

**Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, July 10, 2023**  
**OP Community Center**

**Call to Order:** 6:30pm Welcome

**Participants Present:** All members and Board Liaison present.

**Approval of Agenda:** Approved

**Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Approved

**Chairperson Comments:** Chair welcomed new Advisory Committee Member, Amy Peck. Several members have conflict with August regular scheduled meeting, may change or just cancel. Chair thanked Doug for his service as the Board Liaison.

**Public Comments:** None.

**Topics Discussed:**

- Signage Update: Pam reached out to Josh Davis for clarification of responsibility to update. Josh said Rec & Park Staff is responsible. Pam will put list together and resend to Rec & Park Staff thru Board Liaison.
- Results from the Monthly Trail & Park Walk: List of trail and park concerns were sent to Board Liaison for OPA General Manager consideration. Our next trail walk is the South Pond Trail 2 ( aka Route 90 Trail). The team will meet at the Library Parking Lot on Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. A car will be available to bring people back to the Library once the one-way trail hike is completed.
- Formalize Sub-Committees: Bill discussed his intent of the sub-committees. Pam will lead Recreational Activities. Becky & Tom will focus on Parks. Patti & Laura will focus on Trails.
- Outdoor Fitness Equipment: Becky briefed a paper making the case for additional exercise equipment and potential locations. The group discussed potential locations for the equipment; options to increase overall fitness equipment; potential partnerships; and costs associated with fitness equipment. Becky will collect information from earlier correspondence and will update the paper for group consideration.
- Swim & Racket Area Upkeep and Tennis Court Use: Becky presented an assessment of this park and area. Swim & Racket needs beautification on the trail and areas to bring it up to the level of other facilities in OPA community. The group recognized that work was completed and improvements have been made. Additional attention needs to be given to beautify this well used park and should be a budget consideration for next year. The group discussed the desire to use the empty courts adding large covered space, as a rentable income stream.
- Survey Accomplishments and Topics: Tom raised the desire to incorporate positive results of the past Fall 2022 survey into marketing this next Summer 2023 survey. The survey was released that morning. Committee members will send input on past survey results with the intent to forward to the survey marketing or communications dept.

- OPA Budget Cycle & Annual Report: Bill asked Subcommittees to look at goals and objectives for next year and budget items for the next years. We should look at the standard format for annual reports, which Bill will forward. Budget items will be due for discussion at our September meeting.
- Recreational Activities: Amy raised that Arts Day was this past Sunday and it was successful. Rec & Park may have an opportunity to make money from this event.
- Fencing Around Playgrounds: Laura reported residents have reported a safety need for fencing around some playgrounds in parks for people to bring kids. Some kids may wander off into traffic (i.e. Manklin Creek Park or White Horse Park) or could benefit from an enclosed area due to special needs. The group agreed and tasked the sub-committee to look into Need to fencing options and recommendations.

**Actions For Committee:**

- Pam will draft email or paper to Board to ask Rec & Park Staff to update bulletin board before next meeting.
- Becky will adjust the Outdoor Fitness Equipment paper to send to the board for their consideration. Patti & Tom will provide research on fitness equipment to Becky and the board Liaison to provide to the OPA Staff within two weeks.
- Beck will send email thanking the OPA staff for their work at the Swim & Racket Park, request additional improvements, and thank them again for their efforts before the next meeting.
- Tom & Becky will look into Park adoption ideas to help improve parks, including groups or localized efforts and bring ideas to next meeting.
- Subcommittees will bring goals, objectives, and budget requests to the September meeting.
- Amy will draft a paper to provide ideas for funding opportunities for Rec & Park to make money on Arts and other OPA sponsored events, or other special events.
- Tom & Becky will look into Park and Playground fence options for board committee consideration at next meeting.

**Recommendation for Board Consideration:**

- Take action on Park & Trail Signage email from the past and new being sent by Pam. Send to Rec & Park for their action.
- Make recommendation to OPA General Manager to confirm there is a “work ticket” functionality in the “NorthStar” tracking system of each of the Advisory Committee’s items. The Advisory Committee would like our items to be tracked and reported back to.

**Adjournment:** At 7:42pm.

**Final Note:** *Next Meeting is scheduled for August 14, 2023, 6:30 – 7:30 pm at Ocean Pines Community Center – East Room. The option of an online “Teams Meeting” is available upon request.*