

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

**September 18, 2017 Minutes**

**Nags Head Town Hall; Conference Room**

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

Public Present: None.

Deputy Town Manager Andy Garman opened the meeting and thanked everyone in attendance.

By consensus the committee approved the minutes of the March 20<sup>th</sup>, April 4<sup>th</sup> and June 19<sup>th</sup> meetings.

Mr. Garman presented the Dowdy Phase II Conceptual Drawings and updated on the committee on the items of note at the park including the pollinator garden, relocation of the restroom facilities, elements of the sensory garden area and inclusion of a few disc golf baskets along the perimeter of the multiuse sport field. As a member of the Dowdy Park Committee, Kerry Oaksmith elaborated on the change from a community garden to a pollinator garden given the uncertainty of maintenance needs and upkeep of a community garden. Andy Garman noted that there may also be grant opportunities for the sensory garden through the Outer Banks Community Foundation. Lauren Evans stated that we may want to connect with the Master Gardeners for assistance and guidance with both the pollinator garden and sensory garden efforts. Lauren also noted it may be worth exploring partnerships with businesses (i.e. Nags Head Hammocks providing a hammock in the garden or sensory areas). The committee members were all in agreement that the revised restroom location was much improved, especially from a parent's perspective.

Mr. Garman updated the committee that we had not yet heard from the Kelly Family Foundation or the Don and Catherine Bryan Cultural Series regarding the funding of the Dowdy Park Entry Feature.

The committee noted that the Instagram Photo-Op sign at Dowdy Park seems to be getting quite a bit of attention.

The committee continued discussions on the art mast project. Mr. Garman noted that he had been in communication with a representative trying to determine the appropriate sample size to order of the Dibond panels previously discussed at the committee level. Ben Cahoon reminded committee members of the various posts that currently exist along the Beach Road and how those might be a good starting point for displaying the masts. Ben noted that he and Kerry would do a "test" panel and erect them as a trial to see how well the idea works. If indeed it works well the next step would be to select the artists to paint the masts. At that point we could consider displaying the masts within Dowdy Park, potentially along the trellis, to garner interest and support. There was concern expressed by committee members

on having the masts purchased in that if a mast was not purchased it could be hurtful to the artist who created it. The committee discussed this at length and determined it may be best to commission the artists and select the locations for which the masts would be displayed in so much that it remains public art.

Kerry Oaksmith noted that as a follow up to the previous meeting she had been in contact with several people associated with Farmers Markets and she was not certain that having a market on a Saturday should be ruled out simply because of the Manteo Farmers Market. The people she had spoken with felt like there was enough artists and crafters for both markets. The committee agreed that any effort with a Farmers Market should start slowly and build up. Committee members discussed such ideas as having a Farmers Market on the first Saturday of the month to piggyback on Manteo's First Friday and to have a Farmers Market through the week such as on a Thursday as visitors are "beached-out" by then. Peggy Saporito noted that before we get too far along we will need rules and to outline the role of Planning Staff and other necessary Town staff. Kerry Oaksmith noted that she could get staff in contact with the market manager of the Durham Farmers Market, Molly Vaughan. Leslie Erickson noted that a Farmers Market had been identified as a desired opportunity at Dowdy Park from its inception and the time, energy and effort to explore next steps is well worth it. The possibility of charging a vendor fee was discussed in order to possibly cover the costs of hiring someone to organize the market, such as a market manager. The committee felt as though May through September might be good months to have a Farmers Market, beginning after Artrageous 2018. Ben Cahoon recommended we try to contact and discuss the pros and cons with someone with real life Farmers Market experience. Kerry Oaksmith noted that Molly Vaughan might be a good contact person and Ginny Flowers said she had a connection with someone familiar with a market in Elizabeth City, NC. Staff asked committee members for the contact information for these two people with market experience when possible.

Lauren Evans let committee members know that she was working on a Small Business Saturday Event (the Saturday after Thanksgiving) behind Seagreen Gallery from 10am – 2pm (maybe longer).

Staff summarized the meeting noting the next steps including ordering the Dibond art panels and discussing Farmers Markets with someone actively involved with them.

With no other items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50am.