

# ***Lake Lure Parks & Recreation Board Meeting***

## ***Meeting Minutes***

April 5, 2012

### **Call to order**

Chairman Ed Dittmer called the regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board at 1:40 pm on April 5, 2012

### **Roll Call**

- **Board Members Present:** Ed Dittmer, Larry Czajkoski, Linda Turner, Chuck Watkins, Bill Miller
- **Board Members Absent:** Martyn Watts, Todd Dunnuck
- **Town Officials Present:** Commissioner Diane Barrett, Parks & Recreation Supervisor Melodie Potter, Environmental Management Officer Clint Calhoun
- **Guest:** HNG hiking guidebook author Ryan Luebbbers

### **Approval of Agenda and Minutes from last meeting**

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

The minutes from the March 1, 2012 meeting were reviewed. Motion was made to accept the minutes by Linda Turner; seconded by Larry Czajkoski, and the motion passed.

### **Budget**

The Board reviewed a hand-out created by Town Manager Chris Braund which overviewed the Parks & Recreation operational budget for next fiscal year. It for the first time lists all parks and recreation revenue streams, to include expected revenue income from the following: Lake Lure Beach & Water Park concession, Washburn Marina concession and slip rentals, Lake Lure Tours concession, and rental of Town facilities (Community Hall and Morse Park Pavilion) totaling \$151,718, with a requested budget of \$88,263 for Parks and Recreation services. The Parks and Recreation Department currently generates sufficient department specific revenues for salaries, benefits, and operating expenditures and does not rely on general revenue sources for daily functions. These functions also generate additional funds which help to offset the need for a higher tax rate.

### **Open Issues**

**1. Status of Morse Park Wetland Restoration and Enhancement Project** – Ed discussed the completion of the project and that Equinox has to complete their punch

list in order to have the project signed off on. In addition to the original plan was the need to level somewhat the hump over the new drainage pipe. A total of 15 loads of fill in dirt were brought in. There was also a willow tree removed. Additional cost was \$2500. The wetland enhancement phase next fall will involve the planting of 5,550 4 inch specified perennial wetland plant plugs, three river birch trees, and 15 buttonbush shrubs in the wetlands. Town officials have been pleased with the work. Clint Calhoun is working on a new permit to allow more dirt for fill in to better level off the Meadow. There is \$113,000 in project to cover the construction phase of the project, but an additional \$25K will be needed for the planting phase next fall to complete the project in accordance with the USACE permit.

**2. Status of planning for Buffalo Creek parkland** – Maps were passed out and Ed discussed the types of trails Trail Dynamics has completed flagging. There is a total of 7 miles now flagged. There are plans for mountain biking in these areas. Trail Dynamics will present a report for the Town manager. There are two waterfalls along this trail. Trail Dynamics will also provide recommendations for the bridge work.

**3. Status of planning for Lake Lure Flowering Bridge** – Bill discussed the recent meeting that was well attended. Bill showed the Board a layout of how the bridge will look upon completion with an artist rendition. CARDNO International designed plans with the bridge engineer to keep the preservation of the bridge in mind. There was a problem with the right of way that was discussed regarding the present plans. Bill also discussed the outpour of volunteers that will really help with the cost of the bridge. To date there has been \$18,000 in donations toward the bridge. The committee will be selling plants on the bridge during the Sale on the Trail.

**4. Landscaping plan for renovated Washburn Marina area** – Ed discussed the pergola and the fencing around the tank. He is going to the Board of Adjustments concerning the variance to the pergola. Ed will get the design showing the change, to the board via email. Leland cypress will be added to the fence area surrounding the tank.

**5. Status of proposal by Lake Lure Properties for traffic island improvements in Town Center** - Suzy was not present. Shannon Baldwin came into the meeting and mentioned that there were no updates and that George Wittmer has asked that any improvements be postponed until next year.

**6. Status of Canada Geese mitigation program** – Clint updated the Board on the oiling process. There are some nests on property that the owners do not want them disturbed. He asked for assistance from the Board in getting this job completed. Several volunteered their time to assist.

**7. Status of work on parkland maintenance punchlist** – Melodie discussed the new Morse Park sign location. She is working on removing the Japanese Knot Weed. She has the signs up on the Ridge Trail. Ed discussed the planting of 60 dogwood trees along the Dogwood Trail, Piney Hill Trail, and Riverside Trail in Donald Ross Park. Mel is working on invasive plant spraying, and she continues the mulching job.

**8. Discussion by Ryan Luebbers on guidebook for hiking trails in the Gorge** – Ryan is authoring a guide book on hiking trails in the Gorge area from Gerton to Lake Lure. He mentioned how much the book is needed to not only draw folks to the area, but to keep them here once they've hiked one trail. He discussed the many trails in our area that are accessible to the public. His book will be about 80 pages and will map and describe trails. The Board was very supportive of his work and helped in suggesting places to market it once completed. Larry provided him a new Donald Ross Park brochure with map and Ed will provide pictures he took last fall of the trails in Donald Ross Park. The guidebook should be completed sometime in June. As trails are added in the future, such as Buffalo Creek Park and the Luremont trails, he will author a volume 2.

**Adjournment**

Ed Dittmer adjourned the meeting at 3 p.m.  
Minutes were taken by Kat Canant, Town employee