project at this location.

Lora Fasolino said it is important to review the Comp Plan and categorize what types of parks and what amenities already exist in Beaufort to get a better grasp on what is needed. The May 2025 meeting will be dedicated to this suggested topic and with Fasolino leading a presentation.

Staff Report

1. Cama Grant

Staff provided an update that Town staff is working on CAMA grants and permitting for the Ann Street Park Project.

Town Engineer Sam Bell updated the concept map to include the committees latest recommendations that came forth from the Community Conversation/public input session.

Staff reviewed the suggested recommendations to the Board of Commissioners.

The review included updates on timelines for Cama grants and permits and BOC and HPC approvals.

Summary: Parks staff is working with the Town's Planning & Engineering Departments. Updates on Phase I – All work is being done in-house. Working with CAMA on permitting and submitting a grant application. Also working on lighting locations (pedestal lights to fit into Dark Sky lighting standards).

2. Review of Funding

Staff shared the current balance of the Parks Improvement Fund: \$534,332.54. This is money from a donation to parks received in 2016, as well as monies collected through the Town's Recreation Fees associated with new development.

Staff explained that the Ann Street project would be funded from this account. Additionally, staff explained that, as outlined in the 2024 Comprehensive Plan, the Town doesn't have a dedicated Parks line item in the Town's general fund. All Parks' money is kept in an entirely separate account and at a separate bank. Staff further explained that all park maintenance is handled through the public works department's annual budget. The Comprehensive Plan and the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee have recommended that the Town consider adding a line item to the budget for Parks.

Items for Discussion and Consideration

1. An updated Concept Map will be available at the meeting for review.

Review & Revise BOC recommendation.

Staff presented an updated Ann Street Park Concept Map for the committee to review. Elements discussed include: Picnic tables, a Water Bottle filler, Parking changes, swing placement, plantings, irrigation, a fence to keep golf carts off the grass, rain gardens, benches, hose bibs, a dog bag station, brick walkways. The Committee reviewed the updated map and provided additional comments to incorporate into the recommendation to the Board of Commissioners.

Staff Report

Staff provided updates on a variety of topics to include:

Earth Day/Beaufort Cleanup Day on Saturday, April 26, 2025. It would be great to see some Committee members come out.

Discussion around providing a fishing line trash receptacle on the viewing dock at Ann Street. All committee members were in favor of adding that in the needs of the new park

Spring Carnival coming up on Friday, May 2 at the Elementary School from 4:00-6:30 p.m..

Staff gave an update on the Waterfront Park Project and invited the committee to attend the upcoming drop-in style Community Conversation meeting on the Waterfront Project on April 15 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at John Newton Park to learn more about the project and how parks are incorporated in the project.

Board Comments

Lora Fasolino asked the committee to discuss additional topic/focus items including the purpose of our parks and an inventory of our parks. Staff asked Fasolino to prepare a presentation for the May meeting using the parks inventory and information in the 2024 Parks Comprehensive Plan as a guideline.

It was asked that we review current projects agreed for in 2025 and assess the priority of new projects suggested. Staff reiterated that a project priority is outlined in the Comp plan and that at this time, the only project in 2025 is the Ann Street Park. There is interest in additional projects at Moore, West Beaufort Road, and Fulford Streets in the form of water access.

A member asked if the Town could supply name tags for board members to wear at events.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.