

CHAPTER N – PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Preamble - Mission Statement

Mission: The Oriental Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee will work to preserve, protect, maintain, improve, and enhance its natural resources, parkland, and recreational opportunities for current and future generations.

The Oriental Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee seeks to provide places and recreation opportunities for all people to gather, celebrate, contemplate, and engage in activities that promote health, well-being, community, and the environment.

Vision Statement: The Oriental parks and public recreational facilities are premier destinations which welcome and captivate residents and visitors. These facilities and their beauty are part of daily life and shape the character of Oriental. Natural, cultural, artistic, historical, and recreational resources cultivate outstanding experiences, health, enjoyment, fun, and learning for all people. They should be sustainable, well-maintained and safe, and meet the needs of individuals, families, and the community. The focus on preserving land continues, with a strong emphasis on connecting people to the land, water and each other. Aware of its value to their lives, residents are proud stewards and supporters of our parks and waterfront.

We apply the following values to all of our work:

Sustainability Meet current park and recreation needs without sacrificing the ability of future generations to meet their own needs by balancing environmental, economic, and equity concerns.

Visionary Leadership Respect the vision and leadership that built the parks and recreation system and recognize the need for ongoing leadership in achieving excellence.

Safety Work to support a thriving safe environment and an outstanding recreational experience.

Responsiveness and Innovation Anticipate and thoughtfully respond to the diverse needs of the community, continually seeking ways to better deliver park and recreation services.

Independence and Focus Independence allows the Oriental Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee to focus on providing and obtaining the resources necessary, with approval from the Town Commissioners, to accomplish its mission and form effective, responsible partnerships.

Section 1 - Composition

There is hereby created an Oriental Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee composed of five (5) citizens, three of which must be residents of the Town of Oriental. The remaining two (2) members of the Committee may either be residents of the town, Pamlico County or work in a recreation oriented business within the town or county. One member of the Board of Commissioners shall be appointed to act as ex officio member to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and shall have the right to vote only when there is a tie, meaning that the number of votes is equal in the affirmative and in the negative.

Section 2 - Duties

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (hereafter named “the Committee”) shall serve as the advisory body for the Town of Oriental. The Committee shall make recommendations on parks and recreation improvements needed to ensure safety and quality of life. The committee shall advise in the acceptance of any grant, gift, bequest or donation, any personal or real property offered or made available for recreational purposes.

Section 3 - Appointment and Terms

Each member of the Committee shall be appointed by the Town of Oriental Commissioners. Initially, to create staggered terms, the Chairman and co-Chairman will be appointed to serve for 3 years, the secretary and one other member will serve for 2 years and the remaining member will serve for one year. Thereafter, each member will serve for 2 years. The Commissioners’ representative shall serve on the Committee concurrent with his/her term of office.

Section 4 - Frequency of Meetings

Committee meetings will be held once a month. The Chairman, or the Commissioner’s representative, may call a special meeting at any time giving each member, and the local media, at least 24 hour notice. A quorum of the Committee shall be in attendance before action of an official nature can be taken.

Section 5 - Absences

An appointed member who misses more than three (3) consecutive regular meetings loses his/her status as a member of the committee until reappointed or replaced by the Town Commissioners. Absences of which the Committee has received prior notification, or due to sickness, death, or other emergencies of like nature, shall be regarded as approved absences and shall not affect the member’s status on the Committee except that the event of a long illness or other such cause for prolonged absences, the member may be replaced.

Section 6 - Compensation

Committee members shall serve without monetary compensation. Members shall be reimbursed for travel and subsistence to professional recreation meetings, workshops, or conferences pre-approved by the Commissioners or the Town Manager.

Section 7 - Chairman

The Committee Chairman shall preside at all meetings and sign all documents relative to the action taken by the Committee. The Chairman shall appoint all subcommittees deemed necessary. When the Chairman is absent, the Vice-Chairman shall perform the duties of the Chairman. When both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are absent, a temporary Chairman shall be selected by those members who are present.