

Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee
Monday, May 8, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Participants Present: All current committee members and the Board Liaison were present.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved, as presented.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting: The minutes of the Committee's April 10, 2023 meeting were approved, as submitted.

Chairperson Comments: none.

Public Comments: none

Topics Discussed:

- The group discussed the draft "Recreation and Parks Condition Assessment" paper that resulted from the 2022 Survey and follow-on committee walks. Overall, the paper was review and accepted. The group recommended prioritizing the findings and recommendations as a way to help guide the OPA staff addressing the issues. Tom will identify items that are safety related, simple or quick fixes, and recommendations to assign out to other entities (i.e. utilities for fixing pipes) as priority findings. Findings that require long-term planning or budgeting items will be identified as a lower priority. The group discussed the need to keep the fitness center in this paper, yet prepare it as a separate proposal to start exploring fitness center and/or outdoor fitness equipment.
- The group discussed the request for outdoor fitness equipment and/or a fitness center as identified in the 2022 Rec & Park survey. The two issues could be kept separate as a short and long term ideas. The group noted a concern with confusion the two issues and agreed this should be a separate discussion for next meeting.
- The recent group walk at Bainbridge Park was discussed and found to fun and helpful. The group discussed the need to follow-up on the status of past budget requests for updating the park's playground equipment. The next group walk will be at White Horse Park on Sunday, May 21st at 6:30 pm.
- Bill discussed adding three subcommittees to the group; Parks & Playgrounds, Recreational Activities, and Trails to include biking, walking and paddling. The intent of the sub committees is to help access condition and needs; establish goals and objectives; and preparing reports for committee info. The group approved the idea of establishing and submitting the notion forward to the Board for their information and awareness. Bill proposed postponing the role of a Vice Chair until further notice. The group discussed the pros/cons of setting term

limits of one year on the Committee Chair role, but decided to postpone the discussion to allow for the group to consider options and provide input later. It was decided that the sub-committees could have volunteers outside the committee for support with special projects.

- The Chair received an email providing an update to the Adopt-A-Park program. OPA management team revisited the old guidelines and updated with the committee's input. The group discussed the need to advertise and market the program. This effort will likely work in tandem with updating the sponsors and park signage, and good for subcommittee work.
- The group discussed the cancellation of Paddle Sport free two-week trial and committees request for additional free trials. No further action needed.
- The Chair provided an update that the Pintail Park floating kayak dock and launch will be ADA compliant. The committee's input on preferred launches was provided and will be considered, recognizing that construction limitations may not provide the preferred option. The advisory committee will provide further engagement on plans and offered to help moving forward.
- The committee discussed a desire for more direct liaison with OPA staff. Options included having OPA Rec & Park attend the meeting and/or having this Committee Chair have direct communication with the staff. It was recognized that this could cause confusion and was outside the established rules. The group will continue to use the channels through the board liaison and send inquiries to info@ocenapines.org as an additional communications avenue. It was reiterated that the committee can ask questions to the staff, but must be careful to not request something that could be misconstrued as tasking. Allow the new process to be exercised. The committee would like the OPA Staff to know that they can always come to the committee for help or support with Recreation and Parks initiatives.

Action Items for Committee

- Tom will update the Condition of Park & Trail paper to add priorities and forward to the Committee Chair for further submission.
- Patti will draft an email for the Committee Chair to forward to the Board Liaison, asking for follow-up on Bainbridge Park playground funding.
- Tom will add the outdoor fitness equipment as a discussion topic for the next meeting.
- Bill will inform the Board of our committee's decision to establish the three subcommittees.
- Pam will draft an email for the Committee Chair to request and update on the information boards for parks and signage.
- Bill will send email to the Board Liaison to request further information on the ADA Kayak design.

Recommendation for Board Consideration

- The Committee Chair will send the Park & Trail Condition Assessment to the Board Liaison for routing to the OPA General Manager for action.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Final Note: *Next Meeting is scheduled for June 12th, 2023, 6:30 – 7:30 pm at Ocean Pines Community Center. The option of an online “Teams Meeting” is available upon request.*