

# Ocean Pines RECREATION AND PARKS Committee

February 8, 2021– Meeting was recorded

The present members of the committee are

Steve Cohen, chairman, Jerome " TRES" Denk III, Joey Pino, Vanessa Alban, Kathi Gottesman, Laura Scharle, Martha Arthur

Please update

**Attending virtually:** Steve Cohen, Chair; Larry Perrone, Board Liaison; Debbie Donahue, Park and Recreation Director; Martha Arthur, Laura Scharle, Patti Stevens, Committee members

## 1. January Minutes were approved

## 2. OLD BUSINESS

**Robin Hood Park** - Debbie repeated that new playground equipment has been ordered. Delivery is expected for mid- March. Installers complete within a week. Basketball court will be repainted, new picnic tables added. A ribbon cutting event will be planned to celebrate and promote to the community. Steve suggested inviting the OP Chamber of Commerce. *(Steve will you do that?)*

**Kayak storage** - Debbie is working with Public Works about measurements, placement and materials. She will confirm whether or not a permit is needed. Initial rack will be built to accommodate 18 kayaks (6 rows of 3 high). Proposed pricing was \$75 per kayak for a season. Larry suggested that the season start May 1 to align with budget year. It was suggested to offer spots first to Ocean Pines residents and if there were still spaces available to open it to non-residents at a rate of \$150. Committee recommended planning to build and place a second rack at the same if demand from the initial offering indicates. Security concerns were discussed. Debbie said that a motion detector light could be placed on or near the rack. Storage agreements will indicate that individuals are responsible to secure and lock their own kayaks.

**Bike trail update** - Patti reported that she and Debbie will be meeting with John Malinowski, Director of Golf to discuss times of the year when the golf paths could be used for community walks/bike rides. Larry pointed out the demand in the shoulder seasons for golf packages and indicated that Golf operations would have data on low demand months/weeks.

Community road rides are being explored for Spring. Debbie has an event liability waiver that can be used if the event is hosted by Ocean Pines. Patti will talk with the OP Police about possible assistance with presence at key intersections. Purpose of these rides is to increase awareness and interest in riding and to identify popular routes to ride and areas that may need to be addressed for safety.

**Bat Boxes** — Follow up on a discussion from last Spring, Debbie reported that currently bats roost under the pavilion at White Horse Park resulting in droppings and sometimes baby bats falling! Facilities management would like to place nets under the pavilion to discourage bats from nesting there. Bat boxes would provide alternative places for them to nest.

It has been proposed that Rec and Park Committee could sponsor workshop(s) for individuals, clubs, families to build bat boxes and learn about benefits of having bats around. These boxes could be placed at White Horse Park and other OP parks to encourage bats to nest which is a natural bug reducer.

Cost per bat box based on prior year project is \$80. It was suggested that if families or clubs came to the workshop they could build one box for OP parks and one to take home, expanding the positive impact of bat populations in our community. Steve thought Kiwanis and other clubs might be interested in sponsoring and building boxes. Debbie will provide information on pricing for committee members to consider other sponsors.

(According to one online site – Bat's begin to form nesting colonies in April, giving birth in May – early June. Colonies break up by mid-July. They should not be disturbed during these nesting times).

**Pollinator Gardens** — This was also an idea discussed last year for possible activity the committee could host/sponsor. Debbie will provide information on costs, requirements for equipment, materials and volunteers, and possible location(s) for pollinator gardens. Steve will take to Kiwanis for possible interest in sponsoring.

**New Business-** Ocean Pines has been chosen as the only location in Maryland that will host the [Wall that Heals](#), a three-quarter scale traveling replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial along with a mobile Education Center in a trailer. The wall will arrive with a motorcycle escort on April 20 and the exhibit will be open to the public April 21-24. It will be located between the Sports Core pool and the Ocean Pines Veterans Memorial.

**Meeting was Adjourned at 8pm.**

*Next meeting is March 8.*