

MINUTES
BRUNSWICK COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
January 9, 2018

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

- Mike Allocco gave the invocation.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 21, 2017 Meeting

- **The Minutes were approved 3-0. Mike Sullivan made a motion to accept the Minutes as approved and Mike Allocco seconded.** (Dale Rabon was not present yet at time of approval, but arrived shortly after for duration of meeting.)

IV. Citizens Wishing to be Heard

There were no citizens wishing to be heard.

V. Commission Business Session

- **2018 Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan Update**

Aaron passed out the rating sheet for the 2018 Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan. Explained this has been done since 2009. Short term plan for how we determine park needs and improvements. Over the years Advisory Board and P&R Staff have worked together on this, but this year will be the first year that Staff only is voting. The BOC felt that only Staff should vote since they are involved in the parks daily.

Aaron proceeded to go over the rating and explain some of the needs. It was as follows:

Smithville Park is currently under renovation and set to be completed April 2018.

Ocean Isle Beach Park had its bid deadline on 1/11/18.

LWF Park was rated number 1.

NWP was number 2 and moved up several spots from last year. Needs upgrades and to be ADA compliant. Has a lot of problems with grinder pumps and safety issues. Some of the picnic shelters are from 30 years ago.

Mike A. stated that NWP is a fully functioning park. Are there other parks we need or money that needs to be spent on other facilities?

Aaron said we do have areas we need parks, but Leland is the biggest municipality and growing and the need is there to fix NWP. We have monies to put a band aid on those things, but you keep spending money and need to redo. NWP is going to be a huge expense and will probably need to be done in two phases.

Mike A. said he was not debating.

Aaron said we will be looking at doing a new 10-year Comprehensive Master Plan that will indicate the needs of the parks.

Mike A. asked were our priorities on maintenance versus expansion?

Dale said that NWP was limited to expansion based on the railroad running along the back and the buildings on each side.

Mike A. asked that we make sure the BOC know so much money is being spent on maintenance that we are not improving new facilities.

Dale stated that Dixie Youth helps with Leland Park and there wasn't much room for expansion there either.

Shalotte Park was ranked at number 3 and was recommended that land not under water be found.

Leland Park is number 4 and has about 11 acres. Needs fencing, restrooms in the back, a better access to parking and something developed on the property where the Leland Senior Community Building was removed.

Smithville Park Phase 2 is at number 5. Original project came in at 9.4 million so was separated into 2 phases. Phase 1 being completed now and Phase 2 would incorporate a dog park, irrigation, parking and soccer fields with restrooms.

Navassa Park is number 6. Have 8 acres of which the County owns 5 and the Town 3. The concession stands and picnic shelters need to be demolished due to safety issues. Once these items are removed Aaron will be asking for capital monies to improve.

Brunswick Nature Park came in at number 7. Working with group to install frisbee golf course. Would like to add a visitor's center, bird watching, park ranger and equestrian trails. Hands are tied due to clean water. A lot of restrictions on what we can do. Have a well, but the water is terrible. Land was donated. Can't cut trees or move trails in the park. A lot of people love BNP and utilize it.

Cedar Grove Park came in at number 8. It is a nice park. Has 52 acres of which 20 to 25 is developed. Would like to have lights on football and multipurpose field.

Holden Beach Park is at 9. Moving forward to build park. Have two grants and County has put aside a cash match. Kickoff meeting is 1/12/18 to go over plans to start design by November 2018.

Mike A. asked if the contract for HBP was awarded to McGill and Associates and Aaron replied yes.

Sunset Harbor Blue Way Trail came in at number 10. This is two properties we own on the water. One parcel is valued at \$542,000. Donated with specifics to be a park.

Dale asked how much land was the two parcels.

Aaron responded that one was 1.3 acres and the other 1.1 acre.

Mike A. asked if the dock was owned by the County.

Aaron stated it was the Wildlife's, but they wanted the County to take it over. Aaron said there is no parking and it needed to be dredged. Dredging permits do not cover that area.

Dutchman Creek is number 11. It is located on Fish Factory Road on the water. Working with Duke Energy to build a bird sanctuary. Not sure if it will work due to the wetlands. Need to renovate the playground, parking, restrooms, office and make ada accessible.

Tournament Sports Complex is at number 12. Aaron stated one day we would have this amenity and would generate a lot of revenue.

Laura stated they have kids in Denver who sign up for tournaments at North Myrtle Beach Sports Complex.

Greenway Master Plan and Phase 1 and Phase 2 came in at numbers 13, 14 and 15. County is currently working with the municipalities on this. At this time 11 of the 16 towns are committed.

Mike A. said that the DOT needs to get on board with the Greenway.

Aaron stated that municipalities are only worried about their town versus the entire County.

Aquatics Feasibility Study and West and South Facility came in at number 16, 17 and 18.

This would be indoor space and similar to the Dinah Gore Fitness located at BCC.

Mike A. said we need to figure out how to do projects. We have 100 million in projects and do spending of 5 to 7 million a year.

Aaron asked that the Board formally approve.

Dale made a motion to approve the 2018 Strategic Planning Update as submitted and Mike Sullivan seconded. Motion passed 4 to 0.

- **Discussion of Parks & Recreation Board Duties**

Aaron passed out documentation indicating the areas of assignments for each Board Member. He explained that he is asking for each Board Member to be an advocate and get feedback. The BOC felt that Boards had gotten stagnant with their duties and this was a way to have them involved and to get input and feedback.

VI. Director's Report

- **Update on Smithville Park Project**

Project is 85% complete. Anticipate completion by 4/2/18. Certification on grinder pumps done today. 60 days to put in. Multipurpose field is in place with turf and lights.

- **Update on Ocean Isle Beach Park**

Bid closing on 1/11/18 at 3:00 pm in our Conference Room. Had a good turnout and anticipating a lot of participation at bid closing. Some contractors have asked for an extension on the bid based on the past week of weather. Ready to get started. If we get bids 1/11/18 hope to hire contractor and get contract approved by first part of February.

- **Update of Youth Basketball Program**

Games were to start on 1/6/18 but due to Winter Storm had to move to 1/13/18. Have around 470 participants.

- **Hood Creek Community Building**

Hood Creek is no longer able to be used based on safety issues. Will be working with the BOC regarding replacing the facility. The building is located on a small parcel and not sure if we have the room to rebuild.

VII. Comments from Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Members

Laura said Melinda came to LWF Golf Course and spoke to her Woman's Club about the programs that P&R offers and did a good job.

Aaron added that the Winter Storm had caused some issues within the parks and community Buildings based on busted pipes and leaks. LWF Community Building flooded due to the ice machine and TC Concession Stand had a leak.

VIII. Adjourn Meeting

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

IX. Meeting Roll Call

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

Board Members Absent: Leander Mosley

Staff Members Present: Aaron Perkins and Tanya Jackson

Citizens of Interest: None

Next Scheduled Meeting: Tuesday, February 20, 2018