

**TOWN OF OCEAN ISLE BEACH  
111 CAUSEWAY DRIVE  
OCEAN ISLE BEACH, NC 28469**

**PUBLIC INPUT FORUM  
PARTF Application for Town Center Park – Phase 2  
April 13, 2021  
MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

|                                   |                                |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Mayor Debbie Smith                | Mayor Pro Tem Dean Walters     |
| Commissioner Wayne Rowell         | Commissioner David Green       |
| Commissioner Betty Williamson     | Commissioner Carolyn Blythe    |
| Daisy L. Ivey, Town Administrator | Casey R. Hayes, Town Clerk     |
| Ken Bellamy, Police Chief         | Herman “Blue” Born, Fire Chief |

Due to COVID-19 Pandemic Prevention Protocols, the meeting was limited to 25 members of the public. The meeting was LIVE streamed via Town Website at [www.oibgov.com](http://www.oibgov.com)

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Approximately 25 members of the public

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Mayor Smith called the public forum to order and stated the purpose of the forum is to solicit public comment with regards to the Town’s PARTF Grant Application for Town Center Park (11 E. Second Street) Phase 2. Mayor Smith stated that all issues would be taken under advisement; however, no official action would be taken during the meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mike Allocco – 15 Asheville Street – Mr. Allocco stated he was concerned that if the Town was focused on the construction of Phase 2 of the Town Park any proposed modifications to the old Town Hall (3 W. Third Street) may not be addressed. Mr. Allocco recommended the Town petition NCDOT to designate the right of way near the First Street roundabout as a “No Parking” zone. Mr. Allocco stated his concerns regarding underaged golfcart drivers on the island and suggested the Golf Cart rental companies should be fined.

Barry Ervin – 3 Gatha Lane – Mr. Ervin stated the proposed design of Phase 2 of the Town Park “looks good” but noted he has concerns about safety regarding traffic flow on Gatha Lane and recommends the installation of speedbumps. Mrs. Ivey stated the Town is exploring options to direct more visitors to park in the lot near the Museum.

Deb Eckert – 34 Goldsboro – Mrs. Eckert asked if the Town could prevent skateboarding on the Amphitheater stage. Mrs. Ivey noted signage is in place and encouraged anyone observing skateboarding in the park to alert the OIBPD. Mrs. Eckert noted her support for the proposed addition of a basketball (half-court) to the park for the older kids to utilize.

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Chris Ervin – 3 Gatha Lane – Mrs. Ervin recommended the addition of signage on playground equipment showing “age and weight limits” to deter usage by adults.

Robert Hoppe – 158 W. Third – Mr. Hoppe requested the installation of a flashing crosswalk sign at the intersection of Causeway Drive and Gatha Lane. Mrs. Ivey stated the Town has previously made the request to NCDOT and will update the public with any new information receive. Mr. Whiteside noted the Town is using traffic cameras to obtain pedestrian count information to provide to NCDOT.

Kris Crane – 236 W. Second – Mrs. Crane noted she serves on the County Parks and Recreation Board and stated the existing “fitness stations” in the county parks seemed to be underutilized. Mrs. Crane suggested the Town may want to consider other options for Phase 2 of the park.

David Martin – 248 E. First Street – Mr. Martin expressed his concerns regarding the use of the proposed zipline by adults.

Deb Foster – 31 Goldsboro Street – Mrs. Foster shared her enthusiasm for the proposed installation of fitness stations in the park. Mrs. Foster stated the stations would be a welcomed addition for adults since the island does not have a gym or fitness facility. Mrs. Foster stated she is concerned about how Town Staff will manage the use of the proposed picnic shelters and basketball court to ensure that they are reasonably shared and not monopolized by one individual or group.

Mayor Smith stated Town Center Park will be closed for repairs beginning April 13<sup>th</sup> and will remain closed for approximately 2 weeks. Mayor Smith stated Contractors will be removing and replacing the current dance floor and playground "Pour-in-Place" material due to incorrect installation resulting in unusual wear and tear (covered under warranty). Mayor Smith apologized for the inconvenience and stated the Town is looking forward to having our beautiful park up and running again as soon as possible.

Being no further comment was heard, Mayor Smith declared the forum closed.

DATE: 4-29-21



SIGNED: Debbie S. Smith  
Mayor Debbie S. Smith

ATTEST: Casey R. Hayes  
Town Clerk, Casey R. Hayes