

AGENDA RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

August 9, 2021- Minutes

Attendance — Kathi Gottesman, Martha Arthur, Laura Scharle, Patti Stevens- Was asked to chair since Steve Cohen could not attend.

Approval of past Minutes — We reviewed April, May, June members' meeting notes. No meeting in July. Martha Arthur agreed to be secretary and keep future minutes in a format with action items, responsibility, and due dates.

Old Business

Strategic Plan - SWOT exercise – Committee members had reviewed the questions sent out prior to the June meeting and wanted to share their thoughts and had questions. Strategic Plan Committee Chair Bernie McGorry indicated that we could send these for consideration. SWOT topics identified by R&P committee will be shared with Bernie . (at end of minutes).

Projects:

Bike/Walking Trails –Patti sent questions to those running for OP Board about their willingness to support improvements to existing trails and to work with state and local government to improve and add cross-walks at key intersections. Committee should prepare recommendations for trail improvements for the budget process in October.

Kayak Racks - Debbie Donahue had indicated in June that the racks were ordered and would be installed. ** update in Sept

Inclusive Park progress – Rec and Parks and Public Works have been swamped with summer camp and maintenance. Work will continue as time permits. **update in Sept

New Business:

[Walktober](#) is a state-wide celebration in October of the health and social benefits of walking including activities hosted by community partners. R&P proposes working with OP communications to promote existing [walking trails](#) and encouraging group walks during October. Also approaching Golf Manager about possible date for a community walk at the Golf Course on or near Walk Maryland Day – Oct 6. Martha Arthur will reach out to Golf Manager. **Report back in Sept.

[Water Trails Map](#) developed by Laura Scharle shows water routes from different points in Ocean Pines with icon/info about picnic areas, parks and level of difficulty. R&P agreed that this should be shared on Ocean Pines Website and e-news. Laura will talk with Julie Malinowski in Communications and Debbie. ** Sept update

Any other business –

Community Paddle event—to be considered when Kayak racks are mounted to invite people to see them and go out on the water together and to share water trail map.

USING DATA -- When the committee first reformed in 2019, several members asked if data could be provided on # of customers, revenue, satisfaction feedback for existing park and recreation programs and amenities. This may come from NorthStar or other databases or hard copy information. There is still interest in receiving and reviewing this to help guide our consideration of what is appealing/missing/needs improvement.

Adjournment – 8:20pm

Next meeting: September 13 – 7pm

Sept Meeting Proposed Topics:

- Updates and discussion of Kayak Racks and launch
- Inclusive Playground design for Bainbridge Park. Debbie D.
- Report on possible Walktober event at the Golf Course – Martha A.
- Report on Water Trails Map posting on Web – Laura S.
- Review Committee member list and terms – Kathy G
- Deadline and process for budget requests -Larry P
- Develop list potential budget items – assignments to research costs - Group

STRATEGIC PLAN – SWOT discussion at August meeting:

Strengths - Increase of younger residents, especially families with children moving to the Pines. They are attracted by the amenities and programs.

Weaknesses- Lack of utilization of data to guide decisions by staff, board, and to keep public informed. Data from NorthStar, Golf or Pickleball and other systems on # of users/member vs. non-residents, repeat users, complaints received and resolution, satisfaction surveys. Lack of staff capacity to review and analyze this info.

Ongoing drama, arguments, lawsuits, negativity erodes community trust and interest.

Opportunities- Share data/ information above regularly through the website or in regular reports to committees and the community. Volunteers could be engaged to assist with data review and analysis as there residents with these skills and interests.

Use online/social media more to connect with residents who may prefer this to paper/print communication. Many use Next Door, Instagram, Facebook to ask questions, share info.

Engage younger, more active individuals and families, newer residents where they gather: pools, playgrounds, school bus stops, Farmers Market. Use laptops/ IPADS and/or QR Code to allow mobile responses to gather survey feedback where they are.

Question to SP Committee: How will progress on implementation of priorities identified through the strategic planning process be monitored? Is it part of the work of the committee to review and report progress on strategic priorities or will recommendations be made to do this?