



**Neighborhood Advisory Committee
Minutes for April 17, 2023
Council Conference Room – 3:00 PM**

Village of Pinehurst Representatives Present:

John Strickland, Mayor

Kelly Chance, Village Clerk

Jane Hogeman, Councilmember

Patrick Pizzella, Mayor Pro Tem

Call to Order.

Mayor John Strickland called the meeting to order at 03:00 PM.

1. Review Minutes from March 20, 2023, Meeting.

The committee reviewed the notes from the March 20, 2023, meeting.

2. Parks & Recreation Events/Program/Facility Updates: Dave White, Parks & Recreation.

Dave White, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director, provided an update on upcoming 2023 Events, attached as Exhibit A and the current Pinehurst Activity Guide. He noted the guide is printed 3 times a year, with the next guide to be released in May. He reported that the guide provided contact information for Parks & Recreation staff, special events, adult and youth athletics programs, adult and youth classes, parks, trails, and Greenway Trail Maps, as well as information on summer camps.

Mark Wagner, Parks & Recreation Director, reported the work on the new Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan is nearing completion and will be presented to Council in early July. Mr. Wagner stated the Cannon Park Field renovation – Ballfield number 1 – will finish in about a week and fencing will follow this, with the hope of completing the project by the first of May.

Megan McDonald, Parks & Recreation staff, presented information on upcoming events, noting staff is trying to add more pop-up events in the future, and stated the Live After 5 series has started at the Arboretum.

Resident Debbie Lalor inquired as to whether staff has a warning system about “Lone-Star Ticks” at West Pinehurst Park. Mr. White stated there are signs posted about wildlife around the park and noted there is a controlled burn scheduled which will help with killing some of these insects.

Mr. Wagner reported the paddocks have been replaced at the Fairbarn as well as improvements of nearly \$300,000 were made on the grooms’ resident areas. Plans for the next fiscal year are to fix up two more barns. He noted that 171 stalls of 180 full this year, which is near capacity and stated new trainers are expected with more horses which should put us at full capacity.

Mayor Strickland stated Council and Staff are striving be recognized as one of the leading harness horse training facilities and noted the track itself is considered to be one of the finest tracks for training harness horses.

Mr. Wagner reported that May 1st will be the last day of training for the horses and noted that some records were set in qualifying times this year for drivers and pacers, about a ½ second faster than last year. He stated this indicates the trainers are happy about the track conditions.

Resident John Ferrari asked if staff felt we were back to pre-pandemic numbers with both the money brought in and the usage for the Parks & Recreation facilities. Mr. Wagner stated there are more horses now than pre-pandemic and Fairbarn rentals are doing great, having had a price increase recently, means revenues should be up as well.

3. **Neighborhood Reports.**

Mayor Strickland reported the NAC policy was passed at the last council meeting and stated the policy will be workable and successful in his opinion. Mayor Pro Tem Pizzella stated he wished the legislature would find a way to declare those who serve as part-time volunteers not subject to the public records law, but notes he understands we must comply.

- Charles Collini requested a copy of Mike Newman, Village Attorney's, opinion on whether this group is subject to public records laws. He also asked if the advice about this subject is protected by attorney client privilege and whether it is the Village's standing to agree with Mr. Newman's opinion. Mayor Strickland stated the Council does stand with Mr. Newman's opinion. Mr. Collini voiced his concerns about the notion that he is a public official, stating he has enjoyed being on the NAC, but due to his concerns he is resigning his representative position.
- Barbara Ficklin, reported there are still multiple problems with STR associated parking and spill-over into the right-of-way and inquired about the timing for placement of no-parking signs.
- Debbie Lalor and Tony Elms stated they felt it is unfair to not have meeting minutes recorded via video and voted on.
- Tony Elms stated the Donald Ross Board will meet tomorrow and decide if they will continue to participate in the NAC.
- Larry Rotondo stated Pinewild will be replacing the gates at each of their entryways other the next 5 weeks as they work to increase their security measures.
- Debbie Lalor expressed her concern that Village Planning has issued permits that have allowed businesses to bypass the process of public involvement. She provided some examples, including the Resort Greenhouse parking lot - with no landscape buffers, the parking lot by the spa, and the fact that the Resort removed a brick wall and cut down more trees, and now is rebuilding a wall. She noted these and many other examples should have come before the public.
- Charles Collini reported that he recently reported an incident on the MYVoP app and received a notification that it had been resolved, yet received no explanation as to what the resolution was.
- Jeff Heintz asked about the delay in no parking signs and enforcement of STR reports. He asked whether these complaints stay with staff or are forwarded to other departments. He stated he does not get explanations or notifications about the status of his reports either.
- John Ferrari stated he worked with Doug Willardson on the sidewalks project for Pinehurst #6 and stated there has been a delay in permits which are necessary to cross the two dams, which will cause

that delay of construction of a few years.

- Councilmember Jane Hogeman stated because the Council and staff work for the public, they must look at what laws and policies apply to it. She asked those currently serving on the NAC, give the process some time to work and help keep the committee together.
- Mayor Pro Tem Patrick Pizzella asked if Hollycrest joins us, will the NCDOT drop the speed limit to 35mph. He also discussed the 50% property value increase and pledged that the Council is poised to reduce the tax as they work through the budget process.

4. **Next Meeting Date.**

The next NAC meeting will be held on Monday, May 15, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. in the Assembly Hall.

5. **Adjournment.**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 04:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Chance, Village Clerk

Vision: The Village of Pinehurst is a charming, vibrant community, which reflects our rich history and traditions.

Mission: Promote, enhance, and sustain the quality of life for residents, businesses, and visitors.

Values: Service, Initiative, Teamwork, and Improvement