



PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

**HOLDEN BEACH TOWN HALL-PUBLIC ASSEMBLY
REGULAR MEETING-THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2025-2:00 P.M.**

1. Call to Order
2. Agenda Approval
3. Approval of Minutes
4. Programs and Facilities Update
5. Pickleball Discussion
6. Public Comment
7. Field Trip to Town Properties
8. Adjournment



**TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2024-2:00 P.M.**

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) of the Town of Holden Beach, North Carolina met at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 5, 2024 in the Town Hall Public Assembly. Present were Chair Candace Vick, Vice Chair Mike Pearson, and Members Melanie Champion, Peggy Schiavone, Grace Bannerman, Ray Edwards, and Keith Smith. Assistant Town Manager Christy Ferguson was also in attendance.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m.

Agenda Approval

Make a motion to approve the agenda Member Champion; second Member Bannerman; approved by all.

Approval of Minutes

Make a motion we approve the minutes Member Edwards; second Member Smith; approved by all.

Open Discussion with Pickleball Players

Ron Bristle -157 OBE -has provided a list of 75 names. Said he had been nominated by this list of people and requests to have more than three minutes to speak.

Make a motion that we vote to allow him 10 minutes Member Champion; second Member Bannerman; approved by all.

Mr. Bristle referenced the stats on the last page of his PowerPoint that he provided to the board (hereby included in the minutes). He said the sport is becoming a hot topic for people buying homes as well as renting homes as far as proximity to courts. He also referenced the court counts for permanent courts, which are not multipurpose. He said that it's becoming important for pickleball players to have dedicated permanent courts. He referenced several items regarding the current courts the Town has. There is frustration in that there is no free time with the courts. He said all the lines are difficult to figure out when on the multipurpose court. He also offered that the nets are substandard to other pickleball courts. Balls can come across to the other areas of play because there are no dividers. Mr. Bristle showed pickleball court pictures. He discussed the

benefits of having courts and what those courts need to have. He said it's a competitive sport to some people, social for others, and a combo for some. He told the PRAB if they are going down the path of building courts, they should not make them east-west because the sun is an issue. For a top-notch facility, four to six courts is what the PRAB should go for. Permanent nets and lines are extremely critical. Windscreens and some sort of dividers are also important. He concluded by saying that lights should be a part of the plan but don't have to be included initially. He volunteered his time to point out strengths and weaknesses of facilities.

Member Edwards asked what went between the courts for barriers. Mr. Bristle said a low chain length fence. He said it's about four and a half to five feet. Member Smith asked if the percentages in the slides were for beach communities. Mr. Bristle said that is a nationwide amount. Members Smith asked about forecast for the future of the sport and its popularity leveling off. Mr. Bristle said they are currently projecting it's going to double in the next 7 years. Member Smith said he sees it as a low barrier activity comparable to fishing. He also explained that what property is available will drive the number of courts.

Molly Bristle- 157 OBE-She and her husband have only been here for a year. Wanted to express the community they have found just by playing pickleball is large. Has met so many people including the list of 75 that was referenced.

Rosemary Fournier -1339 OBW -Stated it was a great presentation. Asked that the Town create a rule system for the courts.

Susan Challenger- 239 Brunswick Ave West- Asked what the locations were that the Town was looking at. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson read from the minutes of the previous meeting to outline potential locations.

Tracey Thomas-109 Frigate- She used to play at the park but when things shut down with Covid she found other places to play. She is not on Mr. Bristle's list but is someone on the island who plays. She goes to other nearby places to play but there are more people on the island that would appreciate dedicated courts.

Moore Daily- Schooner Drive - Been here four years. Drives back and forth from Wilmington and missed the presentation. She asked if there was a possibility to build two courts and have some tennis on one of them? Has to drive either 45 minutes to Ocean Isle or Wilmington to play tennis. She asked if tennis was a consideration as part of this? She also said she loves to drive over the bridge on a Friday night and see kids on the basketball court and she thinks pickleball players should have their own place.

Pinky Smith-239 Brunswick Ave W. He asked if we went forward with pickleball courts would we get rid of the current courts? He would say a minimum of 4 is what's needed. Shouldn't get rid of the courts now. Chair Vick said she didn't think the board has decided about the current courts or numbers.

Member Edwards asked how high the fence needs to be around the perimeter. Mr. Bristle said most of the ones he plays on have eight-to-ten-foot fences.

Chair Vick thanked people for coming. Member Bannerman expressed thanks to Mr. Bristle for his presentation.

Public Comment

Assistant Town Manager Ferguson spoke about the field trip the next day and logistics for the PRAB to meet.

Adjournment

Make a motion to adjourn Member Champion (2:34 p.m.); second Vice Chair Pearson; approved by all.

