

MINUTES
BRUNSWICK COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 13, 2024

I. Call to Order

- Laura Botto called the Meeting to order. The Meeting was held in Building G, Parks and Recreation Conference Room.

II. Invocation

- Teagan Perry Hall gave the Invocation.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 16, 2024 Meeting

- **Mike Sullivan made a Motion to accept the Minutes as approved and Hayley Burgess seconded. The Minutes were approved 5 to 0.**

IV. Citizens Wishing to be Heard

There were no citizens wishing to be heard.

V. Commission Business Session

- **Multi-Use Path Dutchman Creek Park**

Leon Hicks and Daniel Russo were present to discuss. Aaron shared that Mr. Hicks would like to see Greenway from Wilmington, NC to North Myrtle Beach, SC. Aaron and Mike Sullivan have met with Karen Williams of Duke Energy to discuss. Mr. Hicks shared a map of the concept vision. Stated that the DOT plans differ from the Brunswick County trail plan. Mr. Hicks and his group are looking at what the County is set to do and when.

Mr. Hicks would like to see something on Fish Factory Road to Oak Island. Would like to extend to the harbor area and incorporate boat ramp into the path. Mr. Hicks explained the reasons for having were to have safety and bring a fitness and recreational asset. The fence is set to be replaced in front of Dutchman Creek and provides an opportunity to implement the project as well as paving of parking lot gives another opportunity of leverage.

Mike shared that when he and Aaron met with Karen Williams that they discussed the path being on the inside of the fence line based on a lot of traffic and safety.

Aaron shared that improvements set to come to Dutchman Creek are a new playground, fencing and sign. At this point can't request in 24/25 budget but can look at the next budget cycle of 25/26 and do a feasibility study.

Laura asked if any grants were available.

Mike encouraged Mr. Hicks to reach out to Duke Energy to see if they have any grants or Focus Broadband.

Aaron shared that DOT is good for making plans, but the funding is a challenge. Original plans went across the tributaries and dealing with DENR and they probably wouldn't permit. Laura asked what group they were with and represented.

Mr. Hicks stated they did not have a group, only volunteers but that he had spoken with Oak Island and they are in favor of.

Laura asked didn't we have someone in the past come and talk about.

Aaron stated Kirstie Dixon with planning did a presentation. The issue is funding.

Aaron shared this is all informational at this time. No vote for now for recommendation.

VI. Director's Report

- **Update on Smithville Park Project**

Met with McGill on 2/7 on possibility of Phase 3 to bid on. Trails, irrigation, Musco and dog park proposed. Hope to go to bid by 4/1 and notice to proceed at least by 5/1.

- **Update on Park Improvements**

Salary Replacement Funds used for scoreboards for 7 Parks, foul poles, fencing, signs and playgrounds for Dutchman Creek, Cedar Grove and Navassa.

- **Leland Park**

Did Press Box work to be done in January. A lot of studs in front were rotten. We are fixing the whole thing. 80% of work. Town of Leland did a cease and assist. Shut down process. Working through process to review permit to meet the Town of Leland Inspector to get into compliance. The fence is down and at this time Dixie Youth can't practice. Meeting on 2/14/24 at 3 pm to discuss.

VII. Comments from Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Members

Aaron shared that budgets have been submitted and he has requested that Board Members stipends be changed from \$50.00 to \$100.00. BOC has indicated they will not raise taxes. If our budget that has been submitted has to be cut the BOC will do.

Mike shared that Joe Medlin passed recently. Mr. Medlin was a longtime football coach for the Southport Cougars and was 82 years old.

VIII. Adjourn Meeting

Dale made a Motion to adjourn the meeting and Hayley seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

IX. Meeting Roll Call

Board Members Present: Laura Botto, Hayley Burgess, Dale Rabon, Mike Sullivan and Teagan Perry Hall.

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Aaron Perkins and Tanya Jackson

Citizens of Interest: Leon Hicks and Daniel Russo

Next Scheduled Meeting: Tuesday, March 12, 2024