

## **Nags Head Committee for Art and Culture Meeting**

**March 20, 2017 Minutes**

**Nags Head Town Hall; Conference Room**

Committee Members Present: Peggy Saporito, Ginny Flowers, Lauren Evans, Ben Cahoon, Kerry Sanders, Deputy Town Manager Andy Garman and Deputy Planning Director Kelly Wyatt.

Public Present: None.

Deputy Town Manager Andy Garman opened the meeting, thanked everyone for attending.

Kelly Wyatt provided a brief description of the draft Call for Entries and opened up conversation to the committee for suggestions on any necessary revisions including the proposed timeline.

The committee as a whole felt as though the original timeline provided for submittal of the application was too condensed especially if we were seeking actual renderings of a proposed piece of artwork. It was determined that in addition to extending the submittal deadline we would not request the artist to provide a rendering of their proposal but rather focus on a statement of interest and description and images of past work relevant to this project. The committee would then build in a phase whereby the committee could select an artist/or artists to interview, discuss the proposed or desired piece of art, the historical value of the former Dowdy Amusement Park, walk current Dowdy Park with them, let them propose a piece based upon committee input, work with the artist and then arrive at a finished product.

Peggy Saporito and Lauren Evans noted that there are few local artists doing outdoor art of this scale. Peggy noted a few names that may be interested and would be worth contacting.

Kerry Sanders and committee members discussed the best way to get the Call of Entries out to the artist population and it was decided that, once the Call for Entry was revised, it would be sent to Dare County Arts Council, NC Arts Council, the handful of local artists known to work in outdoor sculpture as well as any College or University within the state that has an Art Program. Each committee member took on a task of identifying the proper contacts to provide to staff.

Noting the requested revisions to the Call for Entry and the best methods to distribute the Call, the committee then began to discuss budgeting options for the art piece. It was noted by staff that there that there may be an opportunity through the Kelly Family Foundation and Don and Catharine Bryan Cultural Series to request grant money to help commission the piece. Staff noted that part of this committee's reach is to propose/suggest what events and opportunities to consider/promote not only at Dowdy Park but town-wide and as future budgeting for events, etc.

Andy Garman briefly discussed the proposed park use policies and a soft-opening currently scheduled for April, 2017 just prior to the Grand Opening.

Peggy Saporito recalled a recent Board of Commissioners meeting where First Flight Middle School students gave a presentation on positive aspects of having a Farmers Market at Dowdy Park. Lauren Evans has researched this opportunity and offered that it would take a lot of time and organization and she would be interested in pursuing a Farmers Market at Dowdy Park when things settle down. She recommended starting out small and seeing where it goes. It was noted by all committee members in attendance that there would no intention to compete with any other community markets (ie: Manteo).

Committee members discussed the long-range potential of Dowdy Park given all of the current interest how to potentially populate a calendar of events. Staff noted that we do not have the resources to program the park like the Duck Town Park nor has the Board of Commissioners indicated an interest to proceed in that manner to date.

Staff updated the committee on the Dowdy Park Grand Opening in conjunction with the Dare County Arts Council, all expressed excitement.

With no other items to discuss staff thanked the attendees for their participation and the next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40pm.