

LAKE LURE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

12 July 2006

Members Present: Ed Dittmer, Martyn Watts, Rod Anderson,
Paula Jordan, Jim Dunn

Members Absent: Mary Karr

Town Officials Present: Jeanine Noble, Council Liaison
Chuck Place, Town Manager
Tony Hennessee, Public Works

The Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed Jim Dunn as a newly appointed alternate member. As there was a member absent, Jim was a voting member for this meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes of the Board meeting of 10 May 2006 and special Board meeting of 14 June 2006 was made by Martyn Watts, seconded by Rod Anderson, and was approved.

Mr. Hennessee gave a status report on the stone work being done gratis by Jeff Sinclair of Gerton at the town gateway minipark (AKA Kiwanis Park) at intersection of US64/74A/NC9 and discussed offer of Jeff Hines of Lake Lure Trading Co. to do paver work at said park. Mr. Hennessee requested an authorization of \$1K from the Board to purchase cap stone for the stone wall being built. Martyn Watts proposed authorizing a request for \$1K for purchase of said stone; Rod Anderson seconded; and the Board approved unanimously.

Martyn Watts brought up a proposal to provide accent lights along the Town Center boardwalk. Martyn Watts made a motion to proceed with said lighting; seconded by Rod Anderson; and approved. Mr. Hennessee agreed to provide a proposal at next meeting.

Mr. Place provided an update on the status of the Town Center Walkway grant from DOT, part of a federal program for alternative transportation projects, with the town matching with 20% of the cost.

A report was given by the Chair on the unsuccessful effort to locate a trailhead off Island Creek Road and an accessible trail to connect with the existing logging trails for the proposed walking/hiking trail system at the undeveloped portion of the Municipal Golf Course. Board members Dittmer and Watts, along with Mr. Place, Mr. Hennessee, and two other Public Works personnel tried to blaze an easily accessible trail from Island Creek Road skirting around a safe distance from the police firing range. Due to the steep terrain, it was determined that such a trail from this proposed trailhead was not feasible and that an alternative trailhead and connecting trail be investigated off Highway 9.

A discussion ensued on other walking trails within the town. The Chair asked for what can be done in other parts of town other than the Town Center Walkway and the trail system being proposed for the unused portions of the Municipal Golf Course tract. A possible walkway was discussed (wide enough for golf carts) to connect Apple Valley Golf Course with Bald Mountain Golf Course to provide a pedestrian/golf cart connection. As there is no public land to use for such a walkway, Jim Dunn questioned whether there can be a tax benefit for a conservation easement across private land for such a pathway.

Martyn Watts offered to provide a landscape plan for Morse Park.

The Chair offered to take Mr. Dunn on a tour of the proposed walking/hiking trails at the "back nine" portion of the Municipal Golf Course, and Paula Jordan requested to also be included.