

# **Town of Melbourne Beach**

## **TOWN COMMISSION WORKSHOP APRIL 5, 2023 MEETING AT 6:00 p.m. COMMUNITY CENTER – 509 OCEAN AVENUE**

### **MINUTES**

#### **Commission Members:**

Mayor Wyatt Hoover  
Vice Mayor Joyce Barton  
Commissioner Sherri Quarrie  
Commissioner Corey Runte  
Commissioner Marivi Walker

#### **Staff Members:**

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro  
Town Clerk Amber Brown

#### **1. Call to Order**

Mayor Wyatt Hoover called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

#### **2. Roll Call**

Town Clerk Amber Brown conducted roll call

#### **Commission Members Present**

Mayor Wyatt Hoover  
Vice Mayor Joyce Barton  
Commissioner Sherri Quarrie  
Commissioner Corey Runte  
Commissioner Marivi Walker

#### **Commission Members Absent**

#### **Staff Members Present**

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro  
Building Official Robert Bitgood  
Police Chief Melanie Griswold  
Fire Chief Gavin Brown  
Public Works Director Tom Davis  
Town Clerk Amber Brown

### **3. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence**

Mayor Wyatt Hoover led the Pledge of Allegiance

### **4. Public Comments**

After being acknowledged by the Mayor, members of the public should state their name and address for the record. The Commission encourages citizens to prepare their comments in advance. Each individual will have three (3) minutes to address the Commission on any topic(s) related to Town business, not on the Agenda.

**Frank Thomas**  
**606 Atlantic St**

*Frank Thomas spoke about being a local historian that has written a lot about the place since 1962. He interviewed Don Beaujean and Ruth Ryckman. Ryckman Park used to be referred to as River Park because it did not have a name. It was then named after Ruth Ryckman. Ocean Park is very generic. He mentioned naming it after someone historic.*

**Kate Wilborn**  
**502 Second Ave**

*Kate Wilborn asked for an update regarding flooding and what should she do in the meantime. She spoke about getting a disproportionate amount of the Town's water. When there is an unexpected downpour who do the residents call? In the past, she has had water in her house up to her knees. She has been waiting for six years and waiting another two years is too long.*

Commissioner Corey Runte spoke about the improvements on Second and Pine are at least 24 months out. As far as an emergency goes call the police department and they will dispatch the proper resources. The Town is actively working on the solution.

Police Chief Melanie Griswold spoke about life safety would be the most important thing.

### **5. New Business**

#### **A. Discussion on the Sixth Ave boat ramp**

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro spoke about receiving the agreement from Bowman to look at the site. The plans would cost \$850.00.

Commissioner Sherri Quarrie asked about the enforcement of the storage of kayaks.

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro spoke about the kayak racks would be for temporary placement not for storage. It would allow people to drop off their kayaks and then park their vehicles. Another option is to not allow trailers to park at the boat ramp which would allow more vehicles to park. People would unload then

bring their vehicle and trailer home then bike or walk back to the boat ramp. There is no irrigation there which limits the options for landscaping.

Commissioner Corey Runte spoke about it being important to get a design on paper because most grants require the design already be done. The current state is unacceptable and needs to be fixed and beautified. This meeting would be to get a consensus on what the Commission wants there and get the neighboring residents' input.

Vice Mayor Joyce Barton spoke about wanting to see different options for a seawall. A straight vertical seawall has the highest maintenance and is the least effective.

Mayor Wyatt Hoover spoke about the design including repairing the seawall and structural elements with something that has low impact, temporary use for kayak/paddleboard racks, bike racks, some amount of landscaping, parking for only small vehicles and no trailers, and a pavilion. With the potential to put a three or four-foot launch for kayaks and paddleboards.

Commissioner Corey Runte spoke about including a short launch if the neighboring homes are okay with it. Plan and include everything, but if we do not get grant funds then scale back. If we got grant funds then we could also include drilling a well for water for landscaping.

Mayor Wyatt Hoover spoke about approving the funds for the site plan at the next meeting.

***Kate Wilborn***  
***502 Second Ave***

*Kate Wilborn spoke about grant funding being great, but crowds are coming and that is one area that can be made residents only.*

Mayor Wyatt Hoover spoke about not allowing trailers to park at the boat ramp which would mean people would have to bring their trailers elsewhere and walk or bike back to the ramp.

Commissioner Corey Runte spoke about the parking requirements should be discussed late on, and depending on where the grant money comes from the Town could still do resident parking only.

***Allison Stephens***  
***1508 Pine***

*Allison Stephens spoke about owning the property to the north of the ramp. She is for making it easier to launch, but when you launch your boat and have to leave to park elsewhere what do you do with your boat? Why not have the parking require a parking sticker? She is not for having a long dock and dredging, but she is for having a short dock as long as it is not too long to see into her backyard or allow multiple boats to be tied up and left sitting there.*

Commissioner Corey Runte spoke about everyone wanting a dock, but letting the neighboring homes direct the conversation on how it looks.

Mayor Wyatt Hoover asked if Allison would be able to provide a length from the seawall that they would be okay with for a short dock.

***Dave Micka***  
***323 Fourth Ave***

*Dave Micka spoke about Town history when there were ramps at Third, Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth and you could not leave your trailer at them. When the roads were paved the height of the road made the ramps too steep to use. Over time Third and Fourth Ave ramps disappeared and Fifth Ave became a park. Fifth Ave used to be a launch for kayaks and paddleboards because of how shallow it was.*

Commissioner Sherri Quarrie spoke about looking into other locations for a kayak and paddleboard launch.

Commissioner Corey Runte spoke about the boat ramp functioning just fine the way it is. It is just unsafe to launch a kayak due to the lack of maintenance. Splitting resources would cost more and take more time. This area is the biggest area the Town has, and it already operates in this capacity, there haven't been any incidents of a kayaker getting hit. It is the best that the Town has, it's just not ideal because there is nothing to hold onto.

Mayor Wyatt Hoover spoke about there being no reason to exclude paddleboards or kayaks from the Sixth Ave boat ramp. He suggested getting that area functional and in place then if the demand for the kayak and paddleboard storage exceeds what is at Sixth Ave then consider going through this process again for a different street. Create an action item to have staff look at other areas for an additional kayak or paddleboard launch.

Commissioner Sherri Quarrie spoke about looking at the long term and it might be that the Sixth Ave boat ramp cannot keep up with everything.

Commissioner Corey Runte spoke about agreeing to look at other streets in addition to Sixth Ave, but not in lieu of.

**New Action Item** – Have Town Staff look at and evaluate the remaining street end accesses for suitability to add resources for kayaks and paddleboards.

***Betsy Baird***  
***1111 River Rd***

*Betsy Baird asked why the Town needs to have storage for kayaks and paddleboards. If you live in Melbourne Beach can't you keep them at your house?*

Mayor Wyatt Hoover spoke about it not being for long-term storage.

Commissioner Corey Runte spoke about it being like bike racks to temporarily put kayaks and paddleboards.

Kyle Shasteen with Bowman Consulting introduced himself and spoke about the site plan they will be putting together. He agreed with everything that was discussed and that this is going in the right direction.

Vance Bindley with Bowman Consulting introduced himself.

## B. Discussion on the Ocean Ave concept drawings

Mayor Wyatt Hoover spoke about the history and background of this agenda item.

Commissioner Corey Runte spoke about needing to have a design in place to seek alternative funding.

Kyle Shasteen with Bowman Consulting spoke about some goals the Town wanted to accomplish with this project being traffic calming, pedestrian safety, and low-impact development. Right now there is a one-hundred-foot right of way and the lanes are 15 feet wide which is very large. At a minimum, for traffic calming, make the lane width smaller. The plans have 11-foot wide lanes. Drawing 1A has a median that changes in width to keep drivers attentive and the ends are wider to allow for U-turns. The parking changed to angled because of the one-way traffic. The pros to drawing 1A are the median for traffic calming, mid-blocks for pedestrian safety in the median, and you can add landscaping or retention in the median. A con of this layout is you lose some access because you will have to make a U-turn to access driveways or businesses on the other side of the road. One issue that was brought up is fire trucks being able to get around a broken-down vehicle, and an option is to use a mountable curb which would allow fire trucks to drive on them so the fire truck can pass. 1B also has 11-foot lane width and removed the median to allow access to driveways and businesses on the other side of the road. One pro is you gain more space on the north side for swales or water retention. To address parking, currently, there are 43 parking spots. In drawing 1A there would be 31 spaces and in drawing 1B there are 40 spaces. Angled parking spots require more overall space. Both drawings have a 5-foot wide bike lane on both sides of the road.

Commissioner Corey Runte asked if drawing 1A has room to add parking on the north side of the road.

Commissioner Marivi Walker asked about having just golf cart parking on the north side of the road.

The Commission agreed to liking the 1A drawing with the center median.

Mayor Wyatt Hoover spoke about heavy traffic going to Town Hall from A1A and the median sticks out blocking the driveway. Pull the median back to allow traffic to turn into the driveway from both directions.

Commissioner Sherri Quarrie asked how the transition will work from Riverside Dr being a wider road to Ocean Ave.

Kyle Shasteen spoke about following FDOT requirements for tapering roads.

Commissioner Marivi Walker asked about the end of Avenue A, Avenue B, and Sunset when you approach Riverside the road flares out so vehicles go faster.

Mayor Wyatt Hoover spoke about mirroring the west side of the Pine and Ocean intersection on the east side.

Commissioner Corey Runte asked why stop at Ocean and Pine rather than Ocean and Oak.

Mayor Wyatt Hoover spoke about planning all the way to Ocean and Oak, but for construction do it in phases starting at Riverside and Ocean.

Fire Chief Gavin Brown spoke about ladder trucks needing 25 feet for a turning radius, and Florida Fire Prevention Code says fire department access roads must have an unobstructed road width of 20 feet. He is not sure how it is applied if there is a median.

***Neil Tompkins***  
***2004 Neptune***

*Neil Tompkins asked what the implied traffic pattern is. Forcing everyone to come from the west to park is a pretty radical change so keep that in mind. Loves the idea of the traffic calming thoughts, but the unintended consequence of that is you will be changing how people park. Do a study to figure out traffic patterns. Be sure that the front overhang is not impeding pedestrian traffic. Also, make sure any landscaping that you want to keep is accounted for in the designs.*

Kyle from Bowman spoke about the only way to find out how much traffic comes from each direction would be to get a traffic study done.

Commissioner Corey Runte spoke about it being possible that some traffic might divert through the side streets for ease of access rather than doing a U-turn, but on the flip side, he thinks it will reduce the traffic on side streets because it will make it less desirable to go through the area unless you're using the area.

Commissioner Sherri Quarrie spoke about the real traffic calming feature being the ends. Golf carts coming from the east will cut through the Town Hall driveway and the circle to get to the golf cart parking.

Public Works Director Tom Davis spoke about doing a meandering sidewalk to go around the oak trees.

Commissioner Sherri Quarrie spoke about using the retention area by the tennis court for golf cart parking.

Commissioner Corey Runte spoke about having traffic-rated stormwater tanks there so you can park golf carts.

C. Open discussion

Police Chief Melanie Griswold spoke about a special event application for a bike race at Rock Harbour Church. This will not take any resources from the Town as the Sherriff's Office will be handling traffic control. Normally this event is held at Gleason Park in Indian Harbour Beach, but there was a scheduling conflict this year so they had to find a different location.

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro spoke about this event application coming to this workshop because the event is only two days after the next regular meeting and that wouldn't provide any time if the Commission decided not to approve the event.


No Commissioners had an issue with the special event application.

**6. Adjournment**

**Commissioner Corey Runte moved to adjourn; Commissioner Marivi Walker seconded; Motion carried 5-0.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

  
**Wyatt Hoover, Mayor**

  
**Amber Brown, Town Clerk**

