

Lake Lure Parks & Recreation Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2012

Call to order

Chairman Ed Dittmer called the regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board at 1:40 pm on July 12, 2012

Roll Call

- o **Board Members Present:** Ed Dittmer, Martyn Watts, Larry Czajkoski, Linda Turner, Bill Miller
- o **Board Members Absent:** Todd Dunnuck, Chuck Watkins,
- o **Town Officials Present:** Town Council Member Diane Barrett, Town Manager Chris Braund, Town Planner Suzy Smoyer, Environmental Management Officer Clint Calhoun, Police Chief Eric Hester, Town Hall Intern Jennifer Della Valle

Approval of Agenda and Minutes from last meeting

Meeting agenda was reviewed. An addition was made by Martyn Watts regarding a Picnic Pavilion at Morse Park. Motion was made to accept the agenda by Linda Turner, seconded by Martyn Watts, and the motion passed.

The minutes from the June 7, 2012 meeting were reviewed. Motion was made to accept the minutes by Linda Turner, seconded by Martyn Watts, and the motion passed.

Budget Review

Ed reviewed a handout of the Budget for the next fiscal year with the Board. Additionally Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Projects were reviewed from the same handout.

Open Issues

1, Status of Buffalo Creek Parkland Development – Chris Braund discussed the Trail Dynamics flagging of the trails. Suzy has put the information into the GIS system. There was discussion regarding continuing the process in phases. Chris discussed the phases of the trail and how it should be approached. This process should begin this fall. The signed PARTF grant has been received. Chris stated that we are still waiting from Trail Dynamics a report of the trail design contract with an estimate from them on cost to do the trail work and some bridge estimates. Once an estimate is received, we will have to determine how costs can be kept in control using volunteers to save funds. Discussion was made regarding the many volunteers that are available. Larry spoke on

behalf of Rumbling Bald Resort, mentioning that the resort will be ready to start work on their trailhead when the Town gives the word. Martyn discussed the Marketing of the trails. Further discussion was made regarding how to promote the area with the trails. Chris mentioned that the TDA will be marketing the trails as an amenity to the area.

2. Status of Flowering Bridge Project – Bill updated the Board on the process of the Flowering Bridge. Bill explained the project and how it should proceed. He mentioned the steps that have to be followed to complete the project properly. There are now over 200 citizens that have become founding members and \$20,000 that has been raised for the project from founding member donations. Bill also mentioned the volunteers that have come forward to help with the bridge. There was discussion regarding beginning on the east end of the bridge to start some landscape projects so that citizens could see the progress. Bill mentioned an application for a Facebook grant that would enable them to install an electronic kiosk by the bridge that would enlighten guests on the bridge, native plants. Etc. The Facebook grant would add another \$15,000 to the funds. Bill also discussed that the previous cost of milling the bridge has been revised. There is only a need to mill 1" instead of the 3", which would bring the cost down to roughly \$5000.00. This is a necessary first step in bridge preservation before a protective membrane can be installed on the bridge to protect the concrete from moisture deterioration.

3. Status of Morse Park Wetland Restoration and Enhancement Project – Ed mentioned the many favorable comments he's received regarding the park and the enhancements. He discussed the need to remove some older trees and replant trees to replace those. He also discussed the recent storms and how drainage was blocked on the grate near the picnic shelters due to willow and grass clipping debris. Once he cleared it, the water flow appropriately to the other ponds. Martyn and Clint had a discussion regarding the maintenance of grassy spillway near the land bridge. Clint suggested to allow things be and allow nature to work its course in flowing through the spillway into the ponds.

4. Status of Leash Ordinance for Morse Park and Town Center area – Jennifer updated the Board on the Leash Ordinance that was presented to the Council. The Council postponed voting on the ordinance. There were concerns that were brought before the council regarding the wording of the ordinance as well as if the Town needed the ordinance. Jennifer re-worded the parts in question and handed out the updated version to the Board. Chief Hester handed out a document defining service animals as well as a study over the last five years regarding animal issues. There had only been one animal complaint made to LLPD in the vicinity of Morris Park during this time. Chief Hester suggested seeking guidance from the town attorney. Diane Barrett discussed the aspects of an ordinance as well as that the Board needed to further study to determine if one was necessary. There was in-depth discussion between board members regarding the need for an ordinance. Suggestion was made that the Board get feedback from those that walk their dogs in the Park. Suggestion was also made that should they go forth with the ordinance that when it is brought before Council again, that the Board attend the Council meeting.

5. Status of rental fee schedule for Town P & R Amenities – Ed advised the Board that their recommendation to increase the cost of rental fees on the Morris Park Pavilion, was passed by the Council, but not to increase the current rental fees for Morse Park Meadow or the Town Community Hall..

6. Status of Town Center Master Plan development – Chris discussed the plans to bring the Master Plan before Council. He also discussed that the NCDOT Transportation Study was on hold until the Master Plan is approved. There was mention that the DOT was already looking at the proposed Town Center Master Plan draft. There was discussion regarding a market study that is in the works by Arnett Muldrow & Associates, a marketing assessment firm. There was further discussion on the marketing of Lake Lure with positive notes on the outdoor recreation activities that our area offers.

7. Status of work on parkland maintenance punchlist – Melodie was unable to attend meeting – Ed mentioned some trees that were down in Donald Ross Park - which he has addressed with Tony Hennessee.

8. Plans to study building of a public pavilion for picnics at Morse Park – Martyn discussed having the Board look into the building of a Pavilion at Morse Park for large picnics. He discussed a larger Pavilion that would accommodate picnic tables and even smaller concerts. There was discussion regarding the size and construction as well as the location. Martyn will continue to look into this. Ed suggested planning it for an item for the next fiscal year capital improvement project budget submission.

New Issues

Review of Instructional Manual for Morse Park Wetlands - Clint presented to the Board "Town of Lake Lure Morse Park Wetlands – A Management and Maintenance Guide". This manual is key for the caretaking and maintenance of the wetlands. The book includes the descriptions, maintenance procedures, plant species, the park layout with a key to native plants, an overview of Educational Opportunities, and aerial photos of the ponds and park. Town Manager Chris Braund and Ed Dittmer highly commended Clint on the work that was done to bring this manual to the Board. The Board agreed that the manual was and will be instrumental in properly managing and maintaining of the wetlands.

Mentioned -

Ed mentioned that Ryan Lubbers has completed the Hickory Nut Gorge hiking guide and it is now available in local stores.

Bill mentioned a free public concert July 19, 2012 at 7pm at ICC which will host the British National Champion Brass Band on their NC Tour – he suggested attending.

Ed mentioned that he will be briefing the Woman of the Chapel at Fairfield Mtns on Monday, July 16th at 12 noon regarding the Parks and Recreation Board and what the Board has done and is planning to provide and encourage parks and recreational facilities and activities in the Lake Lure area..

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board will be held Thursday, August 2, 2012 at 1:30pm

Adjournment

Ed Dittmer adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Minutes were taken by Kat Canant, Town employee