



Town of Beaufort, NC

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Town of Beaufort Parks & Recreation Advisory Board 6:30 PM Tuesday, May 30, 2023 - Train Depot, 614 Broad Street, Beaufort, NC 28516 Monthly Meeting

Call to Order

Chair Michael Rave called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Doug Williams, Johnna Davis, Peter Crumley, Barbara Frances-Heckman and Michael Rave

Members Absent: Brian O'Haver and Sheresa Elliot

Staff Present: Rachel Johnson, Parks Coordinator

Agenda Approval

The agenda was amended to add a presentation on Dog Parks. Amended agenda approved unanimously.

Minutes Approval

Minutes were approved as presented.

Public Comment

No public comment was made.

Items for Discussion and Consideration

1. Connectivity & Sidewalks Recommendation - Peter Crumley

Peter Crumley asked the board to consider recommending the proposed walking route system to the BOC and for the updated Parks Comp Plan.

There are 17 proposed paths that interconnect different areas of Town.

Member Rave said we need to make sure the route fulfills all the needs of all residents.

A consensus was reached that all members present agree with the proposed routes.

A proposed goal statement was suggested:

"The goal of the walking route system is to connect populations to parks, water access and businesses from uptown to downtown while improving fitness, well being and enjoyment of residents and visitors."

Staff was asked to prepare an official statement and a map highlighting the proposed routes for the August meeting.

2. Dog Park Discussion Item

Barbara Frances-Heckman led a presentation on Dog Parks.

The presentation highlighted the pros and cons of an Off Leash Area.

Vision: To establish a fenced in, off-leash dog park where well-behaved canine citizens can exercise in a clean, safe environment without endangering or annoying people, property or wildlife.

A national initiative provides a lot of information on dog parks - www.bettercitiesforpets.com.

The presentation outlined how to get started, key features, fencing and design, water supply, small/large dog areas, surface types, signage, dog park rules and regulations, dog waste, trash receptacles, seating and amenities, parking and pedestrian connectivity, cost considerations and next steps.

A consensus was reached to refine a statement for the updated Comp Plan to include specific recommendations to the Town BOC to include but not limited to: a space of at least 1.5 acres, water access for dogs and humans, benches, shade (if no trees consider shade sails etc), large dog area that is a minimum of 1 acre, secure entrance that is properly oriented as not to corner dogs yet prevent escape, no mulch, grassy/natural surface, minimum of 5-6 ft powder coated hurricane fence, waste stations and trash receptacles easily acceptable inside the park area, ADA compliancy, and a set of specific rules to govern the off leash area.

Staff Report

Staff did not have any new updates. Reminded the board there will not be a July meeting. The next meeting will be the first Thursday in August.

Board Comments

The Board did not have any additional comments.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.