

MINUTES
BRUNSWICK COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
February 16, 2016

I. Call to Order

- Howard Benton called the meeting to order. The meeting was held in Building M, 2nd Floor Conference Room.

II. Invocation

- Howard Benton gave the invocation.

III. Approval of meeting minutes from December 15, 2015 meeting

- The minutes were approved 3-0. Laura Botto made a motion to accept the minutes as approved and Leander Mosley seconded.

IV. Citizens wishing to be heard

Handouts were passed out on the Impact on Ocean Ridge Plantation and Surrounding Areas, along with a map showing the location of the proposed expansion and a map of the North Myrtle Beach Park and Sports Complex

- George Briggs, an owner at Ocean Ridge Plantation, spoke in regards to the OIB Park Expansion. Stated he lived in Leopards Chase, a quiet retirement community. Said County is converting local part to a Regional Sports Complex. Can already see lights on tennis courts from his screened in porch. Realize facilities are needed but in 2008 it showed a different version of what Phase 2 would be. The noise and lights are unacceptable. Stated that survey was provided through the school system and not to their Community. Not objecting to the content of the Park, but is objecting to the location of the Park expansion. Inquired about the usage of the Amphitheater. Indicated that donated land from the Town of OIB is not enough reason to affect 800 homes in ORP. If a build out is approved it will cause taxes to increase and cost them as home owners more money.
- David White and Laurie White, owners at Ocean Ridge Plantation, spoke in regards to the OIB Park Expansion. David stated they purchased their home for retirement in a peaceful environment. Indicated that 5 baseball fields with noise and lights will be located 600 feet from his home. Says OIB is a nice Park and would like to see a small expansion, but being a commercial park will light the sky, cause pollution, worry about people going into ORP and stealing and causing vandalism. Construction is high cost, as well as, maintenance and administrative fees. Property at ORP will lose value and will affect resale. Said they are entitled to quiet enjoyment and request that the Plan be reworked, relocated or rejected. Worked their whole lives to save and retire and now has a Park for their backyard. Agreed he didn't feel the expansion was on the same level as the North Myrtle Beach Sports Complex. Laurie expressed the Town of OIB gets to just give land away and they have no say.

- Debra MacFarlane, owner at ORP and member of the ORP BOD is concerned about the future expansion. Thought OIB Park would be a Community Park and not one that had people from all over using.
- Ned Gehris and Susan Gehris, owners at ORP thinks OIB Park is a nice wonderful Facility. Stated his concern was the coordination of County Departments and activities. There are plans for a fire training facility which is adjacent to the Park. Strongly recommend to Commissioners to try and halt the Fire Training Facility. Wants the County to propose its own County Fire Training location. Asked if County has another Park like this. Said Town of OIB donated land to bring in more revenues for them. Said we need to find farm land to build on. Susan asked how kids use the Park now and what is cost of Park.
- Carol Dunham, owner at ORP said in 2008 ORP had buffers and barriers. The Town of OIB donated land to expand. The Town of OIB owns land up and down Old Georgetown Road and wants the Town to donate other land to do Park Expansion. Request that Parks and Recreation ask the Town of OIB for a different piece of property. Lights, noise, trash left behind will interfere with the bird sanctuary and nature trails at ORP. Wants it scaled back or done on another piece of property. Wants to know what OIB will benefit with giving the additional land. Says the Town of OIB is only serving themselves.
- Chris Macke and Mike Macke, owners at ORP stated she and her husband own a home closest to the OIB Park. Said they love their home and this will destroy their retirement home. Stated she has no voice with the Town of OIB since they are not in the city limits. Mike indicated he played baseball and umpired, but noise is an issue on fields. Asked about moving the location of the ball fields.
- Michael Savoia , owner at ORP, stated the original Plan was not as close as what is being proposed now. Suggested that the Advisory Board recommend a different location for the Park Expansion. Asked if Builders needed to go to the Commissioners because this was going to affect their building of homes.
- Cheri Lavorgna, owner at ORP, stated Town of OIB owns land adjacent to the Park and that we move the Park Expansion to there.
- Roger Mitchell, owner at ORP, said he feels they are in a rock and a hard place. He wants to change things and ask at this point what they can do.
- Cathy Benton, owner at ORP, asked if the Town of OIB had donated the land to the County yet.

COMMENTS IN REGARDS TO CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD ABOVE

- Derek Williams of Benesch made the following comments in response to the Citizens Wishing to Be Heard:

The Park Expansion isn't like the NMB Sports Complex.

The vision isn't to be like the NMB Sports Complex, rather for the Park Expansion to provide interest for small tournaments.

It is a Regional Park with passive and active recreation. In addition to ball fields, it will have walking trails, pickle ball, fitness stations, basketball, picnic shelters, etc.

Stated Brunswick County is not the only County to have Parks near communities.

Golf Course of ORP buffers property.

Level of technology has improved in regards to lights, they place shields on lights to where the glow is what you get.

2009 showed a deficiency of 17 ballfields for the County.

2009 Comprehensive Plan calls for the development of a Regional Park for this site.

OIB Park was never intended to be a Neighborhood Park.

Wetlands on property dictates best placement of ballfields.

Removing Amphitheater does not free up any major space.

- Aaron Perkins, Director of Parks and Recreation made the following comments in response to the Citizens Wishing to Be Heard:

Survey was sent to numerous media sites for distribution, as well as the Town of OIB to forward, but not by mail.

If you move baseball fields to front entrance, you could only do three 200 foot fields and would not have adult size fields.

Plan is all preliminary and the Town of OIB would need to donate 28.4 acres to accomplish.

Oyster Festival was originally to be held at OIB Park, but that changed.

Partf is based on Amphitheater so that amenity has to stay.

Advisory Board only makes recommendation to Commissioners.

Schools use OIB Park. There is discussion of Dixie Youth using fields since Shallotte Park floods so much.

Voice concerns to Commissioners.

Staff did a Re-evaluation of the needs throughout the County. The evaluation showed that Smithville Park renovation and OIB Park Phase 2 were a need.

BEMC owns property to the right of OIB Park and the right of way. It would create an obstacle for placing expansion on that side.

- Howard Benton, Advisory Board Member made the following comments in response to the Citizens Wishing to Be Heard:

No Advisory Board Member wants to damage anything, only wants to help the Community. Everything is flowing from North and kids need space. Town of OIB donated land to Parks and Recreation to do something. You need to talk to Town of OIB about moving expansion.

So many kids in Shallotte area need somewhere to play. The land being donated provides recreation.

Wetlands is an issue. Cartwheels are new way to do ballfields so that parents can watch multiple children play. Shallotte Park is so spread out.

Ball fields at Shallotte Park do not meet area needs for baseball because of drainage issues.

OIB is trying to take care of children and seniors.

- Laura Botto, Advisory Board Member made the following comments in response to the Citizens Wishing to Be Heard:

OIB needs a Regional Park.

Advisory Board has to look at what is available and we don't have land elsewhere.

We have to deal with the land we have and this is what we are presented with.

Look at the whole picture and who will use this Facility.

V. **Commission Business Session**

- **Presentation of Ocean Isle Beach Master Plan (Derek Williams, Benesch) Board Recommendation Needed**

Derek Williams, with Benesch presented the OIB Park Master Plan. Provided a handout on Musco Lighting and the Improvements over the years. Estimated cost is 9.3 million.

Laura Botto made a motion to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the Master Plan and accept the Project. Leander Mosley seconded. Motion passed 3 to 0.

Aaron said Project could be phased. Howard Benton said he agreed to allocating 4.5 million for the Project, but couldn't see doing more than that. It would be unfair to the other Park Projects. Aaron said Amphitheater would be used more once Park expanded.

Laura Botto made a motion that the Board of Commissioners consider allocating \$4.5 Million for Ocean Isle Beach Park Phase 2. If additional funds are not available phasing is recommended. Leander Mosley seconded. Motion passed 3 to 0.

VI. **Director's Report**

- **Update on Town Creek Park Project**

Nutrition Site for BSRI is averaging 62 participants on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Electricity to scoreboards is being done, as well as, the sound system for the baseball and football fields. Community Building is a metal structure and the veneer has settled and cracks have been fixed with a type of epoxy.

- **Update on Waccamaw Park Project**

Musco lights is up on soccer and tennis courts. Tennis courts are not in place yet due to the weather. Need 3 weeks of good weather to get done. Waiting to receive Request for Bids on Maintenance Building by 2/19/16 and hope to have done by 7/1/16.

Dugouts being done for all 4 fields. Should be done by end of March.

- **Update on Smithville Park Project**

Approval given on 30% plan. 4.3 million is cost on Project. Need to get to 4.27 million. Getting ready to do 60% plan. Hope to start by 8/1/16.

VII. Comments from Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Members

No comments.

VIII. Adjourn Meeting

Laura made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Leander. The meeting was adjourned.

IX. Meeting Roll Call

Board Members Present: Howard Benton, Leander Mosley and Laura Botto

Board Members Absent: Erik Bocook and Dale Rabon

Staff Members Present: Aaron Perkins and Tanya Jackson

Benesch: Derek Williams

Compass Pointe Engineering: Michael Norton

Citizens of Interest: Cathy Benton, Cheri Lavorgna, Joni Hackmann, Laurie White, David White, Chris Macke, Mike Macke, Debra MacFarlane, Carol Dunham, George Briggs, Piose Briggs, Andrea Mitchell, Roger Mitchell, Susan Gehris, Ned Gehris, Rosemarie Savoia and Michael Savoia

Next Scheduled Meeting: Tuesday, March 15, 2016