

Town of Kitty Hawk
Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2020

Attending Committee Members

PAUL HENRIQUES

TOM HEFFNER

CHARLOTTE WALKER

TIMOTHY FISH - Absent

KIP TABB

Others Present:

Mayor Garry Perry

Town Attorney Casey Varnell

Andy Stewart Kitty Hawk Town Manager

Minutes of previous meetings approved unanimous

Agenda approved unanimous

Old Business

Beach Nourishment:

Update by Andy Stewart

The bid we put out for the project in 2021. So we're about a year, year and a half away from the next go around on beach nourishment. The town received a \$1.4 million grant for the project through the state of North Carolina storm damage mitigation funds. There was like 10 other communities that received that grant funding. So, the council paid to have the grant drafted by myself and by the engineer. So that was well worth the time to do that, and that \$1.4 million will come off the city's side of the grant as you know we get funding also from Dare County, which is through the occupancy tax fund. It's really going to benefit the town to the tune of about \$1.4 million. So that's a major thing that we didn't have the last go around so that'll help us keep costs down, hopefully keep the Municipal service district tax down, where it's at. There's no plans in the new budget to reduce that tax. For right now as we do the new budget that tax is going to remain in place for the next five years until the new council comes on or they're not.

Bathhouse Project

Update by Andy Stewart

We've we completed the bathhouse project.

There were some design flaws and that took a little bit longer than anticipated. When you do a remodel of of more than 50%. Especially brought up, standard. And we had demoed the building before we realized that the accuracy was down. So the council changed the math to the lower earlier (standard). And that allowed us to build on the existing height that was and we were able to complete it for the summer.

Sandy Run Park

Update Paul Henriques

We completed that project and there's a lot of kids that use the little playground areas. People just like to fish there. We've been doing a stocking program every two three years with bass and bluegill and so it keeps the fish population, really good. they're like kids get down there and fish. I was surprised a lot of kids playground basketball court. There has been some discussion, possibly, possible some sort of permanent restroom like a two stall restroom facility. I know we have the outhouse down there now but just the use of network gets and the people use kicking off road, and walking trails as well. It's kind of the place where people park and then walk into the park, do a lot of different things so that might be something in the future.

Draft Master Plan

Question: Kip Tabb-Current means for public involvement

Paul Henriques: we've discussed it in previous meetings and how we could survey. The residents of Kitty Hawk. How would they what they want. Recreation needs an AC for the town. I have mentioned maybe starting a Facebook page or something like that.

Discussion of managing Facebook page—Concerns about negative comments and input from previous boards cited.

Paul Henriques: I think that would be a great platform to put a page out there for free and say Kitty residents, what do you think for recreation?

Kip Tabb: I agree with you on that. There's always going to be somebody whose (negative)

Kip Tabb: Raised issue of not getting input as inconsistent with mission.

Mayor Perry: We have a newsletter that goes out. Certainly if you want to asking for input that can go that way. Council can also during a council meeting. (Raised the possibility of online survey—Survey Monkey). Facebook, the social media is big so I'll leave that up to you for those resources. All you have to do is as.

General discussion of Facebook and administering and maintaining Facebook Page.

Town Attorney Casey Varnell: The newsletter is a good way to put it out there. I know there's some towns that are some cities where I came from, they would they would mail

the actual newsletter out, and mail it to every single resident, they wouldn't do it all the time, but they would do it once or twice a year.

Paul Henriques: Last year we did some updates to the master plan. It took us pretty much the entire year to accomplish that, We referenced the current North Carolina outdoor recreation plan, which cruises to 179 pages. Go ahead, but actually there. It's the basis of what our master plan is. It's the state plan but we referenced it on our plan and I think everybody on this committee should be familiar with it.

Paul Henriques: I don't want to move to approve the the master plan tonight I think if you guys can look at that section a little bit more definitely and just see if that's really what our short term mid term and long term goals are for recreational facilities, and we can meet again and say yeah it looks good or we tweak a couple things and we can do that via email for the term between this meeting in the next week

Kip Tabb: Move to have interim meeting December 8 to finalize Draft Recreation Master Plan.

Tom Heffner second

Motion passed unanimously.

Charlotte Walker (referencing goal in Draft Plan): Are there any updates to senior activities? (Reference to short term and midterm goals)

Paul Henriques: Suggested part of Master Plan updates.

New Business

Connection between Kitty Hawk Park and Sandy Run Park

Andy Stewart: We applied the grant for was about a 350 linear foot connection over wetland areas up to a bridge that runs east and west runs all the way into the back of Kitty Hawk Estates. The trailhead is hidden. It's that residential development beside of Walmart, and that runs all the way down to Sandy Run Park. Currently the only way to access that trail is through that private property.

We've submitted a grant for the past two years. this year we. They requested that we provide more public support for the project. We got a council meeting where they supported it. We had the Dare County commissioners support. We had school board support. The hospital supported it. We had everybody in the brothers supported the project this year with letters, and they still didn't approve the grant.

Andy Stewart: (Referencing existing facilities at County maintained Kitty Hawk Park.) My pitch to them was you're going to get more bang for your buck and we can construct a 350 foot connection to that existing trail, which is about 3.8 miles and it's a highly underutilized trail as it is. We did get a grant from the Tourism Bureau for about \$48,000. That Grant has been extended for the past two years. This will have to be a decision of the council at this point whether or not they want to fund any additional

monies and add to the Tourism Board grant and we currently do that but we didn't receive one from the State Recreational Trails Program. There are probably some other options. There may be some ways we can get in and do some stuff in house maybe. We still think it's a good project staff to project I think council still thinks it's a great project.

General discussion of trail condition follows.

Paul Henriques: Question about State Recreational Trails Program grants and consistency with state recreation master plan.

Mayor Perry: I started that whole thing, and I intend to see it concluded before I leave this council so you can rest assured, I will be pushing capsule to push the manager to set aside the necessary funds to make that happen. (Discussion of funding for phase two with different option for shared funding.)

Paul Henriques: Suggest volunteers clear Birch Street Trail. Suggested a volunteer base maintenance program.

Kip Tabb: Noted consistent with 4.2 public involvement in draft Master Plan

Casey Varnell: Easements exist on sections of trail through private property placing some possible restrictions on maintenance and use.

Charlotte Walker: Suggested power company as potential source for grant.

Hurdle Street Discussion

Mayor Perry: It has comes to my attention and there's a street called Hurdle sSreet which is a paper Street. You see that path that's going through there and just beside the, the old Kitty Hawk station that would move. It's a paper straight, and it would make a really good beach access if we wanted to do that. That would work well for us for giving Kitty Hawk more parking and more beach access.

General discussion follows over how to create actual beach access. Although street is neither paved nor graded, it does exist on plats. Possible use by property owner bordering street noted. For access, process for acquiring beach access through purchase of condemnation.

Casey Varnell: Generally what we would do is we either through my office or through Andy's (town manager), we come up with a with a figure. In doing that, the problem, is that you run against you don't want to bid against yourself. I have no doubt that an unbuildable parcel. It's a larger lot.. Somebody is going to think it's more valuable because it's a larger lot.

(Discussion of process of condemnation follows.)

Question from Kip Tabb and Charlotte Walker regarding easement vs purchase of entire property.

Mayor Perry: The house behind it is the owner of the lot there. And she will not allow and is not willing to put up sandbags and all that stuff. So that's where I'm coming from with concern.

Discussion of process including engineering schematic of project. Casey Varnell recommends that as part of potential condemnation procedure.

Mayor Perry: Take your time. Think about it.

General discussion of public and property owner response follows. Discussion includes value of property based on tax value and how many parking spaces would be created. Tax value noted a \$0. Discussion of possible negotiating position of property owner.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kip Tabb, Recreation Committee Secretary,
December 6, 2020