

OCEAN PINES RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES: October 11, 2021

LOCATION: Ocean Pines Administration Building

PARTICIPANTS: Committee Chairperson, Pat Stevens; Program Manager, Debbie Donohue; Laura Scharle; Martha Arthur; Skip Flanagan; Kathi Gottesman.

Greg Ellison of the Bayside Gazette attended the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from September 13, 2021 meeting were reviewed and the committee voted unanimously to approve.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Debbie Donahue provided an update. She reported she has worked with public works regarding Kayak rack and launch options that include Swim and Racquet Club, Wood Duck and Whitehorse Park. Public Works will be installing temporary kayak storage at the Swim and Racquet Club prior to spring kayak season. Upcoming projects include: Haunted house, Trunk or Treat. There is a need for volunteers to support programs. Debbie can be contacted by interested people and has application forms and information regarding requirements for potential volunteers.

OLD BUSINESS

Membership: Kath Gottesman reported she has made contacts with current members whose terms are expiring. Steve Cohen has expressed interest in continuing. Kathi will be moving in January. Therefore, there will be four vacancies to fill. The committee discussed recruitment. So far efforts to recruit someone representing youth, young families and one other person have not been successful. The committee thanked Kathi for her service.

Actions: Committee will review membership status at next meeting. Efforts to recruit new members will continue.

Kayak Rack Installation: Debbie reported temporary racks are designated for installation at the swim and racquet club. The committee suggested installation be completed by February with yearly rentals running from March to March. Communication to the public regarding status was suggested.

The location for permanent racks was discussed. The committee suggested that the new/renovated recreation and crabbing pier should be located at Pin Tail Park and that would be a preferred location for Kayak storage. Committee members are gathering information for an accessible launch similar one in St. Michaels that could be installed at the new pier. The committee is considering recommending submission as part of the 2022 budget.

Actions: Debbie will communicate with Public Works staff and the general manager regarding planning and implementation of the racks. The advisory committee will review options for an accessible launch at the next meeting.

Cold Water Safety Training: Laura offered to conduct cold water safety training for community members in that late winter or early spring.

Action: Laura will work with Debbie to schedule the cold water safety training event in early spring or late winter.

Inclusive Park Progress: Debbie reported that she continues to identify resources and considerations for the park with committee members, park staff in other counties and community members. She recommended the proposed planning workgroup be established to assist with the process with a target date for submission of plans or requests for the 2023 budget. Martha agreed to act as liaison for the workgroup to the advisory committee.

The committee also discussed the need to develop an RFP for the project to support the initial planning process for the inclusive playground and the needs related to bike trails a Bainbridge Park for submission in the upcoming budget.

Actions: Debbie will work with liaison to recommend workgroup makeup and a planning process, including the RFP for planning. Considerations for workgroup participants include partners from the county, school system, organizations that represent disability groups, community groups that have 501C3 status, and persons with expertise with grants.

Walktober - Walk Maryland: Walk Maryland, a statewide initiative to encourage MD residents to walk, occurred on October 6. Patti and Laura led walks on the Robin Hood Trail and the Library Trail.

NEW BUSINESS

Inclusive Playground: Brian Lewis, a representative for Game Time, a playground vendor with experience with development and design of inclusive playgrounds, presented information regarding his company's capacity to support the planning process to develop an inclusive playground. He described the difference between accessible facilities and inclusive facilities. He shared possible funding resources, design resources, planning resources that his company can provide if Ocean Pines selects them as the vendor for the project. He also provided several catalogues to committee members.

Action: The work group expects to begin the planning process within the next month and will report at the next advisory meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30. The next meeting will be held at the Community Center on November 8, 2021 at 7:00 pm.