

River Bend Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2024
Municipal Building

Board Members Present: Amy Hendee, Annie Knowler, Beth Stokes, Victoria Stuppy

Board Members Absent: None

Others Present: Barbara Maurer, Janet Nawojski, Diana Pantall, Jeff Weaver

Victoria Stuppy called the meeting to order at 6:30PM with a quorum present.

Victoria Stuppy motioned to adopt the agenda. Annie Knowler seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Victoria Stuppy motioned to approve the minutes of November 6, 2024. Annie Knowler seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Jeff Weaver informed the Board that Town Council's work session has been moved to December 5, 2024. There will be a discussion on liaison roles.

Victoria Stuppy reported that the Board remains on budget. The Board did go over budget for Friendsgiving, but many items purchased were reusable. The Board is \$850 under budget for the fiscal year.

Amy Hendee provided the social media update. She would like to post the Board's results from the Parks & Recreation survey and resultant proposal to Town Council. Victoria Stuppy will email the Town Clerk regarding posting the proposal on the official River Bend website and allowing it to remain there.

Annie Knowler reviewed the Veterans Day event. With the event being geared toward older residents, she suggested the Board invest in other forms of publicity for the event in the future. Timing of the event was also discussed, as this year it was on a workday which may have impacted attendance. She suggested doing the event on 11/11 at 11AM in the future.

Amy Hendee reviewed Friendsgiving. It was a very full event. She suggested bringing back Music Bingo for next year. Victoria Stuppy suggested providing a sample menu for next year so there are not a lot of duplicates for dishes.

The Board discussed the Holiday Tree Lighting. Santa and Mrs. Claus have been reserved. The Board will be meeting throughout the rest of the week to set up.

Victoria Stuppy updated the Board on the Tinsel Train (December 20, 2024). River Bend Police Department will be providing a police escort. CAC will provide the map. Trent River Realty has offered to sponsor hot chocolate. Annie Knowler stated that Attitudes has also volunteered hot beverages after the event.

Annie Knowler updated the Board on Game Night (January 10, 2025, at 7PM). The Board will need to purchase a bingo set. Snacks and beverages will be provided.

The Board discussed the Red Cross Blood Drive (January 25, 2025). Victoria Stuppy will not be in town. Amy Hendee will take point for the event.

The Board discussed future events for February and March 2025. The Board would like to host a Valentine's Day event such as a card making class. Victoria Stuppy will reach out to Marylou Brown to gauge available dates.

Amy Hendee suggested doing a Mardi Gras event for March 2025. Annie Knowler suggested doing a Mardi Gras golf cart parade/block party type event. The Board will discuss the date after reviewing New Bern's calendar of events.

Victoria Stuppy suggested future events to engage older River Bend citizens, such as hosting breakfasts for the community.

Barbara Maurer reminded the Board that there is room in the Parks & Recreation budget to request recreation funds. Jeff Weaver stated that there is a "Capital Improvement" account for items such as playgrounds, a pickleball court, etc.

The Board invited Diana Pantall, an applicant to the Board, to introduce herself.

There being no further business, Victoria Stuppy moved to adjourn, seconded by Amy Hendee. The meeting adjourned at 7:13PM.

Submitted by Amy Hendee