



PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

**HOLDEN BEACH TOWN HALL-PUBLIC ASSEMBLY
REGULAR MEETING-THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2025-2:00 P.M.**

1. Call to Order
2. Agenda Approval
3. Approval of Minutes
4. Programs and Facilities Update
5. Public Comment
6. Adjournment



**TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2025-2:00 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, March 6, 2025 in the Town Hall Public Assembly. Present were Chair Candace Vick, Vice Chair Mike Pearson, and Members Melanie Champion, Peggy Schiavone, Grace Bannerman, Keith Smith and Ray Edwards. Interim Town Manager Christy Ferguson was also in attendance.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Agenda Approval

Make a motion we approve the agenda Member Champion; second Member Edwards; approved by all.

Approval of Minutes

Interim Town Manger Ferguson indicated the time for the special meeting should have said 1 p.m. on the minutes under review. Motion to approve the previous minutes as corrected was requested by Chair Vick.

So moved Member Bannerman; second Member Champion; approved by all.

Programs and Facilities Update

Interim Town Manager Ferguson stated that swing dance lessons are coming along well. To dispel a rumor that was circulating, all concerts are booked for this season. The schedule will be posted after all contracts are in hand. She continued that yoga is back on the basketball court as the meeting location. She also told the board that the Easter egg hunt would be held on Good Friday night.

Moving to facilities, Interim Town Manager Ferguson said the AVE E east end project is complete. Power has to be plowed in and the Town is waiting on Brunswick Electric. The court repair bid was accepted by the commissioners at the February meeting. Work to begin in March/April timeframe. She said the Public Works department was going to be bringing the portable restroom facility at the pier back into usage in the next couple of weeks. Member Smith asked about the pier restroom being shut down seasonally compared to the other restrooms.

Pickleball Discussion

Interim Town Manager Ferguson said she needed to explain the schematic the PRAB has before them and why it is not what was requested. She said the PRAB requested we spend some of the money allotted to them by the Board of Commissioners (BOC) to get BLOCK Q laid out with the bathrooms, concert venue, and pickleball courts. It would allow them to see how courts would impact the space. She said the PRAB was also adamant about a master plan for the entire Jordan Blvd/Block Q area being a part of the upcoming budget. She continued that as she started to work toward the first directive, staff and she determined that delivering the document requested could potentially be mission creep and step into an area that the BOC had not directed. She explained they did not direct the PRAB in the tasker to look at the concert venue; that space is currently in the BOC's court. She explained that while she understood having it shown on a drawing doesn't mean they have to use that in the future, it seems the money they would be spending would be negated by a complete master plan. It also came to her attention since the last meeting, as part of the BOC's goals and objectives, that the master plan is on their radar as well. All that said, if the Town spent the money to get the PRAB a drawing to look at the pickleball courts for Block Q right now, Interim Town Manager Ferguson would not be able to place the concert venue on there and feel good about it because that was not the directive. The question that remains for this board to consider is that by having pickleball courts placed on a schematic for it to look at, does it gain any ground at all or should the money just be spent toward the overall master plan? If the PRAB comes to the agreement that it would not gain much from something that didn't have everything that was asked for then she thinks we are at the point that the PRAB could recommend not more than "X" number of courts on Block Q and suggest the BOC have final layout determined by the overall master plan.

Interim Town Manager Ferguson said it is also significantly important before the PRAB begins its discussion, that she explain what the staff version of the document in the packet is meant to accomplish. She said the PRAB asked for direction from Planning and Inspections on where not to build. The area marked No Go Zone is simply marked that way based on topography. The courts ideally would not be placed there. The original stormwater permit the town obtained has stormwater installed in this area and depending on where the master plan leads the town and how much surface is built, this is not the ideal place to put them. The area marked in blue is not the only place they can go but is conducive to building based on ADA access and the amount of fill that would need to be put in some other areas of the property to build versus this location. She said it was not her intent or that of the Planning and Inspections staff to say this is what the town should follow or that it is even how a master plan will end up. It is simply an attempt to show you a limited schematic of what you were trying to visualize. The Planning and Inspections Department does not engage in speculative land building for the Town just like it doesn't for a private property owner.

She suggested they pause for some discussion prior to talking about court costs. She said the PRAB should review the tasker directive, what it has done so far, and then move to the above decision matrix about Block Q.

Chair Vick said if it went back to the architect for the drawing, the company would have to pull everything off the original but the bathrooms and then put the courts on there, but anything that comes with boat trailer parking or the other amenities would have to be removed. Member

Bannerman said that she thinks we have gotten to Block Q being the best site but not specifically where courts should go on Block Q. Member Smith said that he thinks we can recommend Block Q as the viable resource without spending money. He said maybe we say here is why we got here and we didn't say specifically where out of fiduciary responsibility. Member Edwards said Block Q seems like the most likely site because it takes into consideration parking and bathrooms.

Chair Vick asked if make a recommendation for a maximum of 4 courts. Member Bannerman said again she would like to see tennis included; one multipurpose court and one pickleball. Member Smith said one of the things the PRAB considered was tournaments and we have done that with this number of courts.

Chair Vick said we have done this work. Would like to recommend the PRAB says up to 4 courts could be placed on Q lot. Once you get to design and construction, consider one as multipurpose court to include tennis/pickleball combo. Member Smith asked do we want to say we don't want to recommend single courts? Chair Vick said we've looked at other sites and they just aren't optimal.

Moving to costs, the board learned that one county put in two tennis and four (4) pickleball about 18 months ago for around \$125k while another county is putting in 2 for \$75,000. Depending on the level of site work necessary for the pickleball courts, they can really range in cost.

Consensus is the PRAB is recommending up to 4 pickleball courts on Block Q, with two of those being permanent pickleball courts and one being a multipurpose tennis/pickleball combo. Costs depend on site prep, lighting, fencing, etc. but comparison court construction in the last two years is \$150k to construct above recommendation.

The next meeting was scheduled for April 3rd at 2 p.m.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

Chair Vick asked for a motion to adjourn.

So moved Member Bannerman; second Member Schiavone; approved by all.

