



Meeting Minutes

Dowdy Park Design – Commissioners & Public Workshop

January 27, 2015, 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Nags Head Board Room, Nags Head, NC

Design Team, Commissioners & Committee Members Present

Commissioner Susie Walters
Kelly Wyatt
Teresa Kerber
Chris Dewitt
Holly White
Andy Garman
John Delucia

Mayor Bob Edwards
Commissioner Renée Cahoon
Commissioner Marvin Demers
Commissioner John Ratzenberger.

A Public meeting was held on January 27, 2015 at the Nags Head Boardroom beginning at 5:30 pm. The intent of this meeting was to present to the public an update on the Dowdy Park Design process and for the Board of Commissioners to have the opportunity to review and discuss the ongoing planning process with the attendees and Committee. There were approximately 25 people that attended this meeting.

The meeting was initiated by Commissioner Susie Walters who welcomed the attendees and introduced the Steering Committee and the Consultants. She reiterated the mission statement of the Town in regards to recreation and especially the Town's intention to create Dowdy Park as a facility for all ages. Commissioner Walters proceeded by recounting the number of Steering Committee meetings that have occurred since the Town purchased the property. She thanked all the Committee members and citizens for their interest and participation in this planning process. Upon the conclusion of her welcoming remarks and summary of progress to date, Andy Garman continued with the presentation portion of the meeting.

Andy Garman, Deputy Town Manager, then briefly summarized the citizen survey results and information gathering that occurred. He presented several graphs with the tabulated survey information that illustrated the desires of the citizens for a variety of park elements and uses. He went on show the overall results and also the responses from only respondents in the Nags Head area code. This information was presented to show the desires of the Citizens and how the survey results guided the Steering Committee and Consultants. He briefly discussed several features that had been requested such as a dog park and skate park, and indicated that the Town was cognizant of the desire for these activities and was considering other facilities and areas to accomplish them. He also told the audience that the Town was currently in the process of applying for a Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant (PARTF) and that the Park would likely have a phased construction sequence as Grant and other funding sources became available.

John DeLucia, of Albemarle & Associates then addressed the group by thanking the Board, Staff, Committee, and citizen participants for their time and efforts. He stated that the most difficult task of any designer was to comprehend the needs and expectations of the end users. With the outpouring of public input and the dedication of the Committee and staff, he indicated that the development the initial conceptual plans was much easier. He went on to summarize the events that occurred since the last Public meeting that was held on November 20, 2014. He discussed the Design Charrette that was held on November 21, 2014 and subsequent Committee meeting on January 14, 2015. It was at the January 14th meeting when the Committee had the first opportunity to review and discuss the three conceptual plans that were being presented at this meeting. He then introduced Chris Dewitt of VHB who presented the Park Concepts

Chris Dewitt, of VHB then addressed the audience. This final portion of the presentation included a summary of the park goals and objective and also the desires of the Committee. The presentation included photographs and graphic elements intended to give the attendees a vision of the various design elements and how they might be incorporated into the Park plans. He then presented three different park concepts. He described each concept and showed plan and perspective view of each concept. He reiterated that the various elements, features and lay-outs were developed to show alternatives, programed space needs, and other options. He stated that these were not intended as a “pick one” approach but that these were developed to assist with the refinement of a final master plan for the park.

At the conclusion of the presentations, the open house portion of the meeting began. The open house was intended to allow the audience to interact with the Commissioners, staff and consultants to ask questions and provide feedback. Large scale illustrations of each concept were located in two areas of the boardroom and comment card were available. The Town provided light refreshments for the attendees and for the next hour there were a variety of discussions, comments and suggestions that were heard. The Town received 12 written comment cards from attendees. These will be provided to the Board and Committee for further consideration as the Park plans are refined.

The meeting lasted until approximately 7:10 pm when all audience members had departed.

By: John M. DeLucia, PE 01/28/15