

## **Minutes: OPA Environment & Natural Assets Advisory Committee Meeting April 26, 2025**

**Members Present:** Pat Ryan Garcia (Chair), Brian Burgess (Vice Chair), Pat Benner, Patty Gamby, John Maziuk, Anne O'Connell, Don Wolski, Jeff Heavner (OPA Board Liaison).

**Call to Order:** Pat Garcia called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Patty Gamby made a motion to approve the agenda which was seconded by Brian Burgess I and approved unanimously.

### **Approval of January 2025 Minutes**

Anne O'Connell made a motion to approve the March 2025 minutes. Brian Burgess seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

### **CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS**

- 3rd terms for Pat Benner and John Maziuk were approved at the March OPA Board Meeting
- Executive Council Meeting held on March 27: Advisory Committee chairs shared 2024 activity highlights and plans for 2025. OPA Parliamentarian Doug Parks reviewed Committee protocols and discussed proposed changes to document retention policies to help manage website and video storage.
- OPA personnel changes: Linda Martin is contact for meeting calendar and website; Nancy McCubbin for email blast and quarterly newsletters.
- Reminder that the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner is scheduled for June 5.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Earth Day Cleanup After Action**

- Beach Heroes had a great turnout of volunteers. Only 8 volunteers from the ENA committee and OPA Board.
- The event was listed in the previous week's Bayside Gazette and The OPA email blast. WBOC covered the event and interviewed Pat Garcia and Jeff Heavner. It was the lead story on their 4 p.m. newscast and also featured on their 6 p.m. news.
- Don Wolski attempted some cleanup of vines at the South Gate Pond but found it was too big a job and suggested planning a springtime cleanup there perhaps with the help of the OPA Arborist. He asked our Board Liaison to help him set up a meeting with the arborist.
- Pat Garcia suggested forming a subgroup of Beach Heroes OC members that are OP residents to do periodic cleanups in Ocean Pines. Committee members suggested making an Earth Day cleanup an annual event.

#### **2025 OPA Season Kickoff**

- The Committee reviewed plans and assignments for the Saturday, May 17 event.
- Members were asked to refer to the March ENA minutes or a list of items they will bring for exhibit that demonstrate ways to “Reduce, Reuse or Recycle.”

### **Collaboration with Recreation & Parks Advisory Committee**

- The R&P Committee is interested in collaborating with ENA perhaps on improvements to the Swim & Racquet Club and Route 90 Pond trails.

### **Horn Point Field Trip**

- It was suggested that the Committee plan to visit Horn Point on one of their scheduled 10 a.m Tuesday tours before Labor Day.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- The Committee discussed OPA’s plans to replace 1,000 linear feet of bulkheads each year. The new bulkheads will be higher to accommodate higher tides.
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### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.