



**TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2022- 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 3, 2022 in the Town Hall Public Assembly. Present were Chair John McEntire, Vice Chair Suzannah Tucker, Members Olivia Gomez, Candace Vick, Mike Pearson, Melanie Champion and Grace Bannerman. Assistant Town Manager Christy Ferguson was also in attendance.

Call to Order

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

Agenda Approval

Motion to approve the agenda by Member Champion; second by Member Pearson; approved by all.

Approval of Minutes

Move to approve minutes Member Vick; second Member Bannerman; approved by all.

Items Moving Forward-Parks and Rec Plan

Assistant Town Manager Ferguson discussed the document she compiled that lists items that will be completed prior to June 30th and board members ideas of what should be included in next year's budget. Chair McEntire said maybe the people who submitted the ideas can give a sales pitch for them and the board could do a cost analysis on what could be done quickly. Member Vick asked if there is a number they should get to. She also asked about handicapped access. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson said there was no set number and handicapped accesses are evaluated in the rebuilds each year to see if they can be upgraded based on rise and run requirements.

The PRAB would like to look at a dog park. The idea of Sailfish Park was mentioned. After discussion, the idea of the Sailfish location was abandoned. Scotch Bonnet was discussed but Assistant Town Manager Ferguson said the site isn't ready for release for developing amenities yet. Member Bannerman asked about cooperating with the county regarding a dog park across the way. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson said that the Town had tried to discuss the option with the county in the past but could try again if that's where the board wanted to go with it. Vice Chair Tucker said she thinks we are missing the boat at Sailfish. Member Vick said if we want to recommend something then we could recommend maybe a kayak launch and picnic area at Sailfish. Chair McEntire asked how much use the kayak launch at Bridgeview Park gets. Several members and Assistant Town Manager Ferguson said it gets a lot of use in the summer months. The board discussed how they should strategically move forward at Sailfish.

Vice Chair Tucker made a motion that the board focus on Sailfish for a kayak launch, covered picnic shelter and children's playground area; second by Member Champion.

The PRAB had discussion. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson mentioned that the board may want to consider the definition of covered to include shade sails. She also mentioned when you get to a certain point then you have assembly occupancy standards and need a restroom. Member Vick suggested having a site master plan. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson mentioned that the kayak launch might be the first takedown for the upcoming budget year. There was a discussion about signage for what can be done without a master plan. Member Vick asked if we had a signage plan. She said she didn't know what educational signage could be placed at Sailfish based on the discussion. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson told the board she thought it would be a mistake to try to develop the lot without a master plan in place because there are considerations such as stormwater and setbacks.

Vice Chair Tucker made a motion that the board focus on Sailfish Park for picnic tables, a kayak launch, and a site master plan; second by Member Champion. Chair McEntire asked if there was any more discussion; approved by all.

The board further refined the discussion to state that we should budget for 4 picnic tables, the kayak launch, and \$35,000 for the master plan which would total \$79,500.

The board moved the discussion to continue to make it a priority to find a dog park area. A discussion of avenues pursued to meet dog park needs to date was held.

Motion by Chair McEntire to move forward on an assumption that the spoils area might not be available and there are no other obvious places this boards deems acceptable mentioned in the master plan. We need to meet with the county to discuss an attempt to get some information so we can start planning for a dog park; second by Member Vick; approved by all.

Budget discussions continued around mats for the walkways and reinstating summer camps.

Public Comment

Jefferson Hodges at 254 Brunswick Avenue spoke to the need for a dog park and asked about the history of canal dredging prior to the spoils being placed at Scotch Bonnet. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson explained other sites that had been used in the past and the Corps ruling that changed the placement location. He said he visits Sailfish often and he thinks it is too small for a dog park.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (3:14 p.m.) by Member Bannerman; second by Member Pearson; approved by all.