

PART OF A SERIES

Strategic Planning Committee

By John Ferguson, Chairman

Over the past month, I have been communicating the content of the Pine Knoll Shores Strategic Plan with the various town committees with two objectives in mind. The first is to ensure the content of the plan is provided and that questions about it can be responded to face-to-face. The second objective is to solicit their support in the execution of the plan, which the Strategic Planning Committee believes is vital to successfully supporting the strategic areas and corresponding goals. These presentations have been very successful from my point of view, in that I have received excellent feedback and a willingness to support what the Board of Commissioners is trying to accomplish. We should all be proud of the positive response from these committees.

The next phase of the communication process is to discuss the plan with as many of the homeowners associations as are willing to have us attend their annual meetings. I am working to schedule meetings with these associations so that the general community of residents understands the direction our town is taking over the next several years. We believe that by reaching out to as many of our residents as possible, the town will enjoy improved diversity of ideas and ensure that we will be in better alignment to achieve our goals. So, as we enter the spring and summer months, the homeowners associations will be setting up and conducting their annual meetings, and the Strategic Planning Committee will be offering a brief and interactive discussion of the Pine Knoll Shores Strategic Plan.

On another note, the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) has an important mission in keeping its membership informed of the myriad changes taking place in our world which may affect the town, either in the short term or many years from now. In this way, the SPC may provide the town decision makers suggested forward-thinking strategies. With this role in mind, the SPC conducted its March meeting at the UNC Institute of Marine Sciences. Dr. Christine Voss, who works as a coastal habitat and ecosystem ecologist, provided us with a very informative and interactive discussion of the forces driving climate change as well as the rise in global temperatures and carbon dioxide, coastal population growth, and the changing coastal landscape. Finally, Dr. Voss did an excellent job of tying the strategic thinking of Pine Knoll Shores to the impacts on us from global climate change and coastal dynamics. For example, we have all seen the increase in extreme weather events within the country and here on the North Carolina coast such as storms, fires, drought, increased tidal issues, stormwater issues, and protection of our drinking water resource. The importance of our efforts that are within our control today to ensure our residents here in Pine Knoll Shores are safe and our property protected for many years to come cannot be understated. This is the reason why the North Carolina resiliency efforts are such a large part of our town's strategic effort. Dr. Voss certainly did her part in keeping our committee informed and providing us with factual information to carry forward.

On a final note, if you have not had the chance to review the Strategic Plan, it can be found on the town website at townofpks.com under "Resources."



**PKS YARD WASTE
PICK-UP DATES**
April 12, 26



PKS RECYCLE DATES

"A" Week: April 11, 25

"B" Week: April 4, 11

Please place recyclables and trash out on Sunday night to ensure pickup.

Please clearly mark recycling containers to ensure that recycling is not picked up by the trash truck. Stickers for this purpose are available at town hall. Contact Charles Rocci at town hall at 247-4353, ext. 13, or clerk@townofpks.com with questions.

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