



**TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 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, July 7, 2022, in the Town Hall Public Assembly. Present were Vice Chair Suzannah Tucker, Members Candace Vick, Mike Pearson, Melanie Champion, Grace Bannerman, and Peggy Schiavone. Member Keith Smith could not attend. Assistant Town Manager Christy Ferguson was also in attendance.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. Vice Chair Tucker offered a welcome to new board members Peggy Schiavone and Keith Smith, even though Keith could not attend. Each member introduced themselves and discussed their previous experience.

Agenda Approval

Motion to approve the agenda by Member Champion; second by Member Vick; approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve by Member Pearson; second by Member Champion; approved unanimously.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Member Bannerman nominated Suzannah Tucker; second by Member Pearson. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson asked that it be rephrased into a motion.

Member Bannerman moved that Suzannah Tucker be appointed/elected as chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board; second by member Champion; approved unanimously.

Motion to ask Candace Vick to be Vice Chair by Chair Tucker; second by Member Pearson; approved unanimously.

Programs and Facilities Update and Discussion

Assistant Town Manager Ferguson stated that tide dye ended and another summer of fun was accomplished for families. She said she asked Emily to take tide dye totals she kept through the years and run a spreadsheet comparison. It looked as though going back to 2015, the biggest season was 2016. She stated the Town has moved from averaging 274 people per week to averaging 174. She ended by saying will see what next year brings.

Assistant Town Manager Ferguson stated the department held one camp based on the number of registered participants and the camp was a huge success. She said the Town would like to thank Fantasy Isle for their hospitality. Also, Emily and she would like to thank Town Manager Hewett for engaging with the youth and chaperoning a group of children.

She continued that concerts have been extremely well attended this summer. Last year, we were just getting back into post-Covid restrictions and attendance was good, but much less than this season. There has been banner attendance this year. She said she would like to thank the police department for its support in keeping the crowd safe. She reported the town has the 50/50 this coming Sunday.

Assistant Town Manager Ferguson said the basketball court fence repairs are completed at Bridgeview Park. She stated it looks great and she has received many compliments. As a recap, she reminded the board the fence repair was supposed to occur last spring when the court was painted but there were supply chain issues with fence parts.

She stated the Greater Holden Beach Women's Club held a contest to design the next little free library. It will go at Sailfish Park and should be installed at a ceremony in September or October. She said a member's husband is currently building it. The group hopes to add additional libraries at other spots on the island based on evaluation of this project.

Assistant Town Manager Ferguson stated that the Town had two recently completed Eagle Scout Projects. The timbers around the par course that were damaged in Isaias were replaced through a contractor, but they needed to be painted to match the course once the wood dried. In a separate project, a scout built two new little free libraries for Bridgeview Park that were installed this past weekend. The original, constructed by Former Board Member Nick Payne and repaired by Member Vick's husband a couple times, has seen some additional vandalism and wear due to the coastal environment. She reported that Emily will place books in the new libraries, so they are fully functional for the weekend.

Upcoming Events

Assistant Town Manager Ferguson reported on the following events:

October 1st- Run HB -The half marathon is 8-11:30 a.m., with the 5K beginning at 6:45 a.m., and the 1 mile starting at 8:30 a.m. The bridge will close until the half marathon folks cross and then will operate by pilot car. She announced people SHOULD EXPECT TRAFFIC SLOWDOWNS that morning. Anyone who would like to assist with traffic control and route cheering should notify Assistant Town Manager Ferguson.

October 8th-Cycle NC- She stated the town is the ending stop for the weeklong bike tour from the mountains to the coast. To better understand the event, she presented a promotional video. She mentioned that the cyclists are looking for places to retire and the Town hopes Holden Beach is a place they will want to call home. She gave an update regarding a band that is scheduled to play 2-4 p.m. and stated the Town is working on trash requirements. She covered some additional requests the company submitted in the past couple weeks. She stated the Town had no luck with securing a high school band so music will be played on our sound system. She asked that someone volunteer to be in the vicinity of sound system and serve as an interviewer. She said that cheerleaders from the high school will attend between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. to cheer cyclists as they come on the island. She also stated volunteers

would be needed at the photo booth and post card table. Finally, she reminded the board there would be a beer garden, for cyclist only.

She said the Town was looking for something different to add and decided on a kite festival. She said the idea had been talked about a few times and it seemed like a great time to add it as a welcome coming over the bridge. She continued that former PRAB Chair, John McEntire, has spearheaded this campaign. She stated they are going to put the anchors in Friday evening, and he may be able to use extra hands. She said they will plan to fly 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday but John says they need SW wind at 10-15 mph.

She stated the Town really needs as much of the PRAB's volunteer time as members can give that day and especially during the 11 a.m.-4 p.m. time slot. She said we can work on relief and rotation. She asked the board to send her preferred times and assignments. She also stated she would need some relief as she would not be able to pull an all day shift that day.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

Move we adjourn by Member Vick; second by Member Pearson; approved by all.