



Lake Lure Parks & Recreation Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2012

Call to order

Chairman Ed Dittmer called the regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board at 1:35 pm on January 5, 2012

Roll Call

- **Board Members Present:** Ed Dittmer, Larry Czjakoski, Bill Miller, Linda Turner, Chuck Watkins, Martyn Watts
- **Board Members Absent:** Todd Dunnuck
- **Town Officials Present:** Parks & Recreation Supervisor Melody Potter, Town Planner Suzy Smoyer, Environmental Management Officer Clint Calhoun

Approval of Agenda and Minutes from last meeting

Meeting agenda was reviewed. Motion was made to accept the agenda by Linda Turner, seconded by Bill Miller, and the motion was passed.

The minutes from the December 1, 2011 meeting were reviewed. An error in the spelling of Woody Keen's name was noted on the second page under ¶ 3. Linda Turner made the motion to accept the minutes with correction; seconded by Bill Miller, and the motion was passed.

Election of Officers

Ed Dittmer was nominated by Linda Turner to serve another year as the Parks & Recreation Board Chairman. This move was voted on and it was a unanimous vote in favor.

Martyn Watts was nominated by Linda Turner to serve another term as the Parks & Recreation Board Vice Chairman. This move was voted on and it was a unanimous vote in favor.

Ed Dittmer noted that the secretary position was no longer needed during this year, as the Town has generously offered the services of Kat Canant as the Minutes Inscriber to the Parks & Recreation Board.

Open Issues

1. Status of Morse Park Wetland Restoration and Enhancement Plan contracting process –

Ed mentioned that the contract with Equinox on project management is in hand to do the erosion control plan, the bid process, and overall contractor management.

Equinox has agreed to come down on their price to \$6k this year, with a total cost of \$14K for their work on the project. The P&R Board will have the final decision on who the contractor will be. There was discussion regarding the overall cost of the project and how the job would be done in three phases over a 19 month period. Hopefully the acceptable contractor bid for the first phase earthmoving contract for this winter will come in less than \$33k to stay within budget. Now that the lake is down and the wetlands are dry, it is perfect time to complete the first phase this winter, i.e., the earth moving that will be done to create several small stormwater filtering ponds in the middle wetland area, including the building of a land bridge to divert the water there rather than into the large pond. Ed is waiting to hear back from Fire Chief Ron Morgan concerning the burn off of all three wetlands in Morse Park this month. Ron is coordinating with the Forestry Service regarding the burn off. The stormwater diversion /piping in the Morse Park meadow area and wetland restoration and enhancement phases are now planned to begin in late fall 2012/early 2013 and will take approximately 19 months to complete to spread the overall project cost out over all or parts of three fiscal years. The permit for the project from the Army Corps of Engineers requires that the project being completed by the end of November 2014.

2. Status of planning for Lake Lure Flowering Bridge – Bill Miller, who also serves as the chairman of the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge Board, discussed how the process is coming along. The tax EIN is completed and they're working on the obtaining 501C3 non-profit status to help with the URS and potential grant funding. Recruiting of sponsors continues and is going well with approximately \$15K raised to date. They've entered into a contract with CARDNO, a world-wide company who are experts in this type of project. Discussion was made regarding the financing of the project. It was discussed that the original \$120K from the NCDOT is specifically for the preservation of the bridge itself. Bill distributed a handout which covers the wording of the original agreement with the NCDOT as well as a draft Historic Bridge Preservation Plan, a statement of preventive maintenance tasks, and the projected first year budget. This will be presented at the Town Council meeting January 10, 2012, including a request for Council to approve an additional \$10K from the bridge preservation fund to help cover anticipated start-up preservation costs. The P & R Board fully supports the Flowering Bridge Board in this request.

Bill also noted that the Volksmarch kicked walk took place as planned on January 2, 2012, but there was a low turnout due to the blustery weather; however both Bill and Ed discussed the sanctioned Volksmarch route and how wonderful it is. There was further discussion about how to register Volksmarchers now that the Visitor's Center is closed for the winter.

3. Status of planning for "Northern Parkland/Buffalo Creek Park" – There was discussion regarding Town Manager Chris Braund working with Woody Keen of Trail Dynamics on the design. Ed will get the update. Ed mentioned that Chris had asked him about stopping by the Florence Preserve which is in Gerton off of Hwy 74A, to check out the design of this trail that Woody designed and built. Ed had done so and encouraged other Board members to visit this area as well.

Larry brought up that Rumbling Bald Resort has cleared the land by the planned trail head within the resort. He discussed with Clint about the restrictions and buffer zone in that area.

Suzy briefly discussed the presentations that have been made on the plans for the Buffalo Creek parkland trail system and that the Town application to the NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund for a matching grant to develop the park and its trails will be presented to Town Council on January 10th for approval. The Board fully supports this application for a PARTF grant.

Ed noted that he and Suzy had cleaned up the amended Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Plan that Town Council approved at their December meeting, and the Plan has gone to Town Clerk Andi Calvert to be posted on the Town website. There will also be printed versions available.

4. Status of planning for potential trails system in Luremont area of Town Center –

Ed discussed concerns that a landowner had made to Commissioner John Moore regarding any planned trail system plan on or adjacent to their land on Asa Gray Road. Ed mentioned that Chris Braund is working on a plan of action to bring those whose land may be affected by the trail plan on board. The Town is still exploring the legal issues involved with public right of way in the original 1925 platted road plan and the current status of such right of way. There was further discussion regarding the trail map.

5. Status of work on parkland maintenance punchlist –Melody discussed that her temporary maintenance person has asked the Town for a “layoff” until spring. She’s working by herself again. Ed mentioned that he will help her as he can especially in the Morse Park area with tree debris.

Adjournment

Ed Dittmer adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Kat Canant, Town Employee