

MINUTES
BRUNSWICK COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
August 15, 2017

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

- Dale Rabon gave the invocation.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 16, 2017 and June 20, 2017 Meeting

- **The Minutes were approved 3-0. Mike Alloco made a motion to accept the Minutes as approved and Dale Rabon seconded.**

IV. Citizens Wishing to be Heard

George Briggs and Ted Symanski from Ocean Ridge Plantation were present. Mr. Symanski asked about the additional funds for Ocean Isle Beach Park Project. He inquired about the reason for the additional funds and asked were there any items that came in at a higher price, was it all about the unexpected expenses for Smithville Park and what are the overruns (fences, lights, preparation of land)? Aaron stated he would answer those questions after hearing from each citizen wishing to be heard. Mr. Briggs questioned an item on the Commissioners Meeting that requested LED lights instead of HID lights with Musco. Mr. Briggs asked what could they expect with that change in regards to glare, cost, etc.

Teresa Joyner and Annie Brookins were present to ask about why the Town of Bolivia does not have a park. Ms. Brookins indicated she had contacted the office of BCP&R and was asked to attend the Advisory Board meeting to voice her concerns. Aaron stated he would address this question as well after all citizens wishing to be heard had spoken.

Jessica Waugh was present to propose that the County develop more outdoor public recreation and areas where local ecology is preserved. Stated there is a 400 acre tract of land across from the Oak Island Swains Cut Bridge that could be utilized as a Nature Park. Ms. Waugh stated she had reached out to over 20 facilities in regards to this proposal and that Aaron was the only one to respond.

Responses to Citizens Wishing to be Heard

Aaron began first by responding to Mr. Symanski and Mr. Briggs. Aaron explained the increase in funds for OIB Park Project were based on numerous factors. The cost for Smithville Park Project coming in higher, the fact that the bids are lump sum bids and inflation causing items to be higher, etc. In regards to the lighting being changed from HID to LED, it was based on HID lighting has more spillage than LED and LED has less glare and is a better product to accommodate the needs of Ocean Ridge Plantation Residents. Mr. Symanski asked if water, sewer and electric made the need higher. Aaron stated no that we handle that in house and based on the market going up and receiving lump sum bids that is what dictates the prices. Aaron indicated that when Town Creek Park was renovated

that the lump sum bid came in at 5.1 million. At this time that same bid would probably be more than 10 million. Aaron stated that materials are higher and the economy is rebounding. Mr. Symanski asked if BCP&R was sticking to the plan and going with the bid. Aaron said once we have construction plans we stick with that. Mike Alloco inserted that if bid goes out and it is too much that you can leave items out or go to phases. Mr. Symanski asked what was cost of HID lights in comparison to LED. Aaron shared that the HID are \$679,500 and the LED are \$815,000. Over the course of 25 years the LED lights wouldn't cost as much as the HID lights to run and would outlast the HID. The new power point will be on the Agenda for the Commissioners Meeting on 8/21/17 for consent. The project is at 95% completion on plans and once approved they will begin the bidding process probably the end of October beginning of November. Within 30 days bids will be received. Mr. Symanski asked if everything was on time. Aaron stated yes.

Aaron addressed next the desire for a park in Bolivia. Stated that we would be doing a Strategic Plan next year. Will look at holding public meetings throughout the County to come up with a new Comprehensive Master Plan. Demographics have changed and are geared toward senior programs, indoor space and greenway/blueways. Will do a public hearing in Bolivia.

Ms. Brookins asked why Bolivia has been overlooked for so long and other parks being done throughout the County. Aaron stated that in 2009 when the last Comprehensive Master Plan was done that it didn't show Bolivia as having a need. Aaron said he was in athletics at that time and that there was no turnout for the Bolivia area. With Bolivia being in the middle of Town Creek Park and Boiling Spring Lakes at that time the needs were not great for the Bolivia area.

Teresa Joyner inquired if they were to do a park in Bolivia where would it be paced. Aaron said most land is donated to the County or purchased. A lot of wet lands that won't perk are also given to the County. Aaron asked that when the time came near for public meetings for input in regards to the Strategic Plan and drafting the 2019 Comprehensive Master Plan to please encourage the residents of Bolivia to come and voice their opinions and concerns.

Aaron lastly addressed Jessica Waugh in regards to the Nature Park. Aaron stated he had contacted planning and discussed with Steve Stone, Deputy County Manager and Laura Botto, Chairman of the P&R Advisory Board. Currently this property is used for the Core of Engineers for dredging permits and to stock pile sand for beach nourishment. Looks as though the DOT will hang on to it. Aaron suggested that Ms. Waugh reach out to the State in regards to this request.

V. Commission Business Session

- **Nomination and Election of Board Officers**

- Mike stated it was time to nominate a new Chairman and Vice Chairman for the Advisory Board. The floor was opened for discussion. Mike nominated Laura and stated she was always here and had done a great job the past year. Laura accepted the nomination. Mike made a motion to nominate Laura as Chairman and Dale seconded. Motion passed 3 to 0. Next Laura nominated Mike as Vice Chair and Mike accepted the nomination. Laura made a motion to nominate Mike as Vice Chair and Dale seconded. Motion passed 3 to 0.

- **Advisory Board Program Assignments**

- Aaron advised the Advisory Board that he, Steve Stone and Laura Botto had met in regards to keeping the Advisory Board in place. Laura asked if she could share about the meeting and Aaron said yes. Laura stated that the BOC elected to keep the Board in place, but it was by a bare squeak through. Many of the other Boards were eliminated. Aaron and Steve went to bat to keep the Board in place and came up with some ideas to make the Board worthy of staying in place. In response to this Aaron has elected to assign to each Board Member two areas in Parks in Recreation for them to stay knowledgeable about. Aaron stated that Mike was assigned Community Events/Contracted Programs and Senior Programs, Laura Botto has Senior Programs and Special Populations, Leander Mosley has Special Populations and Athletic Programs, Dale Rabon has Administration and Athletic Programs and currently District 3 is vacant but will have Community Events/Contracted Programs and Administration. Aaron is currently working with the BOC in regards to filling the vacancy. Aaron stated it would be a good tool for P&R Programmers and the Advisory Board to see what goes on. It will broaden their knowledge and see how P&R Programs work.

Aaron also stated that the terms for the Advisory Board Members would all be ending on 6/30 at the end of their 3 year runs instead of various times throughout the year to keep the renewal process the same. Laura asked if Danny Sellers resigned from District 3 and Aaron stated yes. Laura asked on assignments are we doing verbal reports. Aaron said yes and Mike stated that for next few months let's see how we might want to approach reporting them, whether it be verbal or written.

VI. Director's Report

- **Update on Smithville Park Project**

Project is well underway. Started springing grass. Project is 45/50 % complete. ECC is moving fast and expect to be finished on time and reopen by the end of April 2018.

- **Update on Ocean Isle Beach Park**

Plans are at 95% completion. Almost at 100%. Waiting for final approval to go with LED lighting. Mike asked if all lights are LED and Aaron answered yes. Mr. Briggs asked how tall are LED lights. Aaron said they were no longer 80 feet they were closer to 70 feet overall. Project is going good.

- **Update on Holden Beach Park**

Submitted Grant for \$200,000 with Coastal Management to Phase 2. Phase 1 is in progress. Sent out RFQ to be back 9/9/17 to prequalify to do site plan. Will know more after first meeting in November 2017.

- **Lockwood Folly Park and Northwest Park Playgrounds**

The playgrounds for NWP and LWF are complete. Aaron showed a slide presentation of the new playground at NWP. Old playground was not ADA compliant. George Briggs asked what was cost for that and Aaron responded \$240,000 for playground and shelter.

VII. Comments from Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Members

Laura said that P&R did a dedication at Waccamaw Park and had a decent turn out. Pat Purvis Brown spoke in regards to monument done in her family's honor. Laura said the

Program Guide that P&R puts out 3 times a year is a great guide to know what is going on within the Department.

Dale said thanks on behalf of Dixie Youth League in Leland for the great job that P&R Staff did at tournament.

Teresa Joyner one of the citizens wishing to be heard stated she works at the WIC office in Leland and that Nathan the Park Supervisor for Leland Park does a great job.

VIII. Adjourn Meeting

Dale made a motion to adjourn meeting and Mike seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

IX. Meeting Roll Call

Board Members Present: Mike Allocco, Laura Botto and Dale Rabon

Board Members Absent: Leander Mosley

Staff Members Present: Aaron Perkins and Tanya Jackson

Citizens of Interest: George Briggs, Ted Symanski, Jessica Waugh, Annie Brookins and Teresa Joyner

Next Scheduled Meeting: Tuesday, September 19, 2017