

Joint Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the Planning Board

The Zebulon Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will conduct a meeting on Monday, March 21st at 6pm for the purpose of conducting their annual retreat. The Zebulon Planning Board has been invited to participate in this year's retreat. The meeting will be held at the Zebulon Town Hall, 1003 N. Arendell Avenue. This meeting serves as a work session and does not include public comment.

Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order

Erica called for a motion to call the meeting to order at 6:02 PM

2. Approval of Agenda

Erica called for a motion to approve the agenda.

1st Brandon

2nd Garrett

3. Presentations/Work Session

a. Youth Financial Aid Program:

i. Sponsor Recognition: ERA Parrish Reality Legacy Group

Erica and Brandon presented Rene Baker with a recognition plaque for the generous donation for the Financial Aid Program.

b. Collaboration of Parks & Recreation & Planning to Rethink Public Space

i. Round Table led by Mitchell Silver, FAICP: Mr. Silver is well known nationwide in the planning industry. He spent time as the Planning Director in Raleigh and as Commissioner of Parks and Recreation in the City of New York. He will be sharing his lessons learned and how to rethink public spaces to make impactful and equitable changes in the community.

Mitchell Silver presented a presentation to the board members covering a wide variety of topics including the following:

- Parks and their connections with other departments
- Parks are economic drivers
- Employees should lead with care, not maintenance
- Consumer preferences: previous generations wanted goods and new generations want experiences
- Parks without borders

He also stated our parks department and town as a whole seem to be on the right track and he is very impressed with the overall progress.

Mitchell opened the floor for questions. The following questions were asked:

- What were some of the hurdles that you incurred? Mitch discussed his experience in Raleigh. Raleigh wanted a vibrant downtown, but they made it hard to get people and businesses involved. Make sure if towns want businesses to come to their town, they make it easy and welcoming for businesses.
- Referencing the parks without borders topic, what is the opinion of the fence around townhall? Mitchell suggested that unless the fence served a purpose, then he recommended that it could be removed. He said if it was for security, then we should lower the fence level to make the space feel more inviting.
- How does a town keep commercial development in track with residential development? Mitchell said that eventually it will all catch up, it takes time unless you have economic development that has incentives.
- How does the town need to work with developers about housing with more than one price point? Mitchell suggested that we just give it time and it will all eventually work itself out. Mitchell asked if there was any talk about building more schools and make said that there was.

Sheila closed out the meeting by thanking everyone for their time .

4. Adjournment

Erica called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

1st Brandon

2nd Garrett