

MINUTES
CITY OF BEAUFORT PARK AND TREE ADVISORY COMMISSION
January 22, 2015 1:00 pm
Planning Conference Room, City Hall – 1911 Boundary Street
Beaufort, South Carolina

In accordance with South Carolina Code of laws, 1976, Section 30-480(d), as amended, local media were duly notified of the time, date, place and agenda of this meeting.

Members present

Barb Farris
Michael Brock
Leah Palumbo

Staff present

Eliza Hill, Planning Department

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Farris called the meeting to order at 1:24 p.m.

MINUTES

Mr. Brock made a motion, second by Ms. Palumbo, to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2014 meeting as submitted. The motion passed 3-0.

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

Documents consisting of public art application and photographs of Little Free Library as submitted by Tim Woods were reviewed. Board members discussed and approved application and recommended forwarding request to city manager for review by City Council.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:43. Site visits to Wilson Park and Hermitage Road easement followed.

WILSON PARK

Board members were informed of City's consideration to de-acquisition this park space. City does not hold deed to property. 1939 deed for park from Waterhouse Corporation states if space not maintained as park by the City of Beaufort, then property is conveyed to the Beaufort Baptist Church. Sale of property results in no monetary gain for City.

Barb Farris asked if funds were available for park improvements and parking space additions. Michael Brock commented that maximizing parking along property lines would usurp too much of park and result in loss of passive quality.

Leah Palumbo asked about form and timing of Ribaut Rd. improvements. Ms. Hill responded that timing of improvements is unknown but street regulating plan shown in Civic Master Plan for this residential section of Ribaut Rd. calls for reduction to two travel lanes, a center median, use of right of way for bike lanes and sidewalks on both sides. Ms. Palumbo stated pedestrian access to park is the constraint, however, future improvements providing sidewalks will increase use of Wilson Park as neighborhood

park. Ms. Palumbo also stated that if park space reverts to church and property is sold for residential development, then tax revenue is generated for City.

Michael Brock suggested retaining park space and construction of dock for creation of 'blue trail' linking Whitehall development and Port Royal marina.

All members agreed that park space should be retained and improvements in the form of removal of no parking signs, addition of 2 to 3 more parking spaces and installation of an irrigation system should be implemented in new budget year.

Ms. Hill informed members of requests for use of park as venue for weddings. General discussion re: fund generation for improvements suggested charging fees for park usage and creation of a fund for park improvements. Funding source should be monies generated from sale of other surplus park/open space, city owned properties.

SOUTH HERMITAGE EASEMENT

Commission members visited site and recommended offering property for sale to adjacent land owners as has been discussed previously rather than retaining as public easement to water. The easement is 30' wide by 200' long. Due to encroachment into easement from Von Harten residence, members believe new property owners of Von Harten home would prefer purchase of an additional 15' rather than removal of a portion of driveway and brick edging.

Members recommended proceeds from sale of easement be put into park fund for improvements to Wilson Park and other city parks.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 PM