

Investigate-Research-Develop-Recommend  
(North Carolina General Statute 160A-387)

Sunset Beach Planning Board-Town of Sunset Beach  
**Minutes from January 6, 2011**

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<u>Members Present</u>	<u>Members Absent</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Others Present</u>
Bill McDonald-Chairman	None	Jeff Curtis	Councilwoman:
Leon August-Vice Chairman		Cindy Nelson	Carol Scott
Sybil Kesterson		Gary Parker	
Carol Santavicca			
Al Seibert			
Eddie Walters			

1. **Call to order**-9:00 am
2. **Roll Call**-Quorum Present
3. **Agenda Comments**-None
4. **Approval of Minutes**-Minutes from the October 7, 2010 Session. Bill entertained a motion to approve as mailed. Moved by Sybil and seconded by Al.
5. **Building and Zoning Administrator Report**-None
6. **Public Hearing Topics**-None
7. **Old Business**

**a. Motion from the Planning Board to Support the Proposed Town Park**

Gary Parker explained that the Town is applying for a grant to acquire a 5 acre tract of land and develop the Town's first park. The grant is through a program with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources; Parks and Recreation Trust Fund. In their scoring of the application they count three points for an indication of support from a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board or a Planning Board. (Note: Gary said 3 points were counted, when actually it is 2 points are counted as noted by Eddie Walters.)

In light of that, Gary asked the Board for a motion of support. He stated that this was a motion of support for the idea of a park. The Planning Board was in no way making a motion to acquire the property or to develop the park. It is the Town Council's responsibility to move the project forward.

Discussion as follows:

Eddie: Is this a part of the PARTIF grant, and doesn't it have a cap of \$500,000.00?

Gary: Yes, it is a PARTIF grant and we are applying for \$400,000.00.

Eddie: Do you get more or less of what you are asking for?

Gary: I did ask that question. With the PARTIF program they will give you only what you applied for. But, there are two rounds of funds given. It may be possible the second round of the funding could be less depending on how much money is there. Gary then explained the process more in depth.

Leon: When would the first round of funds is issued?

Gary: May

Carol: Are we under contract for the land?

Gary: Not until the Town Council takes action, and we will know more after the next Council meeting.

Carol: Can the grant be applied for before there is a contract on the land?

Gary: It could be, but, it would be a stronger application if there was a contract. The deadline to submit the grant application is January 31, 2011.

Bill said “this would obviously be the Town Councils decision and the Planning Board is being asked to make a motion to support the project and to acquire the land and develop the Town’s first park.”

With that he entertained a motion, in starting to make his motion, Carol broke in and said that, “I don’t believe that is what is in front of us, I believe we are being asked to approve the idea of a park.”

Gary agreed and reminded the Board that a goal of the Land Use Plan was to provide water access and recreation to the Town. Also, he said the grant has to be reviewed, and even though money may be granted, the Town is not committed to use the money.

More discussion ensued which lead Eddie to share with the Board the requirements of the grant and explain its scoring system.

Sybil questioned why we are pursuing this project in the current economy, and also said that after attending Council meetings she did not feel the public was in support of this project. Carol agreed and interjected, as much as the public would like a park, there are concerns on the amount of the expenditure at this time.

Al said this supports all the work we did in planning the Land Use Plan.

Eddie said there are other items in the Land Use Plan that would better support the needs of the Town than a park at this time. Although he did say he was in support of a park.

Bill said that a grant application always requires a point system and in order for Gary to get all of his points, he needs the approval of the Planning Board to move forward with grant application.

Leon said he does not want to approve the expenditure of the park. The Board agreed.

Gary again restated that this approval is only for the points required for the scoring of the Grant application. The Board is not approving money to be spent on the project. It is the Council's decision to ultimately move forward with this project and approve any expenditure.

Leon said he does not want this to come back and have it look like the Planning Board approved the park.

Carol asked if the motion could be made to state, "that we support the town councils decision to go ahead with a water access park?"

**Bill said a motion has been made. Motion was moved by Al. Seconded by Eddie.**

Bill asked if there were any other comments.

Carol raised concerns that the Planning Board is influencing this park.

Gary said the Council will not be influenced by the Planning Boards decision. This is only for the Parks and Recreation Board grant application to determine if grant money should be awarded.

**Bill again asked if there was any further discussion on this motion. With no further discussion, the motion was carried, however, Carol did not vote in the affirmative.**

**8. New Business-None**

9. **Comments from Visitors**-Carol Scott commented, "Gary, I hope that this vote is not going to be used for anything other than applying for this grant. I think it is clear from this discussion that the majority of the Planning Board does not think that this will meet the top priorities of this point for spending the Town's funds. Although the Planning Board is in favor of a park, they are saying this is not the time to be doing this.

Gary countered by saying he does not know how the motion could be used other than the way it is being proposed, which is for the points for the grant application.

10. **Adjournment-Meeting adjourned at 9:40 am. Bill entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Eddie. Seconded by Sybil. Motion carried unanimously.**

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Bill McDonald-Chairman

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Cindy Nelson-Secretary