

Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee
Monday, February 12, 2024
OPA Community Center – Foulz/Marlin Room
6:30 – 7:30 PM
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: Chair called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

Participants Present: Four of six members were present. Jeff Heavener attended as the Ocean Pines Board Liaison.

Approval of Agenda: Agenda for month of February 2024 was approved.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting: The minutes for the month of January 2024 were approved.

Chairperson Comments: Laura has departed the committee. Her contributions with trails, outings and the kayak launch were lauded and recognized. New crosswalks were painted along Manklin Creek Road, much thanks to the support of Patti. This is part of more comprehensive crosswalks program that is underway.

Public Comments: None

Topics Discussed:

- Bill discussed the results of this committee's topics brought to the OPA board. The group discussed the timing of the annual report and how it aligns, or may misalign, with the committee's annual reports. Jeff brought the concerns discussed last month to the Board and explained the timing. No need to adjust the timing at this point.
- The group discussed the updates to the crosswalks and bike and community trails task force chaired by Patti. Bill and Pam discussed the recent fundings and efforts to improve this community effort. This could be supported in future budget processes by our committee.
- OPA Activities Day was approved by the Board and our committee's participation is scheduled. Becky is taking the lead on this effort for the Advisory Committee. Our committee will likely have a table at the event and will request to have our table near the Rec & Park department to coordinate efforts. The group discussed ideas for outreach and information sharing with visitors.
- The group reviewed a draft strategic planning document that could be used as a working tool for this committee to track and communicate our priorities. Jeff shared a sample document that is being used by other committees for the group's consideration. Overall agreement that this would be a good tool to organize out priorities and communicate with the Board.

- Concern was brought up about the small pond connected to the Route 90 Trail. This pond needs attention with directional and “clean-up after your dog” signs. Also, the kayak launch has become overgrown and needs to be cleared. This trail should be considered for the future group park walk.

Actions for Committee:

- The committee members should provide their top priorities and plans list at the next meeting to capture in the new strategic planning document.
- The group will provide their top five safety concerns noted with the current parks and trails to bill within a week. The Chair Person will forward these onto the Board Liaison for further action.

Adjournment: The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:36 pm.

Final Note: *Next Meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2024, 6:30 – 7:30 pm at Ocean Pines Community Center – East Room. The option of an online “Teams Meeting” is available upon request.*