

Town of Swansboro
Swansboro Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
November 15, 2023

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

The Swansboro Parks and Recreation Board met at the Swansboro Recreation Center for a regular board meeting on Wednesday, November 15, 2023. Deb Pylypiw called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. Members present were Deb Pylypiw, Nancee Allen, Elena Messenger, and Debbie Harnatkiewicz. Lawrence Abalos was absent.

II. Adoption of Minutes

- a. The board reviewed the September 20, meeting minutes. Deb P. made a motion to approve which was seconded by Nancee A and the minutes were approved unanimously.

III. Reports

- a. **Monthly Report Managers report:** Anna Stanley provided the September and October monthly managers' report. She informed the board that a dockmaster/downtown supervisor was hired at the beginning of September. Director Stanley introduced the new Program and Event Manager, Walker Edwards, who was hired in September. The board did not have any questions.
- b. **Upcoming Programs/Events:** Recreation Program and Event Manager Walker Edwards provided the board updates on current program offerings. The pickleball league continues and has changed to winter hours. Pound class enrollments have increased, and Fellowship Night continues once a month. Upcoming programs include the holiday wreath class, Pretty Woman theatre trip, Ocean Sunset Paint and Sip, Elf in the Woods, Santa Fest, Kids Holiday Camps and Ricky's Retreat resource event.
- c. **Updates:** Mullet Festival weekend: The weekend kicked off Friday evening with the Blessing of the Fleet. There were about 10 boaters that participated. The weather hindered some attendance on Saturday, with rain on and off much of the day. We were worried that the vendors' sales would be low, but after speaking with them they had a good day. Many of them said that the Saturday was better than last year's Saturday. Many positive comments were received from the vendors. Approximately 60 percent of the vendors signed up for the 2024 festival.

Flotilla: Deb P said there are 21 boats already registered. Director Stanley said last year there were 23. Justin Webb, the new Dockmaster will assist in coordinating the event, with the intent that he will conduct all boating activities next year. The fire department will assist the Coast Guard on the water to help ensure the safety and flow of the boats.

Hiring: Three Recreation Aides were hired and will start soon. One of the new hires has special event experience and will assist in the planning of the festivals and will work with Deb.

Other Updates:

Lighting project: Director Stanley contacted Duke Energy and placed a work order for Municipal Park to review lighting options for the tennis courts and walking trail around the park.

Park enhancements: Director Stanley contacted another company to make a site visit to the splashpad to complete the concrete work and hopes to obtain quotes by the end of the year. Repaving the basketball courts and replacing the goals was also approved this year.

IV. New Business

Mullet Festival-70th Anniversary: Staff have already begun planning the 2024 Mullet Festival and next year marks the 70th anniversary. Comments received from the public were to offer a variety of band line ups. Originally there was discussion of adding a Friday night concert, but there were some concerns. Deb P pointed out the complications of closing the streets and staff costs. There was also discussion of adding amusement rides on Friday night and making it a family night to kick off the festival. With it being the 70th anniversary, staff wants to promote the event throughout the year concentrating on the historical significance. Deb P is working with the T-vendor to incorporate historical icons into the logo/T-shirt design. Other ideas for next year's event include mullet hair contests, mullet toss and other theme activities were mentioned. The staff is considering changing the day and time of the Blessing of the Fleet. Deb P announced we will no longer offer vendors electricity due to all the past problems working with the town, residential properties, and logistical concerns. Anna S. mentioned that many festivals do not offer electricity.

V. Old Business

VI. Comments

VII. Adjournment

Nancee A. made the motion to adjourn, and Deb P seconded the motion unanimously approved at 6:10 p.m.