

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

22 March 2013

## **Call to order**

Chairman Ed Dittmer called to order a special meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board at 3:15 PM on 22 March, 2013

## **Roll Call**

- **Board Members Present:** Ed Dittmer, Martyn Watts, Larry Czajkoski, Linda Turner, Todd Dunnuck, and briefly Bill Miller
- **Board Members Absent:** Jonathan Hinkle
- **Town Officials Present:** Commissioner Diane Barrett, Parks & Recreation Supervisor Melodie Potter,

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

Chairman Ed Dittmer stated that the proposed agenda for this special meeting of the Board would be limited to a budget discussion and approval of a proposed Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget to be submitted for Town Council review, as well as a review and hopeful decision on one of two landscape proposals for Morse Park. There was no objection to the proposed agenda for this special meeting.

The minutes from the 7 March 2013 meeting were reviewed. Motion was made to accept the minutes by Martyn Watts, seconded by Linda Turner, and the motion passed.

## **1. Development of a Parks and Recreation five year Capital Improvement Program**

Ed opened the discussion with an explanation of the process that the Town uses in developing not only the operating budgets of Town departments but also the mechanism for the submittal by departments of capital improvement items or projects. Larry asked what funds were appropriated this current fiscal year for the Parks and Recreation Department, both in operational funds and in CIP funds. Melodie advised that approximately \$83K had been appropriated for Parks maintenance expense. Ed stated that he thought that the only CIP item funded this year was \$27K to complete the Wetlands Restoration project. Ed advised the Board that they would be asked to prioritize the CIP projects once they agree on what CIP projects to include in the CIP. Ed started the budget discussion on the only new item for CIP funding consideration this year that was not on the five-year CIP---a pedestrian bridge to connect Morse Park proper with the parkland at the Point of Rocks area and a trail onward to connect with the Town Center Walkway. Ed advised Board members that they were not here at this meeting to choose any specific type of bridge but rather to research and develop an estimated cost of a pedestrian bridge for budgeting purposes for the Town Council to decide whether to pursue, whereupon more refined design and construction costs can be ascertained and actual bids solicited.

Following on with the discussion held at the regular Board meeting held on 7 March 2013, Ed reviewed options of pedestrian bridge construction and associated estimated costs with the Board. He presented handouts of info on wood, aluminum, steel, and concrete structures. Additionally Ed again presented a rough comparison ranking that he had done on structure types, based on several considerations such as durability, appearance, maintenance, cost, etc. There was in depth discussion regarding the proposed bridge. Ed stated that he had checked with Lake Administrator Dean Givens on the minimum height clearance of the bridge span and that Dean had advised that a minimum of 12 feet above the mean lake level of 900 ft. above sea level. Martyn had measured the span at 160 feet. The height difference from one side to the other is approximately 30ft. Martyn discussed several options minimizing the number of support pillars and bridge slope caused by the terrain. As the Board members had only generalized cost estimates at hand based on research Ed had done, they agreed on an interim cost estimate of \$250K for initial budgeting purposes. Ed stated that he would contact prefabricated bridge structure companies and try to get reps on site to give a more detailed design and cost estimate within the next month to refine the preliminary cost estimate.

The Board then discussed the other projects in the current Parks & Recreation CIP project list---the Flowering Bridge, Buffalo Creek Park trail system, the development of a community athletic park adjacent to Island Creek Rd. for dual public and LLCA use, and an in-door recreation center at Hwy 9/Island Creek Rd. Board members reviewed each project and timeline for projected development. The Board voted to prioritize the projects in their FY13/14 CIP funding request in the following order: \$10K for continued development of the Flowering Bridge; \$50K for a match to a requested \$200K grant from the NCDENR Recreational Trails Program (RTP) to develop a segment of the hiking/mountain biking Summits trail from Buffalo Creek Park to Eagle Rock; \$20K for design of the proposed community athletic park so as to be in concert with LLCA building plans; and \$250K for construction of the proposed Morse Park pedestrian bridge.

## **2. Morse Park Landscaping Project**

The Board then reviewed the landscape designs and bids from Vic Knight (Knight Strategies) and Greg Hasenfus (Pier Pointe Landscape Group). Ed provided members a breakout of the bids of each firm on the three areas in the park which they had been asked to landscape. After much discussion of the two bids and Melodie's input on the maintainability of each, Martyn made a motion to tentatively accept the design of Greg Hasenfus, subject to some maintenance modifications to be worked out. Larry seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Ed will contact both Greg and Vic to inform them of the Board's decision and will arrange with Greg for an early on-site discussion with him and will get back to the Board before a contract is initiated.

### **Adjournment**

Chairman Ed Dittmer adjourned the meeting at 5:30 PM.