

Lake Lure Parks & Recreation Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

August 2, 2012

Call to order

Chairman Ed Dittmer called the regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board at 1:35 pm on August 2, 2012

Roll Call

- o **Board Members Present:** Ed Dittmer, Martyn Watts, Chuck Watkins, Todd Dunnuck, Larry Czajkoski (via phone link), Linda Turner, Bill Miller,
- o **Board Members Absent:**
- o **Town Officials Present:** , Town Council Member Diane Barrett, Town Manager Chris Braund, Parks & Recreation Supervisor Melodie Potter; Town Planner Suzy Smoyer, Environmental Management Officer Clint Calhoun; Jennifer Della Valle Town Hall Intern

Approval of Agenda and Minutes from last meeting

Meeting agenda was reviewed. An addition was made by Martyn Watts regarding the lack of upkeep at the Golf Course. Motion was made to accept the agenda by Linda Turner, seconded by Martyn Watts, and the motion passed.

The minutes from the July 12, 2012 meeting were reviewed. Motion was made to accept the minutes by Linda Turner, seconded by Martyn Watts, and the motion passed.

Open Issues

1, Status of planning for Buffalo Creek Parkland development - Ed discussed the proposal from Trail Dynamics. The cost was a bit more due to the feeling of Trail Dynamics that they saw little use of volunteers on most of the upland areas due to the terrain being type 2 & 3 trails. It was discussed that the Board will be looking to get a couple of more bids. Suzy discussed the bridge project cost using manufactured fiberglass which was in line with the cost projected in the PARTF grant application. There was discussion regarding the sturdiness of the bridge in that it needed to be able to support the trail machinery. She also discussed the higher cost due to Trail Dynamics not using volunteers. There will be a review team put together with Chris, Clint, Suzy and a P & R Board Member. Larry, Todd and Ed discussed making it a conjoined effort for the three of them to be a part of this review team. Ed discussed a handout that Larry had given him regarding where the resort is with their trail prep work and ownership of land adjacent to the public trailhead for potential acquisition by the Town for an expanded parking area. Clint will get a GPS location on this lot owned by Wyndham

Resorts to make sure it is in the town and not the county. The RTP Grant should be here by mid-August and the board can move ahead on trail development.

2. Status of Flowering Bridge Project – Bill reviewed with the Board Members, when the project was going to begin and his frustration with the delays. He discussed the milling and installation of the membrane on the bridge. They want to use as many volunteers as they can to help with cost. Bill discussed the Flowering Bridge Board's thoughts on using a general contractor or to just have the committee oversee and hire contractors as needed. He reviewed beginning on the gardens on the east end which would not be in the way when machinery begin milling the bridge by accessing from the west. He explained to the board how important it was to get the milling done and the membrane installed so the gardens would not damage the bridge. There was discussion regarding the need for supplemental funding for the gardens. Chuck agreed with the frustration of getting things moving on the projects. There was further discussion regarding the use of volunteers. They're reviewing the projected cost. The Flowering Bridge Board has applied for a Facebook grant which will give them \$15,000 to use to develop a computer kiosk that will explain the history of the bridge and the native plants used in the project.

3. Status of Morse Park Wetland Restoration and Enhancement Project – Ed discussed the need for a prescribed burn before the planting phase begins in late fall to complete the Army Corp of Engineers permit requirement. Ed discussed getting bids from local landscapers in addition to two bids that were submitted last winter by the landscape firms recommended by Equinox Environmental.

4. Status of Leash Ordinance for Morse Park and Town Center area – Ed reviewed handouts regarding two letters from citizens and a letter he had written to the Chamber regarding the leash ordinance. There was discussion whether the board wanted to continue to pursue implementing one. There was no Board member who wanted to stop the process. Ed encouraged the Board to come to the Council meeting July 14th. There was discussion regarding the one complaint that the Police Department had received in the last several years. But Ed stated that most people will not go to police unless there is very serious problem with a dog's behavior, but that does not mean there was no complaint over an unleashed dog being a problem. Clint mentioned when he had his office at Town Hall, there were many complaints regarding dogs not being on leashes. The complainers would come straight into his office. There was discussion regarding how Donald Ross is the better place for unleashed dogs, where Morse Park was not due to the many visitors with children, tourists waiting for the boat tours, the children's playground area, and the revamped wetlands where the Board is trying to encourage habitat for water fowl.

5. Proposed Picnic Pavilion at Morse Park – Larry gave the board information regarding the new pavilion at Rumbling Bald Resort. It measures 60' x 40' and will hold 15-18 6 foot picnic tables. The cost for the structure along with all the many permits that were needed came to roughly \$60k. The board agreed to continue researching and getting cost figures for a structure and that it would not be presented until next budget year and its priority and placement on the P & R budget CIP recommendations vis-à-vis other Board recommended projects.

6. Status of work on parkland maintenance punchlist – Several items have been completed and removed. There was discussion regarding the pile of rock dust for the paths in Morse Park that Mel will disperse. Discussion regarding the black willow trees that needed removing and what to put in their place. There was discussion on landscaping the area between Memorial Highway and the boat parking area in the park where the new Morse Park signage has been set. Favorable comments were made again regarding how beautiful the entrance from Memorial Hwy looked.

New Issues

1. Status of planning for Community Park at the Lake Lure Regional Center aka permanent campus of Lake Lure Classical Academy – Ed reviewed the large layout of the planned campus and explained the timeline for the buildings to begin and their planned completion dates. Suzy discussed the community development staff check list, which Ed reviewed as well. Ed went over the timeline for the three phases for the buildings as well as the ball fields and other planned recreational facilities.

2. Condition of Lake Lure Golf Course – Martyn discussed the deteriorating condition of the greens at the golf course. He's received many comments regarding the same. There are areas that are sinking because the area has not been aerated, thus causing drowning of the roots and killing the grass which causes the browning of the greens. Clint discussed what damage can occur from not taking care of the greens. Martyn mentioned the cost to replace greens can be upward of \$30k. Martyn will bring the greens situation to the attention of the Town manager, Diane was asked to bring this up at the council meeting on August 14th.

Discussion

The board was very excited with Ed's announcement that the Olympiad registration for the four race events was way above last year at this time, with the 10K run and the two Race to the Rock events already surpassing all previous participation levels, with almost a month left before the Olympiad begin, with many more sure to participate. Martyn is attempting to line up four Board members to enter a team in the Olympiad golf tournament.

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board will be held Thursday, September 6, 2012 at 1:30pm.

Adjournment

Ed Dittmer adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.
Minutes were taken by Kat Canant, Town employee