

Lake Lure Parks & Recreation Board Meeting Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2012

Call to order

Chairman Ed Dittmer called the regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board at 1:45 pm on December 6, 2012

Roll Call

- **Board Members Present:** Ed Dittmer, Martyn Watts, Larry Czajkoski, Todd Dunnuck, Linda Turner,
- **Board Members Absent:** Chuck Watkins, Bill Miller
- **Town Officials Present:** Commissioner Diane Barrett, Mayor Bob Keith, Town Manager Chris Braund, Town Planner Suzy Smoyer, Parks & Recreation Supervisor Melodie Potter

Approval of Agenda and Minutes from last meeting

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

The minutes from the November 1st, 2012 meeting were reviewed. Motion was made to accept the minutes by Linda Turner, seconded by Todd Dunnuck, and the motion passed.

Open Issues

1, Status of planning for Buffalo Creek Parkland Development – Suzy Smoyer updated the Board on status of Buffalo Creek Park development. The selected trail contractor, Trail Dynamics, has promised to have a draft contract ready for the Town Council to review/approve at their December 11, 2012 meeting. There is an agreement with the Rumbling Bald Resort (RBR) POA Board to use an entrance at the end of Westlake Drive to access the Buffalo Creek Park property to begin work on the trail construction, since the RTP grant has been held up due to federal government environmental review which has held up moving forward with any required bridge construction over Buffalo Creek to access the property from Buffalo Creek Road. Trail construction is planned to begin on 1 February. Suzy discussed a meeting she had with contracted civil engineer Kim Warner regarding options of using either a pre-constructed fiberglass bridge structure or a stick built structure over Buffalo Creek. This discussion included shortening the original bridge span of 40 ft down to 30 ft using the existing abutments. Doing so would drop the original proposal from \$27,000 to approximately \$17,000. There was concern raised by Martyn Watts regarding future repairs if a fiberglass bridge were used instead of a stick built structure should wind down trees and/or flooding occur. Larry Czajkoski updated the board on the dealings concerning the land for the public trail head on Buffalo Creek Road. Larry and Chris Braund have talked with both RBR and Wyndam management regarding their respective parcels of land desired for use by the Town for the access trail right of way

and trailhead parking respectively. Tom Judson, RBR CEO, has included a memo to their POA Board for their consideration at their meeting on 11 December regarding gift of the RBR owned parcel. This parcel of land is not usable by the resort. Larry has introduced, with the town manager's approval, a concept of understanding with RBR management which states that all fees associated with turning the land over to the Town would be paid for by the Town if RBR donated their parcel to the Town. Larry planned to meet on December 7th with the new on-site Wyndham supervisor to follow up on a possible donation of their lot needed for a public trailhead parking area. Wyndham has offered to sell the lot to the Town for its appraised value of \$11,000, but it is hoped that Wyndham management will decide to donate the lot instead.

Suzy reviewed the RTP grant at us and advised the Board that DENR has released a new RTP grant opportunity. These grant funds will be requested to connect the trails in the Town's Buffalo Creek Park to the Pinnacles/Eagle Rock in Chimney Rock State Park on Shumont Mountain through the CMLC Weedpatch Mountain property, which trail will be a part of the Lake Lure Summit Trail. In the discussion regarding this grant opportunity, Suzy informed the Board that a pre-application submission by the Town has been approved, allowing the Town to now submit a formal application for an RTP grant that is due before the end of January, which Suzy has begun to work on.

2. Status of Flowering Bridge Project – Linda updated the Board on the progress of the bridge. The cement block planters are in place and work on installing the natural rock facing has begun. Recently, a culvert and a French drain have been installed at the east end of the bridge, all electrical and irrigation piping completed, as well as additional laying of mulch and landscaping work done on the slope down to the river. There is also a split rail fence that will be installed, with additional planting delayed until after winter. The Flowering Bridge Board will be having an appreciation lunch on December 7th for all those who have done volunteer work at the site. To date the expenses have matched the revenue. Everything is moving along and the help of volunteers has made it all possible.

3. Status of Morse Park Wetland Restoration and Enhancement Project – Ed discussed the recent on-site inspection that Clint Calhoun had with Liz Hair from U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) which went very well. Clint has gotten her verbal agreement to forgo the planting phase of the USACE permit. There are some wetland management guidelines that must be followed in lieu of the previously required planting phase of the project. The project should be able to be closed out soon. Melodie Potter mentioned that part of the guidelines are that live stakes need to be planted, but this is low cost with a bundle of 50 live stakes costing only \$25.00. Ed mentioned that there will be a controlled burn of the wetlands that will take place later this winter as well. This leaves \$27,000 that was appropriated by Council this year for the planting phase. Ed advised the Board that what to do with these funds will be a decision of the Town Council, but Ed hoped that the Council will approve some of these funds being used to further landscape other areas of Morse Park this spring.

4. Status of Street Light Planning Project – Suzy updated the Board on the Street Light Steering Committee meeting. There was discussion regarding recommendations for street light policy, such as consistency of fixture design and appearance, and color

of light, as well as a maintenance procedure for identifying/replacing non-working lights . The steering committee discussed what type of streetlights would be more affordable and aesthetically pleasing and energy cost effective in the long term. There will be other meetings of the steering committee scheduled in the future.

5. Status of work on parkland maintenance punchlist – Melodie Potter mentioned that the cherry Trees in front of the beach have been cut down. She discussed the decision made by Public Works to remove them and plant crepe myrtle trees as replacements. The cherry Trees were only living a few years, and she found that they were not living longer possibly due to the soil conditions around the beach. The decision to replace them all at the same time was to assure the same age and size of crepe myrtles for the installation. Melodie mentioned that all of the rock dust has been spread on the paths in Morse Park Gardens, that she reseeded the grass areas by Town Hall, and that the newly planted crepe myrtles were pruned and watered. The Thanksgiving decorations have been down and Christmas decorations are up. There was discussion regarding putting some decorations on the light poles in the Arcade and Beach area. There was also discussion by several Board members regarding planting of bushes and shrubs in an area by the pond at Morse Park.

6. Discussion of visits to Fletcher Community Park & Mills River Community Park and ideas for possible application for Morse Park – Ed reviewed the visit made last month to Fletcher and Mills River. He was impressed with some of what he saw and remarked on the amount of land that Fletcher had to use, which included several ball parks and a trail system. He mentioned a kids' trail that Fletcher had and suggested that the Board come up with a plan for a kids' trail around the wetlands here in Morse Park that would be informative, having signage and brochures where kids could read about the environment and be able to have hands on experience with nature. He stated that there is a grant source for such kids' trail signage as well as brochures. Ed also reviewed what Fletcher and Mills River had done in the way of large covered picnic pavilions for rent and mentioned the revenue stream that both towns receive from their picnic shelter rental. Both town parks representatives recommended going with two smaller structures with maximum seating 50 persons which Fletcher has, rather than one large structure (seating 100 persons) which Mills River has. Each town's respective experience with dog parks was also discussed parks and the cost of such. With the excessive cost of construction (\$120,000 in the case of Mills River) and follow-on maintenance costs. The Board noted The lack of suitable open/flat Town land here in Lake to use for a dog park, it was suggested that any dog park idea be tabled until enough citizen interest surfaced and interested citizens could form a committee such as the flowering bridge group has done to look into this further and come up with an action plan proposal that would raise funds and use volunteers to construct, supervise, and maintain a dog park.

Adjournment

Ed Dittmer adjourned the meeting at 2:53 p.m.

Minutes were taken by Kat Canant, Town Administration Employee

The next Parks & Recreation Board Meeting will be held on January 3, 2013