

**Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee**  
**Monday, October 9, 2023**  
**OPA Community Center – East Room**  
**6:30 – 7:30 PM**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Call to Order:** Chair called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

**Participants Present:** Five of seven members were present. Ocean Pines Board Liaison was present.

**Approval of Agenda:** Agenda for month of October was approved.

**Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The minutes for month of September was approved with one correction to the date required before posting.

**Chairperson Comments:** Welcome to our newest member, Kathy Toth.

**Public Comments:** None

**Topics Discussed:**

- Tom shared the results from the Monthly Trail & Park Walk conducted at Pin Tail Park. Notable items included the new kayak launch instruction signage, removal of trash and debris, and need for improved paths. Patti recommended using accessibility mats for a smooth surface to the launch. Our next walk will be at White horse Park on October 22 at 4:30pm. Tom will follow-up with a call out to members for availability.
- Bill led a meeting on the drafting of the Annual Report. The group covered three main sections.

**Summary of Major Activities**

The Committee discussed and agreed to list the assessments of parks and playgrounds, monthly walk results, community bike ride, kayak launch, swim and reciter center improvements, outdoor fitness report, adopt-a0park guidelines, and recreational activities supported by the Advisory Committee members. Patti recommended we list our assessments and report dates we provided and ask for feedback from the Board on the efforts and status of requests or continual feedback loop. The group discussed updating the cross walks, signage and increasing our focus on recreational activities.

**Problems Encountered & Assistance Requested**

The Committee discussed and agreed to list pedestrian and bicycle safety, outdoor and community fitness opportunities, abandoned tennis courts,

Bainbridge Park playground, community gymnasium floor, and park and trail safety as the main problems encountered that require the board's attention. The Committee agreed to reference any previous correspondence or budget requests for these topics.

#### Request for Budget Items

The Committee agreed to identify seven main items for the next budget cycle. These included a bicycle and pedestrian safety plan, increased crosswalk painting and signs, outdoor fitness study, tennis court redevelopment, Bainbridge Park rebuild, gymnasium floor refinishing, and the correction of safety items previously reported to the Board. The committee will offer financial estimates for each item to help guide the Board's decisions.

#### Recommendations for Board Action

The Committee agreed to list recommendations that supported the problems and budget items previously discussed. The group agreed to link activities, requests to wording in the OPA Strategic Plan to ensure they are inline with the OPA direction and well supported. Furthermore, the committee agreed to stress the need for better communication between the committee, board and OPA general manager and staff to help further these improvements.

#### **Actions for Committee:**

- Bill will request a follow-up on the adopt a park & trail program status seeking the current state for each park within a week.
- Bill will get a copy of the comments from the previous Spring 2023 Survey to help support the annual report within a week.
- All Advisory Committee Members will provide their feedback on the Annual Report to Bill NLT Friday, October 20th.
- Tom and Patti will draft an item for the Annual Report covering what was completed by the Advisory Committee and resulting data concerning Recreational Activities NLT Friday, October 20th.

#### **Recommendations for Board:**

- The Board Liaison follow-up on communication to the board and OPA staff, in particular the priorities for the OPA Recreational and Parks Staff.

**Adjournment:** The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:48 pm.

**Final Note:** *Next Meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2023, 6:30 – 7:30 pm at Ocean Pines Community Center – East Room. The option of an online "Teams Meeting" is available upon request.*