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Minutes

Sands Beach Park Taskforce
Port Royal Town Hall, 700 Paris Avenue
Corner of London Avenue and Sands Beach Road
January 9, 2025

Sands Beach Park Taskforce Members: Dean Moss, Harriet Witt, Barbara Berry, Janet Shelley, Charles Russo, and Tricia Fydrich

Absent: Robert Landrum

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2024 meeting.

The taskforce discussed the following:

Creating a flexible open square pavilion with portable picnic tables and electrical outlets, positioned on higher ground for easy access and versatile for events like picnics or movies, aligning with the "cool, coastal, and far from ordinary" theme.

To have a unique, artsy bike rack, different from typical designs

Possibly have a contractor or local artist to create benches using reclaimed local lumber for a natural, durable look.

The bench locations and quantity will be finalized after the trail is in place, while the split rail fence along the road is approved for its natural, easy-to-maintain look.

The picnic table area will have movable and/or permanent tables, deciding on the material while research will continue sourcing and costs.

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The marsh overlook will include built-in benches and possibly a viewfinder.

The group discussed adding swings to the marsh overlook area in addition to benches. They also agreed that a three-story observation tower is unnecessary, preferring another marsh overlook with viewfinders instead. The focus is on creating a natural, passive park with minimal maintenance, with decisions on picnic benches and swing structures to be researched for the next meeting.

The group agreed to invite community input for renaming the park by placing a suggestion box at town hall.

The design ensures ADA accessibility with wide paths for wheelchairs.

Parking on one side of the road was eliminated, and there's space for angled parking on the park side. Trees on the park side could be unnecessary, as they may interfere with parking. The placement needs further consideration.

Parking near the trail is being considered, with a potential trailhead at the 6th Street corner. The idea includes parking for both the trail and park, which would help alleviate overflow. A proposed bridge/boardwalk from the parking lot to the beach would be an alternative, but it's expensive and adds maintenance.

The tree from 12th Street, originally meant for a "hugging tree" sculpture, has been stored for two years. The estuary didn't approve the idea, and the tree's condition might make it difficult to move forward. The group plans to revisit the issue at the next meeting. They also talked about the possibility of contractors sponsoring benches and swings for the park, with plaques to honor or memorialize someone.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Graham

Town Clerk

In accordance with South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80 (a)(d)€, as amended, notification of regular meetings was given at the beginning of the calendar year. A copy of the agenda was posted on the Town Hall's bulletin board and website www.portroyal.org twenty-four hours prior to the meeting. A copy of the agenda was given to the local news media and requested public on file.

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