



**TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2021- 2:00 P.M.**

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board of the Town of Holden Beach, North Carolina met at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 6, 2021 in the Town Hall Public Assembly. Present were: Members John McEntire, Olivia Gomez, Suzannah Tucker and Candace Vick. All other seats are vacant and have not been filled due to not meeting during Covid. Assistant Town Manager Christy Ferguson was also in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER

Member McEntire led the meeting and called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion to approve the agenda as written by Member Gomez; second by Member Vick; approved by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to accept the minutes as written by Member Vick; second by Member Tucker; approved by unanimous vote.

PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES UPDATE

Assistant Town Manager Ferguson reported that concerts are scheduled to begin Memorial Day weekend. She stated that the opening act would be different due to a loss of a band member from Covid. She told the board she plans to conduct Tide Dye with modifications. She stated there will be time slots by last name and numbers with limits. She added there will be less hands-on by participants and more involvement with the board/volunteers. The board discussed the modification specifics including pre-registration and the time slot planned for the program. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson stated that she was considering 1-4 p.m. She introduced Jay Craig from the audience as a local to the island and stated that he would be doing his internship with the town as part of his master's program studies at ECU. She stated that he begins May 17th and that he worked with the Beach Rangers program last year. She continued that Beach Rangers has always been housed in the BPART budget, but this year she will be overseeing the program. She stated she is currently preparing for the season. She told the board that an additional yoga class was recently added for Thursday evenings and that Tai Chi was added last December. She continued that only outdoor programs are currently being held. The current authorization only opened town hall to boards and committees. It did not include programs yet.

The discussion moved to the court resurfacing at Bridgeview Park and Assistant Town Manager Ferguson reported it has been delayed. She is expecting it to begin any time. She stated the contractor had a turnover in

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his work crew and has been completing the Brunswick County jobs that he had alone. He stated he needs four good weather days to get our court complete. She anticipates work occurring in the next week or two. She continued that Scotch Bonnet is really looking nice with grass coming in thick. She said the town continues to work on that area with plans to utilize the space as soon as it is feasible to do so. She reported that there are some dock repairs underway at Halstead Park as pier pilings, decking, and handrails needed work. Member Tucker said she did not know who the contractor was, but they were working hard and long days to complete. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson stated that it was Will Richardson.

Moving to a discussion on the egg drop, Assistant Town Manager Ferguson spoke to it being a different event than normal but that participants seemed appreciative that an attempt was made to provide an event for the children. She thanked the board for their help with the event. Member Tucker agreed that parents and families did seem appreciative.

Assistant Town Manager Ferguson said that barring any change with Covid regulations and guidelines, the Run HB event that was canceled for this month will be held in October. The scheduled date is October 9th. In revisiting the facilities discussion, she reported the splash pad will open Memorial Day weekend. There was a discussion on the Little Free Library in the park and Assistant Town Manager Ferguson said she felt it was beyond repair and the town needed to buy a new one for replacement. It has been worked on several times. Member Tucker mentioned buying one that was deeper so kid's books which are usually larger in nature can fit. Member Tucker asked about a tree coming down at Sailfish. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson reported the signature red mulberry had to be removed due to it being a hazard from extensive damage to the tree over time. We saved it as long as possible, but it could hurt patrons if it fell on them or it could fall and damage the bulkhead. She reported that she is looking for a replacement.

MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Assistant Town Manager Ferguson reported that the master plan update is well underway. She said that focus groups went well, and survey response has been great. She said the survey period ended and according to the consultants there have been 354 survey responses representing 562 people. She said it is a great return rate and representation. She explained they are pleased and there will be more to come as far as next steps. Member McEntire asked the board how they would like to proceed with going forward through the survey information. He mentioned that there was a high number of respondents that said they had never visited sites but commented on what is good or bad about them. There was a discussion about marketing facilities that we have. Member McEntire said some questions were curiously worded including one about fishing from the pier, but he felt they meant pavilion. Member Tucker asked about hours at fishing facilities. Member Vick had a comment about ethnicity being covered and being representative of the population. She would be curious at looking at data more in-depth. The board agreed to send any questions they had about the survey to Assistant Town Manager Ferguson to forward to the consultants by the following Monday.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

The board asked about current board vacancies. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson explained the process for filling the empty seats. The board mentioned with vacancies not being filled by the BOC until July they would like to have more volunteers since it is a hands-on board and help would be needed for programs. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson said they would send out a request for volunteers. Member McEntire stated that if we got into a situation like Covid again he would like a way for the board to meet. He said when we stopped other groups outside the Town met. Member Gomez asked if people who did not get into the Tide Dye program could still buy shirts. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson said they could.

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ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn (2:49 p.m.) by Member Tucker; second by Member Vick; approved unanimously.