Town of Swansboro
Swansboro Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
October 21, 2026

I. Call to Order & Roll Call: The meeting of the Swansboro Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was called to order on Wednesday, October 21, 2026, at 5:33 PM in Swansboro, NC.

Present:, Matthew Prane, Elena Messenger, Jennifer Steele, and Ryan Swanson.

Absent: Deb Pylypiw

II. Adoption of Minutes

a. September 16, 2026 Meeting Minutes—Matthew Prane made a motion to approve the minutes, and Jenn Steele seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The August meeting minutes remain outstanding and are expected to be presented at the next meeting.

III. Reports

a. **Upcoming Programs/Events-**Recreation programming is expected to resume sometime in November following Sara's anticipated return; exact dates were not yet available. The annual pickleball tournament is planned for shortly before Thanksgiving

b. Updates- Two staff members have been hired, although one appointment might not work out. Two additional applications were received, with interviews planned after the November 2 grant deadline.

IV. New Business

V. Old Business

a. *Municipal Park Revitalization Project*- Director Stanley reviewed the Municipal Park site master plan draft and grant-related project options. The confirmed facilities included six dedicated pickleball courts, resurfacing of the tennis courts, tot-lot replacement, replacement of the gated Liberty wheelchair swing with a more accessible swing, a modified disc-golf course, security cameras, site work, furnishings, stormwater measures, and sidewalks.

Discussion

The Board reviewed the Municipal Park site master plan and discussed its proposed elements. Director Stanley explained that the plan serves as a guide outlining both immediate improvements and potential future enhancements.

Director Stanley explained that the disc-golf concept had expanded from four holes to an eight-hole course, with the option to extend beyond the wooded area into the park's green space. Board members supported using the additional space and favored a nine-hole course, if feasible, because it could accommodate small tournaments. Members also viewed disc golf as a comparatively achievable, lower-cost new facility that could strengthen the grant application; the budget discussion referenced an approximately $32,000 line item. Director Stanley will ask the design team to evaluate adding a ninth hole and expanding the course into the adjacent green space.

- The board was in favor of replacing the liberty swing. They liked the design and were in agreement that it would be more accessible.

- Director Stanly discussed future mental health or a quiet garden as a small, peaceful space, potentially connected with Ricky's Retreat, memorial programming, outside partnerships, or future grant funding. Members generally favored saving detailed consideration for a later discussion.

- Director Stanley identified minor corrections including updated splash-pad images and labels/pictures that better match proposed amenities.

- Members questioned whether proposed amenities—particularly Safety Town—aligned with community priorities identified in the broader master-planning process. Concerns included Safety Town's outdoor usability, permanent footprint, limited flexibility, site availability, stormwater impacts, and overall cost.

- Members supported presenting the Option 2 area as a flexible, multi-use outdoor activity and programming space rather than limiting it to bocce and lawn games. Possible uses included cornhole, shuffleboard, horseshoes, archery instruction, and temporary Safety Town programming.

- Board members expressed wanting to possibly remove an item from the budget to add lighting and asked if lighting would help the scoring of the grant. The director explained that the grant scores new facilities more highly than renovations. The base option already included qualifying new facilities, while lighting and security cameras would not add points.

- A board member expressed hesitation about recommending the site plan without first reviewing the full document, citing concern that the department could be bound to improvements not supported by the comprehensive master plan. Director Stanley clarified that the document is intended to serve as a guide, as stated on its first page, and provides a flexible foundation for grant applications and future design rather than a fixed commitment to every proposed improvement.

Recommended Action: To recommend and approve the site master plan for Municipal Park and to recommend one of the three options provided for the Municipal Park Revitalization Project.

Action: Matthew Prane made a motion to support and recommend the site master plan for Municipal Park and was seconded by Ryan Swanson. The motion passed unanimously. Matthew Prane made a motion to recommend and approve Option 2 (Multi-purpose/lawn game area) and was seconded by Jenn Steele. The motion was passed unanimously.

VI. Comments

VII. Adjournment- A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 pm by Matt P. and seconded by Ryan and all were in favor.

Next Meeting November 18, 2026