



**TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
Monday, February 3, 2025-1:00 P.M.**

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) of the Town of Holden Beach, North Carolina met at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, February 3, 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 1:00 p.m.

Agenda Approval

Make a motion to move public comment after minutes on the agenda by Member Champion; second by Vice Chair Pearson; approved by all.

Make a motion to approve amended agenda by Member Schiavone; second Member Bannerman; approved by all.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Vick asked for consideration to approve the minutes.

Make a motion (for approval) Member Smith; second Member Champion; approved by all.

Public Comment

Brenda Warden-117 Marsh Walk Holden Beach- 5 years ago built a home and retired here. Yoga helped fill a void. She said she was speaking for the group. She is grateful for the town of Holden Beach for taking care of the yoga group. The yoga classes had no real issue until the pavilion was taken down and they have been bounced around. Even in town hall, they have to compete with meetings. They are making a request that when a new pavilion is built, yoga is remembered. They need a cover over their heads, fencing that keeps it enclosed, and to be dry. She said the splash pad impacts them when they have to do class under the picnic shelter. She said the group has made the best of it. She drew attention to the second page of the petition presented by the group that states the Town does reap some financial benefit from classes, 25%.

Chair Vick suggested they also express their concerns to the Board of Commissioners since the pavilion is currently out of the PRAB's hands.

Programs and Facilities Update

Interim Town Manager Ferguson stated that the Avenue E project is coming along well. She continued that the 114 OBE bathrooms are still down due to a leak that occurred with weather. Park bathrooms and the ones under the bridge are open.

Moving to programs she announced that swing dance classes/dance is scheduled for Valentine's night. Additionally, the Town birthday party has a large guest list so that is exciting.

Pickleball Discussion

Chair Vick did a recap that on the field trip to town-owned sites, the 800 block was eliminated due to cost based on elevated bathrooms and a bulkhead.

The board then saw some layouts of the remaining three sites for consideration. In looking at single courts on the Sand Dollar lot and the Jordan Boulevard site, Member Smith said it takes up two pieces of property and doesn't allow tournament play. If tournaments are what they are considering, then Block Q is the logical option.

Chair Vick asked if the PRAB would be willing to get rid of pickleball on the current multipurpose court. Member Smith said if we did two or more additional courts he thought so. Member Bannerman said she thought we need to do at least one court that is tennis and serve dual purpose with pickleball. Member Edwards said if you put two courts and lose the ones that are there you only gain the fact that there is no conflict with other activities.

Chair Vick asked if there was a site that could be eliminated. Member Edwards said he thinks if we are looking at more than two courts that Block Q would be the best place. Member Schiavone said if we put courts between houses then you have to worry about bathrooms, trash, parking, etc. Member Smith asked if the basketball court would fit where the Sand Dollar lot property is. Chair Vick said it would be poor recreation design if the basketball court was separated from the playground. Member Smith said he doesn't see any advantage at the pavilion. The board agreed by consensus.

In further discussion regarding Block Q, Member Smith advised the board that based on his count there are 775 houses that have boat docks on the island and only 10 places for them to park. He is hearing there are all these communities, pickleball, yoga, etc., but when using space, boaters are a community as well. Chair Vick says she thinks the mark up for the site plan should be to place the pavilion and courts on Block Q the way they may be laid out functionally in the future, including shading out areas where nothing can be built. She doesn't think tennis should be left out.

Budget Discussion and Recommendations

Interim Town Manager Ferguson said based on what's listed in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, it looks like the PRAB can take their current priority list and update it based on things discussed. She stated that she needed to know if there are items that take the place of other items.

Member Bannerman suggested a master plan for the entire Jordan Boulevard and Block Q area and to include a request for the concert venue as part of the document.

Interim Town Manager Ferguson said they need to keep the basketball court in mind.

Chair Vick said she doesn't think we should use a piecemeal approach to plop things down with pickleball and concerts.

By consensus the board decided that the multi-purpose court should be addressed this year if it can be and if not move it forward for next budget; replace playground equipment at Bridgeview Park; create a master plan for Jordan Boulevard to include Block Q and include construction of a concert venue and dancefloor.

Referencing Block Q, Vice Chair Pearson said he wants the board to consider what courts being built may do with concerts and overlap on Sunday with noise. He questioned whether they will they remain in use during concerts.

The board discussed how any other priorities from the spreadsheet may rise to the top.

Adjournment

Make a motion to adjourn (1:56 p.m.) Member Smith; second Member Edwards; approved by all.