

Recreation and Parks Commission
July 15, 2014

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:38 P.M. at Northside Park. Present were Joe Mitrecic, Lloyd Martin, Dennis Dare, David Recor, Frank Miller, Lisa Mitchell, Kate Gaddis, Hal Adkins, Terry McGean, Dean Dashiell and Susan Petito. Guests included Zach Hoopes and Joanne Shriner.
2. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of May 13, 2014 were approved as presented.
3. New Private Event Requests: Lisa presented the RPAC (Real Estate Policy & Advocacy) Boardwalk walk and Volley for TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) event. Either event requires support or services from the Town. Both events were approved to move to Council.
4. Bayside Park Development: Susan Petito introduced the Bayside Park project, noting that there was an immediate need to address the St. Louis Avenue project with relation to the existing plans for the Park's Development. Hal Adkins reported that Dean Dashiell had run project numbers and projected that the narrowing of St. Louis Avenue between 4th Street and 3rd Street could be completed per park plans for an additional \$13,000. Also adjacent to the park, Public Works has scheduled the repair and re-paving of 3rd Street this fall. Cost to build the Bayside Park plans for head-in parking along 3rd Street and other improvements, per an estimate from Dean, could cost approximately \$80,000 more than what is currently budgeted. It is possible that this additional expense could be absorbed into the paving project funding, however, this cannot be determined now. With both street projects already scheduled, and with intent of the Council to move forward with the Bayside Park project sometime in the future, it was recommended that the park's design plan for these two streets be initiated now. The Recreation and Parks Commission voted unanimously to move this issue to the full Council with a positive recommendation. Additional discussion ensued regarding the park design, the need to accommodate tall ships, the inclusion of restrooms, etc. Susan stated that staff had already begun preliminary discussions on modifications to the current plan.
5. Summer Programs/Events: Kate Gaddis gave an overview on summer programs and events. She stated that over 2500 kids are currently enrolled or have attended this summer's camp program offerings and shared a sampling of the variety of camps offered to the community and visitors. She reported on the free Movies on the Beach events, held 4 times per week, along with Family Beach Olympics, adult sports leagues and the success of the fitness classes currently being offered, including Aerobics, Zumba and Yoga. Kate complimented her excellent staff, and shared that part-time employee, Matt Mansfield, who has served as the Department's Tennis Manager, After-School Program Coordinator and Facility Monitor for the past 7 years has taken a full time job with the Convention Center. Susan added that Concerts on the Beach and Sundaes in the Park have also begun their respective summer series'.

6. Review Town of Ocean City Equipment and Labor Guidelines: : Frank Miller distributed the latest version of the Guidelines document with note that it would soon be going to Guy Ayres for review and that his goal was to present the document to Council on July 29th. Frank also presented a “Quick View” cover-sheet to be implemented with review of Private Events. The sheet provides a platform for Town Departments to identify risks and costs associated with each event, and will require a more thorough vetting of events from Department representatives and Council members. There was discussion amongst the Commission members regarding a potential modification in the presented pricing structure, but ultimately, agreed that some added language to address the interests of “Ocean City Non-Profit” groups may suffice. There was consensus that the Council should know the true costs associated with each event when making their evaluations on approval, pricing, etc. Frank intends to bring information to the Council on Banners and Private Event fees on July 21st.

7. Other Business:
 - Joe Mitrecic reported that the Boardwalk merchants and the Mayor felt that the July 4th celebration was very successful but voiced the need to add more porta-pots for future events on the Boardwalk. Our current facilities could not handle the crowds which meant long lines causing our visitors to miss the fireworks. This also burdens the Boardwalk Merchants as visitors enter their place of business to use their facilities without purchasing any of their products. Placement of additional facilities will be considered.

 - Susan reported that the Dog Playground gates have been repaired and new passes are now able to be sold.

 - Susan reported the shade structure at the Skate Park is complete and the fencing at the 4th Street playground has been repaired.

8. Closed Session: Councilman Lloyd Martin made a motion to move into closed session at 4:15 p.m., seconded by Councilman Dennis Dare. At 5:05, Councilman Dare moved to reopen the meeting, with Councilman Martin seconding.

9. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, August 19th at 4:00 p.m.