

Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee
Monday, December 13, 2023
OPA Community Center – East Room
6:30 – 7:30 PM
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: Chair called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

Participants Present: Six of seven members were present. Jeff Heavner attended as the Ocean Pines Board Liaison.

Approval of Agenda: Agenda for month of December was approved.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting: The minutes for the month of November were approved.

Chairperson Comments: Thanks to Pam for taking notes last month.

Public Comments: Request was taken from a public inquirer to ensure the recent meeting minutes are posted online.

Topics Discussed:

- Annual Report: Bill reported he has yet to receive any feedback on the committee's annual report submission, albeit early in the process. Bill and Jeff explained the process pertaining to how the budget requests are submitted and brought to eventual fruition. The group discussed concerns with past budget items that have not been funded, especially considering the safety related items identified in previous reports. Jeff will highlight the committee's concerns to the rest of the board.
- OP Bike & Pedestrian Safety Committee: Patti briefed the group on the latest events for this committee. She reported that the North / South connection planning process is underway and there is notable improved safety dialogue with OPA staff and Chamber of Commerce personnel. Following an in person walk of the trail area, the group noted positive results in mulch filling holes and directional signs for the Robinhood Trail. The group will continue to advocate for safety signs and paint at trail crosswalks.
- 2023 Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Amenity Survey: Bill discussed the survey results from the Summer 2023 Rec & Park Survey. Main themes of walking and biking safety were identified, as well as the need for improving current amenities (i.e., trails and playgrounds) describing that overall maintenance needs to be addressed and improved. Bill offered to brief the topics to an upcoming board meeting.

- OPA Park Rec Committee Bylaws: Bill asked the committee to review the current discussed the current bylaws and make recommendations for any revisions. This began a good discussion on the role of the committee and bylaws. Committee members have until the end of the week to provide any recommendation to Bill.
- Environmental Committee Collaboration: Bill reported that the chair of the Environmental & Natural Assets Committee reached out to out Res & Park committee to coordinate installation of wildlife and flora information signs along the community parks and trails. The group welcomes collaboration and the addition of the signs. The trail leads will coordinate support.
- OPA Day: Becky reported that the OPA Day committee would like a commitment from this advisory committee to advertise what we do during the event on Saturday April 20th. The group agreed and recommended the Advisory Committee be located next to or along with the Rec & Park staff.

Actions for Committee:

- Bill will ensure the previous meeting minutes are posted online for all community members to access.
- The committee members will take a final look at the Advisory Committee Bylaws Resolution and send any comments to Bill by the end of this week.
- Jeff offered to request time for the Rec & Park Advisory Committee to discuss the survey results and ensue that safety items are highlighted to the board for their strongest consideration.

Adjournment: The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:46 pm.

Final Note: *Next Meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2023, 6:30 – 7:30 pm at Ocean Pines Community Center – East Room. The option of an online “Teams Meeting” is available upon request.*