

**TOWN OF PINE KNOLL SHORES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING (RETREAT)**

February 10, 2022

— 9:00 a.m.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor John Brodman called the February 10, 2022 Offsite Meeting of the Pine Knoll Shores Board of Commissioners to order at 9 AM in the Town Hall Board Room, and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Also present for the meeting were Commissioners, Clark Edwards, Bill Knecht, Robert Cox, Alicia Durham and Ted Goetzinger, Town Manager Brian Kramer; Assistant Town Manager Julie Anderson; Public Services Director Sonny Cunningham; Town Planner Kevin Reed; Fire Chief Jason Baker; Police Chief Ryan Thompson; and Town Clerk Charles Rocci.

Public Comment:

Bill Osmolski: A look at the issues; why we don't need sidewalks. Exercise.... right now, there is an existing sidewalk that starts at the fire station and runs over to town hall. From there you can walk to Ramsey Drive past McGinnis pt. Keep walking to Arborvitae, go toward the beach and you will come to the existing sidewalk on Sr 58. Follow that to Mimosa Blvd which leads to Oak leaf dr. From there you wind back to sr58. Make a left and a short walk on the grass leads to the sidewalk that continues east. So, there are plenty of safe ways to avoid 58 and walk a long way with things the way they are. To get to the beach safely.... if you live in Beacon's Reach on the north side, you already have internal sidewalks and approved points of crossing to access the beach. If you live in McGinnis Point you have your own beach access and public access even closer. Everyone on Ramsey and Arborvitae have the sidewalk to the Mimosa crossing to get to the beach. Everyone on the Mimosa Oakleaf curve (and connecting roads) has multiple routes and crossing points to access the beach with little no walking on sr 58. Reefstone Condos and Bermuda Greens have their own access points. So right now, you can walk safely to the beach. Adding sidewalks won't make it safer nor will they likely result in many more people walking to the beach. Traffic congestion.... The claim that sidewalks are needed to get more people to walk, and that that will reduce the congestion on Sr 58 doesn't hold up. The reason for summer traffic congestion on Sr 58 is that there are so many more people here, all up and down the island traveling back and forth. It is not from local beachgoers. Safety in general As outlined above you can safely walk to the beach if you wish. On the internal (non-Sr 58) roads we see lots of summer traffic of all types. Cars, pedestrians, dog walkers, skateboarders, golf carts, bicyclists, etc. Yes, it gets busy, but this is us. We are after all a beach community. 99.9% of us are patient and courteous. There is space on the side of the road to walk or to get over as needs be and be safe. Putting sidewalks on the side of the road won't make it any safer. We have talked about it for 15 years....is not a reason to do something. If the discussion has lasted that long there is a reason. It seems clear there has never been overwhelming support. The cost is high, and the environmental impact is significant.

Thank you

Wendy Boss: Thank you for the opportunity to share my comments. As several of you have said in response to my emails about the proposed sidewalks on Rt 58, dialogue is an essential component of a vibrant community. In the interest of dialogue, allow me raise the following points:

- 1) Apparently the PKS has been considering sidewalks for 15 years. This raises the questions: Why now and why not previously?
- 2) Has the Town taken into consideration the changes in our environment and in our understanding of the environmental impact of adding sidewalks over the last 15 years? Are these factors motivating the latest initiative?
- 3) Will sidewalks add to our resiliency as a community?
- 4) Are there data to support the impact of the proposed sidewalks on the safe access to our beaches?
- 5) Are there data to support the implication that young families desire the sidewalks? Or that older members of our community wish to walk along Rt 58 to access other communities or to exercise?
- 6) There seem to be no logical reasons to make this decision at this time.
- 7) The real questions are why sidewalks and why now?

Thank you in advance for your consideration in these matters, Wendy F. Boss 120 Dogwood Circle

Suzanne Wheatcraft: My name is Suzanne Wheatcraft and I am a PKS voter residing at 2 West Court. I spoke at the last BOC meeting and, more importantly, I listened. Because of what I heard from our Mayor and Commissioners, I have made the effort to talk to citizens younger than I am, and to those with school age children.

Their primary concern is with the cost of this endeavor, especially in light of rising costs, the County property revaluation taking place, and the daily costs related to living in a seasonal tourist town where it's a 30 minute drive (at least once a day) to the County population centers (schools, Wal-Mart, etc.). I also heard the concern voiced that an annual tax increase for a family headed by 30 yr. olds will last longer by double than it will for a 60 yr old like me.

Many of us are also wary of spending on a "want" when we're only one well-placed hurricane away from having lots of expensive "needs". I have always admired the fiscal prudence of our Town leaders and Staff. Please reconsider thoughtfully any motivations behind adding sidewalks.

Thank you and I hope this year's "offsite" is filled with thoughtful discourse.

Suzanne Wheatcraft

Yolanda Lozano: Good Morning Commissioners. My comments today are related to the Strategic Plan recommendations to increase the communication between town officials and residents. Mayor Brodman wrote an article in the Shoreline expressing his views on the sidewalk issue and I appreciate him communicating his views to the town residents. However, there is no vehicle to respond to his comments, some of which I think, and so do others, were very confusing. In his article, he mentioned that public comments were made, but there is no mention of our specific and valid concerns about increased taxes and the environmental destruction.

I think the desire for sidewalks is a solution in need of a problem. We can and should have a more public conversation to discuss any safety issues and solutions. Sometimes safety issues can be resolved with education. For example, the education of the public in the use of crosswalks with traffic lights to encourage drivers to be watchful of pedestrians. I think younger families and retired persons can work together and can expect to have a productive discussion. Some of us retired from an inclusive work environment and younger working individuals are also accustomed to a shared governance work culture who would appreciate inclusiveness from the town government. Since the last BOE meeting, I've talked

to neighbors and friends, and most have strong feelings about the cost and tax burden. Most of us feel that the sidewalk project is a done deal.

Questions:

I like to know if we will have a public discussion related to the construction of sidewalks.

- a) A Town Hall meeting is welcomed, but please set the schedule with enough notice to allow residents to attend and work into their schedule. For a public meeting, a question-and-answer period is desirable so that residents can respond.

If the Shoreline monthly prints a one-sided view of an important topic, then it needs to include space for an article from its citizens. This is a publicly supported town newspaper, and it would be fair to express other views in the newspaper.

In the spirit of transparency, I hope you will consider printing copies of the February BOE meeting minutes so the public can read the alternative comments. Yes, I know you can find them online, but it's not easy task for most.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yolanda Lozano

Overview of Discussion Items

The Pine Knoll Shores (PKS) board of commissioners and town staff held their annual retreat Thursday, February 10 and Friday, February 11 at town hall. The annual board retreat gives the board and staff an opportunity to plan for the year, discuss upcoming issues and hear reports from committee chairs. The public was able to attend virtually due to COVID restrictions.

Throughout the two days, committee chairs attended in person to present their committee's accomplishments and 2022 goals. See the table below for overview of committee discussions and outcomes:

Committee Reports		
Committee	Committee Chair	Topics Reported
Community Appearance Commission (CAC)	Steve Felch	The CAC reported the success and collaborative relationships during the tree removal for protecting the electrical lines in town. They are also looking forward to the Arbor Day celebration. Be looking for an announcement soon on PKS's Arbor Day celebration in April.
Strategic Planning Committee (SPC)	John Ferguson	The SPC achieved a major milestone when the board passed the town's new strategic plan. The committee's goal now is to educate town committees and to assist town commissioners and staff with

		aligning town actions with the town's strategic plan. To review the town's updated strategic plan go to townofpks.com and click "Strategic Plan" under the "Resources" tab.
History Committee	Susan Phillips	The history committee is busy documenting PKS history and preparing for the Town of PKS 50 th anniversary. They are publishing several historical booklets including a PKS history coloring book and organizing fun history events. Visit their blog at https://pineknollhistory.blogspot.com/
Planning Board	Paul Payne	The planning board has a huge task this year to begin writing the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) which will govern PKS's land use and development. They will be asking for public input throughout the process. Get involved by listening in on meetings the fourth Tuesday of every month and providing input.
Library Committee	John Brodman	The ad hoc library committee was proud to report the hours of the Bogue Banks Library and announces that the meeting room is open to community groups. Call (252) 648-7726 for more information.
Parks and Recreation Committee (PARC)	Cheryl Smith	The PARC plans to continue their highly successful events such as the easter egg hunt, 4 th of July parade, turkey trot and flotilla. However, they need event volunteers. To volunteer, contact Cheryl Smith at cbsmith07@gmail.com

Board of Commissioner Assignments for 2022 are shown in the table below:

2022 Commissioner Assignments						
Commissioner & Staff Committees	Committees serve as advisory committees for the Town. They consist of 2 commissioners and the appropriate staff members.					
	Cox	Durham	Edwards	Goetzing er	Knec ht	Brodman
Planning Committee			X	X		
Administration Committee	X	X				
Budget/Finance Committee	X	X				
Public Works Committee			X		X	
Safety/ EM Committee				X	X	
Appointed Adv. Boards	Each Commissioner is assigned to at least one of the town's appointed advisory and/or volunteer boards (appointment from BOC not needed). They are the advocate for that board. They should attend some of the monthly meetings and report back to their fellow commissioners.					
PARC		X				
BOA	X					
History			X			
CAC					X	
Planning Board			X			
Strategic Planning Cmt	X				X	X

Volunteer Boards						
CERT					X	
Shoreline		X				
External Assignments						
Beach Commission			(Larry Corsell o)			X
ECC	X					
County Transportation Board				X		
I-42 Development	X	X				
Ad Hoc Committees						
Communication	X	X	X	X	X	X
Library Committee						X

Several topics were discussed and the PKS board directed staff and/or PKS committees to begin reviewing the issues. The topics reviewed include:

- Sound side kayak launch behind town hall.
- Implementation of the PKS strategic plan.
- Staff project management plan for the upcoming projects.
- Inflation, labor market and PKS staff wages.
- Projecting and planning for water enterprise fund.
- Succession planning for the upcoming retirements of Brian Kramer, Kevin Reed, and Jim Taylor.

Outreach to citizens was also a big topic of discussion and the board started to implement ideas immediately. They established an outreach and citizen engagement ad hoc committee and voted to start an informal town hall style meeting thirty minutes before each board meeting. The first public forum session will be at the March 9 meeting.

The PKS board of commissioners also had the pleasure to award the Ken Jones Public Service Award to Sonny Cunningham for his continued dedication to bettering the lives of everyone in Pine Knoll Shores.


Action Items

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda included the January 13 Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes, tax discoveries and releases, board appointments, and the Audit Contract between the Town of Pine Knoll Shores and Martin, Starnes and Associates. A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Commissioner Goetzinger with a second from Commissioner Edwards. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

The Board adjourned on a motion by Commissioner Goetzinger with a second by Commissioner Durham that passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:15pm.



Charles W. Rocci, Town Clerk