

MINUTES
BRUNSWICK COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
May 17, 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

- Dale Rabon gave the invocation.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 19, 2016 Meeting

- **The Minutes were approved 4-0. Laura Botto made a motion to accept the Minutes as approved and Dale Rabon seconded.**

IV. Citizens wishing to be heard

- Dr. Kathryn Lawler spoke in regards to the smoking policy option. Stated she was a RN, involved in NC Task Force on Health Diseases and Strategic Planning for Health Services. She is against smoking and wants it banned. Cited that 50 years ago surgeons announced danger to smoking, second hand smoke and indoor smoking danger since the 70's studies. Physical effects are heart disease, cancer, stroke and show children are subject to upper respiratory, asthma and ear infections. Effects pregnant women with premature birth and SIDS. Cigarette butts contaminate the ground. CDC listed banning smoking in public places works best to prevent tobacco use. When 30 feet from smoker it still subjects you to second hand smoke. Strongly recommends no smoking at parks.
- Helen Pannullo urged the Advisory Board Members to stick to their previous recommendation to ban smoking in public parks and to clearly state to the Commissioners to ban smoking and vaping. It is crucial to our youth and dangers have long been known, as well as in regards to second hand smoke. Schools have no smoking and NMB Sports Complex has no smoking. Give the children the opportunity to enjoy a clean environment free of danger. Enforce the ban with signage in the parks and reaffirm the previous decision to ban smoking.
- Carol Dunham made a recommendation to ban smoking and tobacco products in the parks. It is harmful to all people especially youth and people with diseases. Children, young mothers and grandparents with health issues can't take smoke.
- Dr. Richard Crane stated smoking is shown to cause cancer in humans. Colleges, schools, government buildings all have no smoking and parks would fall in that same line. Smoking also causes cancer in regards to nasal, sinus and bladder. Stopping smoking is difficult. Looking for a tool to motivate people to stop smoking. Need to create a park with clean air and promote grandparents to not smoke. Bold and honorable move to try to stop smoking. Signs ban alcohol, skateboarding, etc. Need to put up signage to ban smoking.

V. Commission Business Session

• Smoking Policy Option (Board Recommendation Needed)

Aaron passed out smoking survey results. Previously took to Board of Commissioners on 3/22/16 meeting. BOC requested a public hearing to get the information out to Brunswick County residents. Did survey, also submitted information to Star News, newspapers, constant contacts, leagues and ABC POA Members. Closed survey on 5/16/16. Had 1638 responses to an 18 question survey. Aaron went over questions and gave the results and percentages.

Howard stated it said no smoking in dugouts and fields. Aaron said we asked them not to, but no policy is in place in regards to open space.

Laura indicated it would hinder the park system to not move forward with last request. Understands a lot were not smokers, but majority still want it banned. Park should be a safe and healthy place and the Advisory Board should take the high road and voice that.

Dale said he thought a lot of people vaped. He strongly agreed with banning smoking. He has been around parks for 30 to 40 years. He wants clean parks. Even if you put a smoking area in place you can't regulate it.

Leander said you can't regulate a smoking area.

Howard asked how could you regulate.

Laura said she came from New Jersey where smoking is banned. People at park will ask people to put out their cigarettes if they try to smoke and didn't realize it was banned. You post signage.

Leander said you have to communicate it that it is no smoking in the parks.

Howard said he would support it if the Government Complex would enforce it also. Said survey was great but didn't agree with all of it. Howard said he thought some people who did the survey just checked something. Didn't like tobacco spit on the ground, but was no different than mucus spit on the ground. Howard said it is open air but you can't control it. Kids get it from home and parents. Parents should step in to keep kids from smoking.

Howard said he didn't want it put on him to make a policy. He goes to 6 to 8 games a week at parks and doesn't see ordeal with people smoking.

Laura said if the public is complaining about smoking in the parks, then they have to be doing it.

Dale asked how long have we tried to enforce no smoking at dugouts and fields. Local leagues have tried to enforce, but couldn't with no policy. Dale said Leland Park has people smoke in the parking lot.

Aaron said we do get a lot of phone calls on smoking in the parks. The Maintenance Staff picks up the butts. BOC get complaints when the local leagues start up about smoking in the parks.

Howard asked Laura during Senior Games did she see smoking. She replied no because she said the seniors didn't smoke.

Laura made a motion to ban cigarettes, tobacco products, electronic cigarettes and vaping throughout the County Parks. Leander seconded. Motion passed 3-1 with Howard dissenting.

Dale asked what is vapor compared to cigarette. Dr. Richard Crane stated the chemicals are different. E-cigarettes have different compounds. Still like breathing in anti-freeze.

Aaron said to enforce the no smoking ban that signage would be used. It would be no different than saying no alcohol or skateboards.

Howard stated he voted no. He can't go along with banning until the BOC ban smoking at the Complex.

VI. Director's Report

- **Update on Town Creek Park Project**

Mediation with AO Hardee still going on. Need aerator for pond. State Tournament scheduled for 7/1-7/6/16.

- **Update on Waccamaw Park Project**

Working on contracts in regards to basketball and tennis courts. Initial contractor wanted \$12,000 more to complete job. Trying to settle on what is owed to initial contractor based on work done. Will be going to next bidder who is now the lowest based on the request for increase by the initial contractor.

- **Update on Smithville Park Project**

Approval given on 90% plan. Hope to send out to bid by 7/1/16 and start construction by 8/1/16.

- **Update on Ocean Isle Beach Park**

BOC approved plan on 4/4/16. Submitted Partf Grant on 5/2/16. BOC had on their Agenda on 5/10/16 three options in regards to the operations of OIB Park due to requests from Ocean Ridge residents. Options were 1.) Open dawn to dusk; 2.) Open at 8 am and close at 10 pm no exceptions; 3.) Stay with current operations. The BOC opted to stay with the current operating hours. The BOC felt until we have issues in regards to the Park that there was not a need to put in place a different policy.

VII. Comments from Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Members

Laura asked when the BOC would vote on the smoking ban.

Dale asked to have the BOC ban smoking on the Government Complex as well.

Howard asked about dogs in the parks. Stated a lady was requesting to have dogs at tournaments.

Howard asked about if any grand opening was going to be done at Waccamaw Park or Town Creek Park.

Howard asked if Waccamaw Park would be getting Wi-Fi.

Aaron responded that the BOC would vote either at the 6/6/16 or 6/20/16 meeting.

Aaron stated dogs are allowed in parks as long as they are on leashes. No dogs are allowed on or near the ball fields.

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, Dale Rabon, Leander Mosley and Laura Botto

Board Members Absent: Erik Bocook

Staff Members Present: Aaron Perkins and Tanya Jackson

Citizens of Interest: Dr. Kathryn Lawler, Helen Pannullo, Dr. Richard Crane, Carol Dunham and Ted Symanski

Next Scheduled Meeting: Tuesday, June 21, 2016