

Oak Bluffs Park Commissioners Minutes

Page 1

March 5, 2012

Members present: Richard Combra Jr & Amy Billings

Others present: Heather Moreis, Susan Sigel-Goldsmith, Gail Barmakian (OB Resident/BOS), Al Danielson (OB Resident)

Special Event Applications

The following applications were approved:

- Moreis-Araujo Family Reunion – Waban/Alley Park – August 11, 2012
They were advised to contact the BOH regarding food served

New Business

Event Parking

Boy Scouts Troop 93 looking to have a fund raiser by parking cars for Monster Shark Tournament and perhaps other events (Jawsfest, etc).

Commissioner Billings stated that the Harbor Fest does not get parking.

Commissioners said that signs should be visible stating that parking ends at a specific time with “violators will be towed” and therefore the vehicles can be towed after deadline.

Commissioners agreed to allow it for the Shark event from 3:00 to 8:00 PM.

Public Comment

Gail Barmakian wanted to know if the Park Commission was going to discuss the proposed parking along Tuckernuck Avenue as the neighbors were unaware of the change.

Commissioner Combra stated that the Parking & Traffic Committee has recommended to the Board of Selectmen to change the parallel parking to diagonal parking along Tuckernuck Avenue from Sea View Avenue to Waban Avenue without taking out any trees. He said it was originally a recommendation from the CDC who looked at parking throughout Town in an effort to create more beach parking. He added that he believes the road is a 40 foot layout and only about 18 feet is currently being used so it would be within the right of way (ROW) and not the park area.

Ms Barmakian brought up that years ago the Park Commission insisted that there should be no parking in the parks. She is concerned about CDC recommending parking around parks because they are in residential areas.

Commission Billings said she understands both points of view.

Commission Combra said it is a philosophy; are we in create more parking mode or are we just live with what you have parking. He did not know if the CDC had been charged with doing such work.

Ms Barmakian said that the CDC was not charged with finding more parking and they took it upon themselves. She said other cities and towns do not allow parking in residential areas, she felt that there should not be commercial parking in residential areas. She would like to see a Park & Ride established.

Al Daniels also expressed concern about adding and changing parking along Tuckernuck Avenue.

Commissioner Combra said that the Board of Selectmen voted it as a recommendation from the CDC and the Parking & Traffic Committee with the feeling that the Parks Commission should have been involved which they were not. He doesn't see anything wrong with people expressing their concerns either to the Board of Selectmen or the Parking & Traffic Committee.

Commissioner Billings wanted to know that if the ROW is 40 feet, would they be able to move the fence.

Oak Bluffs Park Commissioners Minutes
March 5, 2012

Page 2

Commissioner Combra replied yes, they could but he would rather remove the fence and place bumpers allowing a better view of the park. He added that he did not want to make the decision; the Board of Selectmen is for it, the CDC and the Parking & Traffic Committee have recommended it and he doesn't think it is a terrible idea but he doesn't want to do something that the neighbors are oppose to.

Mr Daniels did not see the new parking plan as an enhancement and he was glad for Commissioner Combra's comment about the neighbors as the first four private homes are owned by black families and perhaps they should look at the other side as well.

Ms Barmakian said that they did look at both sides of the park as well as Nashawena. They went through the whole town and found 300-400 spaces with diagonal parking around the parks and they chose East Chop Drive and this section of Tuckernuck as it is close to the beach. But she said the East Chop Drive section got dropped.

Commissioner Combra replied that was because people who use the landing in the Harbor would not be able to park their trailers and the Selectmen wanted to try one area but if there were massive problems it could be rescinded. He also said that the Park Commission did not approve the plan.

Mr Daniels was advised to attend the next Parking & Traffic Committee meeting to voice his concerns about the new parking plan.

Ms Barmakian said the parking in residential areas is getting worse and some residents cannot even park in front of their own homes.

There was a general discussion of parking in and around Oak Bluffs. Commissioners again advised that people should attend the Parking & Traffic Committee meetings as well as the Board of Selectmen's meeting to voice their objections.

Meeting adjourned.

DISCLAIMER: These minutes are based on a tape recording and as such have a margin of error.