

PIKSCO Happenings

By Ric Cox

The PIKSCO HOA Board is now meeting monthly in person on the third Monday of the month at McNeill Park, with the hopes of resuming our meetings at town hall in the near future. Our last meeting went into extended meeting time, but a lot of items were discussed, and many decisions were made.

We would like to thank our board member Lee Johnson, and one of our most dedicated volunteers and past board member Gary Corsmeier, for building an additional kayak rental rack in McNeill Park. We continue to have more interest in renting racks in our parks, so hopefully this will help to fulfill the growing need. We finished a huge maintenance project in both McNeill and Garner parks following an arborist's directive to remove damaged limbs from existing trees to make them as healthy as possible. We also approved a couple of additional landscape enhancement projects with our landscape vendor for Garner Park.

We have been fielding more complaints about visible abuse in Garner Park by some who are not HOA members. This leads the board to look at gating our final ungated park in hopes of alleviating these issues. We realize this idea/concept brings some challenges due to the original deed to the two parcels landlocked in our park. While we have verbal agreement from the property owner, we are having a legal review and possibly will update some deed wording. The owner is in the process of remodeling the home, but the PIKSCO board has voted to proceed with this project once the remodeling project is finished.

I believe PIKSCO has some of the most talented and committed people serving our HOA, which represents you. But please take the time to volunteer, offer your opinion and thank those board members who are serving you

PIKSCO contact. For questions, concerns, to express a willingness to volunteer or to provide feedback, contact Erica Reed by call/text at 252-247-4818, email at piksco@gmail.com, through our website at piksco.com or by mail at P.O. Box 366, Atlantic Beach, NC 28512.

PKS Police Bulletin

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pre-selected to make sure they still take pets and are still open. This is just in case a severe enough hurricane is forecasted to make landfall that my wife will gather our pets and belongings and head to the other side of the state.

- I make sure to have copies of my important documents, including homeowner's insurance information, ready to grab in the event of an emergency.
- I take pictures of my home's exterior and interior in the event I have to file an insurance claim.

In addition to the above, make sure you know where your Pine Knoll Shores reentry pass is located before hurricane season starts. We stop issuing reentry passes on June 1 every year, so make sure you have one now. The time to get a reentry pass is not when a hurricane is about to make landfall. For more information on reentry passes, see the Town Crier pages in this issue of *The Shoreline* or email Shelia Bupp at psbadmin@townofpks.com.

For additional information and helpful tips on hurricane and/or emergency preparedness, visit readync.org.

Tacks in the Road

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officers and our tax collector to other employers, and other staff is aware of the salary discrepancies that have opened up. We are having a difficult time recruiting replacements at our current pay scale as it is lagging behind the market.

The BOC discussed this issue in depth at its March 9 meeting, complete with all the statistics and analyses needed to calculate how far our pay scales have fallen behind the current "market" offered by neighboring towns, and what is recommended as a result of our pay study. After reviewing the situation in detail, the BOC decided to adjust pay levels in accordance with the current market (the mid-point of the pay scales in neighboring towns), effective the first pay day in April 2022. The increase required just to bring us up to competitive levels with other local towns will cost us approximately \$101,000 in the April to June last quarter of the current fiscal year (FY) 2021-22. All of our employees, except the town manager, will receive the pay adjustment. The BOC also agreed to use some of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds we currently have to cover the cost of this pay adjustment for the rest of this FY.

For FY 2022-23, the cost of this pay adjustment will be approximately \$387,000. Long-term operational expenses, such as salaries and benefits, will have to be funded using our taxing authority. Every penny increase in our tax rate currently yields approximately \$100,000 in additional revenue, and it is highly likely that we will be looking at a tax increase for the coming year. This is inflation at work. Inflation erodes the value of the dollar, so we need more dollars to pay for the same services—and we may not be finished. The increase approved by the BOC on March 9 just brings our pay scales up to competitive levels. They do not account for subsequent adjustments we may have to make for the rising cost of living (COLAs) to remain competitive in the coming budget year.

Thank you. If I can be of service, please call or text 252-622-2338 or email at mayor@townofpks.com.

Keeping Up With the Clerk

By Charles Rocci

Pine Knoll Shores Town Clerk

Spring bulk item pickup is scheduled for Tuesday, April 26. Items should be set out the night prior as the truck will move through town early in the morning. Any excess items will be picked up on Wednesday, April 27.

Bulk items include furniture, mattresses, bags of clothes and outdoor grills (propane tanks are excluded). Long items are not to exceed four feet in length, but doors may be discarded in their full length. If a resident puts out items which cannot be disposed with other bulk items, they will be tagged with instructions on proper disposal.

White goods can also be picked up. Typical white goods are appliances such as refrigerators, freezers, washing machines, clothes dryers, dishwashers and hot water heaters. Absolutely no used tires, tire rims, batteries, light bulbs, oil, grease, paint or any other materials that are considered toxic will be collected. Any white goods with Freon must be completely drained before they can be removed. If you plan to place a white good out for removal, please notify the town clerk as shown below with your address and item being removed.

If you have questions about bulk and white goods pickup, please contact me at clerk@townofpks.com or 252-247-4353, ext. 13.