

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

November 1, 2012

## **Call to order**

Chairman Ed Dittmer called the regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board at 1:32 pm on November 1, 2012

## **Roll Call**

- **Board Members Present:** Ed Dittmer, Chuck Watkins, Linda Turner, Bill Miller, Larry Czajkoski,
- **Board Members Absent:** Todd Dunnuck, Martyn Watts
- **Town Officials Present:** Commissioner Diane Barrett, 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 Larry Czajkoski, and the motion passed.

The minutes from the September 6, 2012 meeting were reviewed. Motion was made to accept the minutes by Linda Turner, seconded by Larry Czajkoski, and the motion passed.

It was also suggested and agreed that Members would bring their own copy of the previous meeting's minutes and agenda that is emailed to them prior to the meeting by Ed, instead of Ed making copies every meeting.

## **Open Issues**

**1, Status of planning for Buffalo Creek Parkland Development** – Ed discussed the work on the trails. He discussed a handout titled "BUFFALO CREEK PARK DEVELOPMENT BUDGET COMPARISON". Both Benchmark and Trail Dynamics are well experienced trail builders. Town Manager Chris Braund visited Rocky Knob Park outside of Boone. Both builders constructed phases of this mountain biking/hiking trail system. Chris was impressed with the work both had done. Benchmark's cost is less, but Trail Dynamics has the on-site experience. There will be a meeting with Trail Dynamics to see if they will reduce their cost. Ed also discussed the Type 1 trail, which is required to be ADA accessible. The use of gravel and rockdust was discussed for this trail. Ed also informed the Board about a recent meeting with CMLC and Luann Bryan (PARTF rep for western NC) regarding an application by CMLC for an RTP grant to construct an extension of the Summits Trail through CMLC property from Buffalo Creek Park to Eagle Rock. Also discussed was a potential future Town of Lake Lure PARTF grant application (once the current PARTF grant is closed out) to construct additional

trails on acreage now owned by CMLC to the north of the current Buffalo Creek Park property, which is planned to be transferred to the Town or stewardship and developed as an expanded Buffalo Creek Park. (See map handout from meeting). The public trailhead parking area was discussed by Larry. There are meetings planned with Wyndam Resorts regarding either the purchase from or donation of land from Wyndam to be used as an expanded parking area abutting Buffalo Creek Road. Town Council will be briefed in December on the development status for Buffalo Creek Park, and authorization will be requested to proceed with a recommended trails contractor and a bridge alternative over Buffalo Creek.

**2. Status of Flowering Bridge Project** – Bill updated the Board on the work that has taken place on the gardens at the east end of the bridge. He mentioned the milling of the bridge bed was completed as well as the drainage. A stone mason (Jay Freeman) will begin work soon on constructing the planting beds on the bridge and Bob Cameron has a layout completed of the electric phase of the project. Bill discussed what a great reward it has been to self-contract and only subbing out as needed. He mentioned that they are determined to hire out local contractors as needed. November 3<sup>rd</sup> was to be another Volunteer Day at the bridge site. It was mentioned about how great these groups of volunteers are. Chuck discussed the 48 drains that he designed for placement at the project. There was discussion regarding the revision regarding the protective membrane on the bed of the bridge---the beds will be bonded directly to the cement of the bridge bed and the membrane will be applied on all remaining surface and sealed, which will protect the surface of the bridge making contact with the plant bed soil.

**3. Status of Morse Park Wetland Restoration and Enhancement Project** – Clint discussed a meeting he has planned with Liz Hare from U. S. Army Corps of Engineers on 11/15/12 to walk through the project with the intention that we can get her OK to forego the planned planting phase due to the fact that the natural growth is doing so well. Once this is approved we can close out the USACE permit and complete the project. Any additional trees/shrubs/plants can be added at another time as desired after invasive species have been eliminated. There was discussion to remove the invasive species such as the Japanese grass and Chinese privet. Ed mentioned planning a prescribed burn this winter which will have to be scheduled with the LL Fire Department and the Forestry Service. Ed also discussed that he and Mel will get out with the weed-eater to do some weed eating in preparation for the burn. Clint mentioned a group who assists with invasive species removal and are looking for two projects in the Gorge. Clint is suggesting to them to work on invasives in the area behind the Old Rock Café in Chimney Rock and invasives removal in Morse Park.

**4. Status of new Morse Park Signage** - Ed is working together with Valerie Hoffman on new signage for the park covering rules for use of the park that will have a positive spin of the new leash ordinance that Council has approved. There will be a delay on this new signage design as Valerie wants to get input regarding the wording from the marketing consultant the Town has under

contract. Until then it was discussed that the Board put some type of temporary signage out informing pet owners that dogs need to be leashed while in Morse Park. Ed mentioned the signage that Dean Givens worked on informing the public not to feed the geese. These signs are over at public works waiting to be installed in the park area. Bill mentioned the importance of the link between the Morse Park signage and the Flowering Bridge signage.

**5. Status of work on parkland maintenance punchlist** – Mel was absent but Ed mentioned that he will get with Mel on the punchlist.

### **New Issues**

**6. Town Street Lighting Project** – Ed passed out a summary “TOWN OF LAKE LURE, NC STREET LIGHTING PROJECT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OCTOBER 2012” which was compiled by Suzy Smoyer, Julie Scherer, Shannon Baldwin, and Tony Hennessee containing information regarding the current street lighting issues and cost. The study resulted in immediate savings for some erroneous energy charges over the past few years, as well as substantial potential savings over the long term if the Town should replace current high cost rented light fixtures with cheaper owned fixtures. The Board looked at the summary and discussed options for lighting at Morse Park. The design of the light fixture that would be a substantial savings is not as pleasing to the eye as is the current Teardrop Fixture. The savings however over a 10 year period for the cost of the actual light and power is approximately \$147,000. Shannon Baldwin has requested that the Board investigate this further and make a recommendation on how to proceed. Linda and Ed volunteered.

**7. Board meeting date scheduled for 2013** – The Board discussed and agreed to continue meeting the first Thursday of each month at 1:30pm. The 2013 meeting dates are as follows:

January 3, 2013  
February 7, 2013  
March 7, 2013  
April 4, 2013  
May 2, 2013  
June 6, 2013  
July 11, 2013 (since the first Thursday falls on July 4th)  
August 1, 2013  
September 5, 2013  
October 3, 2013  
November 7, 2013  
December 5, 2013

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board is scheduled for Thursday, December 6, 2012 at 1:30pm.

**Adjournment**

Ed Dittmer adjourned the meeting at 2:48 p.m.

Minutes were taken by Kat Canant, Town Administration Employee