VILLAGE COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR WORK SESSION OF JUNE 8, 2021
ASSEMBLY HALL
395 MAGNOLIA ROAD
PINEHURST, NORTH CAROLINA

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE REGULAR MEETING

The Pinehurst Village Council held a work session at 7:32 p.m. Tuesday, June 8, 2021, in the Assembly Hall of Pinehurst Village Hall, 395 Magnolia Road, Pinehurst, North Carolina. The meeting was streamed in real time on the Village's website.

The following were in attendance in Assembly Hall:

Mr. John C. Strickland, Mayor
Ms. Judy Davis, Mayor Pro Tem
Ms. Lydia Boesch, Councilmember
Ms. Jane Hogeman, Councilmember
Mr. Jeffrey Sanborn, Village Manager
Ms. Kelly Chance, Village Clerk

Mr. Kevin Drum, Councilmember – attended remotely via Zoom

And approximately 6 attendees, including 5 staff and 0 press.

1. **Call to Order.**
   Mayor John Strickland called the Council work session to order.

2. **West Pinehurst Park Update.**
   Mark Wagner, Parks and Recreation Director, provided an update on the Site Master Plan for West Pinehurst Community Park to review public input received to date and an initial concept plan for the site. He stated before we present the concept plan versions to the public at the next virtual input meeting scheduled for June 15th at 10:00am and 6:30pm, staff would like input and direction from Council regarding the proposed park amenities.

   Mr. Wagner stated The Village of Pinehurst held two virtual public meetings on May 4th, 2021. To reach the largest input base and accommodate the variety of daily routines that exist among the public – especially considering the pandemic – meetings were held in both the morning and evening. The first meeting ran from 10:00am to 11am, and was attended by 11 individuals. The second meeting ran from 6:30pm to 7:30pm and was attended by 17 individuals. Additional attendees included Village staff and project team members.

   Mr. Wagner stated attendees participated via the online meeting platform, Zoom. Participation methods included providing comments and questions using Zoom's chat function, participating in poll questions via the app, Mentimeter, and using virtual sticky notes to provide feedback on an online whiteboard. Attendees were able to type their desired amenities and features into virtual sticky notes and drag them onto the board. This activity asked, "What would you like to see at the park?" Results from this exercise demonstrated that the top five most desired amenities were 1. Skate Park, 2. Nature Related Amenities/Features, 3. Playground, 4. Dog Park, and 5. Mountain Bike Trails

   Mr. Wagner stated the next activity was a polling activity asking, "Who are you and how have you interacted with the park?" Participation in the polling activity was self-directed and as a result, not all participants responded to all prompts – but of 28 who did participate, only four reported never having visited West Pinehurst Community Park. The median age among attendees was 39 years old. In addition, although the majority of attendees reported that they reside in the Village of Pinehurst, others in attendance

included residents of Southern Pines, Carthage, Aberdeen, and folks residing within Moore County. Meeting attendees were provided with a list of six activities based on what VOP staff had observed park users doing currently and in the past. Participants were able to select more than one activity. Those who had visited the park reported bringing their dog (14), walking/running (13), playing disc golf (12), using the open field for an activity (9), gathering with others (7), and exercising (7).

Mr. Wagner stated that next a survey was developed to collect demographic data and solicit perceived input regarding the recreational needs of residents. The survey was designed for web-based feedback and was posted from May 4th, 2021 until May 17th 2021. The weblink was posted on the Engage Pinehurst website, Facebook and the Village website. Village staff and the project team also provided the link and promoted the survey to those who attended the public meetings. During the two weeks that the survey was online, the Village received 790 total responses.

Mr. Wagner stated it is important to note that Village staff indicated to the project team the need to understand respondent's geographics. Therefore, the survey asked whether or not they are Village residents, and if so, to also specify the Village neighborhood in which they reside. The list of neighborhoods was provided by Village staff. Respondents also had the opportunity to fill in their location of residence using the 'other' option if their neighborhood/location was not part of the list. Of the 772 responses, 226 reported being non-residents, and 546 reported being residents of the Village of Pinehurst. The neighborhoods most represented among Pinehurst-resident respondents were:

> Lake Pinehurst/Burning Tree/St. Andrews/Cotswold – 22%
> Old Town/Linden Rd./Donald Ross Dr./Clarendon Garden – 17%
> Village Acres/Murdocksville Rd – 16%
> Pinehurst No. 6 – 13%
> Pinewild – 10%
> Morganton/Monticello Rd. – 2%

The remaining 20% of Pinehurst-resident respondents either did not indicate their neighborhood, or their neighborhood was not on the list. In terms of demographics, the majority (91%) of survey respondents were white; followed by Hispanic or Latino (5%), African American/Black (3%), Asian or Pacific Islander (3%), American Indian or Alaskan Native (2%), and Asian (Indian Subcontinent) (>1%). Respondents could align themselves with more than one race category.

Mr. Wagner stated respondents were presented with questions surrounding their familiarity with West Pinehurst Community Park, their recreation preferences, the types of amenities they would like to see at the park, and what methods they support to fund the park improvements. The majority of respondents (56%) had visited the park; visiting rarely (54%), once per month (16%), several times per month (21%), and at least once per week (9%). Those who had visited the park most frequently walked, followed by using the open field, and playing disc golf. Additional activities included dog walking, hiking the disc golf course while no one was playing, and nature photography.

Mr. Wagner stated respondents who had not been the park (56% or 304 respondents) cited: not knowing the park existed (39%), a lack of recreation amenities (19%), the park is too far away/not well located (5%), not feeling safe (3%), and not having transportation (.5) as reasons for not visiting. He stated these results inform Village staff and the design team that there is a strong desire and hunger for more natural education and immersion. It is also understood from the survey that the community would love to expand the recreational opportunities in Pinehurst by means of a skate park, additional playgrounds, water play, space for community events, and innovative outdoor recreation facilities like a zip-line, canopy-walk, or treehouses.

Mr. Wagner stated the notable conclusions from the survey's open-ended comments include:

> There is overwhelming concern that the sense of place will be disrupted if active recreation facilities, such as a skate park or athletic fields are developed.
> There a strong desire to take advantage of the natural beauty of the existing park conditions.
> There is significant interest in having a skate park at West Pinehurst Community Park

Mr. Wagner noted the top five most desired facilities/amenities at the park were 1. Paved Walking Trails, 2. Soft Hiking/Nature Trails, 3. Outdoor Classroom/Amphitheater, 4. Playground, and 5. Dog Park. He stated the top five most desired facilities/amenities for youth (under 18 years old) were: 1. Skateboarding, 2. Walking, 3. Community Gatherings, 4. Swimming, and 5. Engaging with Nature.

Mr. Wagner stated that though the overall need for additional ballfields ranked mid to low in the survey results, a review of the Village's facility data demonstrates a need for additional ballfields to support growing ballfield use. He stated in comparing data from 2015 to the present, multipurpose and ballfield use has increased weekly from three average evenings and Saturday morning use to everyday use morning and evenings during peak seasons of use, March-November. Baseball, softball and multipurpose fields used for soccer, lacrosse, flag football experience significant wear and tear from repeated use of fields with no time allowed

for fields to rest and be properly restored for the next season. He stated, consequently, this results in extensive wear and tear on fields and expensive yearly repairs. Ballfield use data from 2020-2021 shows significant increases, even amid a global pandemic. In addition, he noted the Village's 2011 Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan recommends developing two baseball fields as the first phase of a three-phased approach to the site. The plan suggests future phases including among other amenities, a soccer field and a baseball/softball field.

Mr. Wagner shared two concept plan drawings, Concept A and Concept B, noting they were merely concept drawings and not intended to be considered permanent drawings. Village Council agreed that they did not want a skate park facility at this location, but would like to see a collaboration with Aberdeen and Southern Pines on a site, such as Southern Pines Park behind Walmart, which abuts all three areas. It was also determined that another splash pool was not needed or an amphitheater. Council stated they would like to see the current water feature dressed up with the addition of a dock or other means to raise its usability. Council agreed that Concept B was more conducive to what they felt would be a good starting place, with the changes suggested. Mr. Wagner reported he would take Council's comments to the Consultants and following the next public meeting, provide Council with another update.

3. **Discuss 2022 Pedestrian Walkway Plan.**

Mayor Strickland stated there is currently no new information available yet on this topic and Council will continue to discuss the 2022 Pedestrian Walkway plan as new information comes in. Councilmember Boesch stated she looked at the BPAC plan done in 2015 and found it to be very informative. Councilmember Hogeman stated the plan is looked at each year by the Committee, which also looks at the annual surveys and updates the plan according to new findings. Mark Wagner stated that these are part of what we need within the multi-modal plan. Councilmember Drum said we need to work with triangle J on the plan and coordinate this effort. Mr. Wagner stated there are already connections with Southern Pines and Aberdeen and these were included in the 2015 plan. He stated all we need to add would be the golf cart aspect and some updates in order to have a multi-modal plan.

4. **Discuss On-Street Dining & Retail Parking.**

Jeff Batton, Assistant Village Manager, provided Council with a summary of results from a Downtown Post-Covid Outdoor on-street dining informal survey. He reported that before we can decide whether to make this a permanent situation we must wait to see if the State legislature allows the continuance of the extension of ABC licensure to adjacent streets. Mr. Batton sent an informal email survey to *The Village Deli, Drum & Quill, Dugan's Pub, Lisi,* and *Theos' Tavern.* The restaurant Owners were asked three questions: 1. Are you interested in keeping outdoor on-street dining going after COVID-19 issues have passed, 2. If so, what nights are of greatest interest to you in having on-street dining, and 3. Would you support the Village creating minimum appearance guidelines for stating the on-street dining area? Mr. Batton stated there was a request included in the email for any additional comments on the subject.

Mr. Batton stated four of the five restaurant owners responded and the results were as follows:
1. Three out of four were interested in keeping on-street dining.
2. The same three who supported continuing on-street dining preferred 7 nights a week.
3. Two of the four supported some type of appearance standard.

Mr. Batton stated the only additional comments were that there should be no "takeout" parking reserved and on-street dining space should be limited so as not to be in front of any other place of business. In addition, it was suggested that nighttime sidewalk sales for other non-restaurant retailers in the Village Center should be permitted.

Batton said on a separate note, Councilmember Drum suggested changing the "Retail Parking" signage to "Customer Parking." The only concern with "Customer" is someone could interpret it to mean parking reserved for customers of the business where the sign sits. He noted the word "retail" has been confusing also in that restaurant patrons have questioned whether a restaurant is "retail." Batton said we should wait until we learn what the result is from the State Legislature before making a permanent decision.

Village Manager Jeff Sanborn stated he continues to have some reservations about this. His concern is if we are going to allow on-street dining, should we allow on-street sidewalk sales and how would we determine what that would look like in terms of aesthetics. He noted that Theo's purchased a spot conducive to allowing outside dining and he paid for it. Therefore, maybe instead of giving this free to the other restaurants, we should look at requiring them to purchase a lease for the right-of way where their on-street dining would be.

Mayor Pro-Tem Davis stated this is a burden having to try to make it look attractive as a temporary ordeal. She stated she does like the outdoor dining and feels it adds to the vibrancy of the village. Councilmember Drum said there are still people that do not

feel comfortable eating in-doors. Mayor Strickland stated Council would like to continue to encourage outdoor dining. Councilmember Hogeman stated there are barriers that can be used but none of them really works and so we still have to remember there could be a liability issue, which means we would have to find a safe agreement. She stated a Lease agreement would address the liability issue so that would be a good option.

Jeff Batton stated the next steps would be to look at the way to keep on-street dining, if Council wants, once we find out if it is a possibility. Following this, staff can do more extensive information gathering. Councilmember Drum suggested Mr. Batton speak with Attorney Newman about what a lease document might look like. Council agrees they would like to continue if it would be able to continue. Mayor Strickland said that as we move forward on this parking situation we would receive more support from proprietors, restaurant owners, and retail stores.

5. **Discuss Small Area Plans.**
   Darryn Burich, Planning & Inspection Director stated he is meeting tomorrow with Cecily to determine what the next steps are in the Small Area Plan Projects. He stated staff will be posting more information on the website and do a poll survey for about 2 weeks. He stated staff would then compile the results and discuss what the findings of opinion are. Mr. Burich noted there has been low participation from the residents. Mayor Strickland and Councilmember Hogeman stated that they noticed there was more residential included in the plans than was thought. Village Manager Sanborn stated that before we comment as a council we need to wait until we get a little more comprehensive plan from the consultants.

   Mr. Burich asked Council to submit a few sentences on their initial thoughts to the plans to him that he can take to the consultant and he noted he would report at a later work session.

6. **Discuss Potential Future Agenda Items.**
   - Focus Area Five
   - Park Service Draft

7. **Other Work Session Business.**
   Councilmember Drum stated he wanted Village Manager Sanborn, Mayor Strickland and himself to schedule a time to meet with the new Division 8 DOT Engineer representative, Patrick Norman

8. **Motion to Recess the Work Session and Enter a Closed Session**
   Upon a motion by Councilmember Boesch, seconded by Councilmember Hogeman, Council unanimously approved to recess the work session and enter a closed session, by a vote of 5-0, at 9:01 p.m.

9. **Closed Session**
   Council held a closed session pursuant to NCGS §143-318.11(a)(5) to establish, or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease.

10. **Motion to Adjourn the Closed Session and Re-Enter the Work Session**
    Upon a motion by Councilmember Boesch, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Davis, Council unanimously approved to adjourn the closed session and re-enter the work session, by a vote of 5-0, at 9:58 p.m.

11. **Motion to Adjourn.**
    Upon a motion by Mayor Strickland, seconded by Councilmember Hogeman, Council unanimously approved to adjourn the work session, by a vote 5-0, at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelly Chance
Kelly Chance,
Village Clerk

A videotape of this meeting is located on the Village website: www.vopnc.org

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