

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

May 2, 1013

## **Call to order**

Chairman Ed Dittmer called the regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board at 1:30 pm on May 2, 2013

## **Roll Call**

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

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

Meeting agenda was reviewed. Todd Dunnuck made a motion to accept the agenda and seconded by Martyn Watts. All were in favor and the motion passed.

The minutes from the April 11, 2013 meeting were reviewed. Motion was made to accept the minutes by Martyn, seconded by Todd. All were in favor and the motion passed.

## **Open Issues**

**Status of Buffalo Creek Park development** –In Clint's absence, Ed updated the Board on the status of environmental permitting of the project. Clint Calhoun has submitted his endangered plant assessment and we are awaiting action on the paperwork and the resultant permit, which is required before the RTP grant funds can be issued by DENR. Jonathan Hinkle (Marathon Builders) is waiting for this release of funds before he can begin work on the pedestrian bridge construction. All paperwork from the Town of Lake Lure end has been submitted, and we await action by the several agencies involved before trail construction can begin, pending NCDOT permitting needs take precedence over trail permitting. Thus trail construction may not begin until fall, although Ed is hopeful work can still get started this summer.

**Status of the Flowering Bridge**– In the absence of both Bill Miller and Linda Turner, Ed reviewed with the Board the status of the flowering bridge project. The paver walkway is completed approximately 2/3 of the way across the bridge. The DOT has asked that the split rail fence be removed adjacent to the guardrail on the west end due to being a possible safety hazard. There will be another work detail on Saturday, 4 May. The Flowering Bridge group did very well on the Sale on the Trail day where they sold plants.

**Status of Morse Park Enhancement projects** – A contract has been signed with PierPoint Landscape for landscaping at areas in the park. Work should begin shortly. Ed advised the Board that Clint has been tasked by Dean Givens at Lake Operations to trap and remove the groundhogs whose numerous holes are compromising the whole south side of the spoils berm system.

**Status of Canada geese mitigation efforts** –Ed updated the Board on the status of Canada geese mitigation to date this year. This season there have been a total of 81 eggs oiled. A few nests were not found, as a few goslings have hatched and been seen in Town Center/Morse Park area or on the lake. But overall, compared to three years ago, there has been a significant drop in the geese population.

**Town memorials policy recommendation** – Ed distributed a draft of a letter for Board review that provides the Board's recommendation regarding the placement of memorials on Town property. (Attached) *The motion was made by Jonathan Hinkle to approve the letter to send to the Town Manager for consideration by Town Council. The motion was seconded by Martyn Watts. All were in favor.*

**New park signage** - Ed reviewed signage plans with the Board. He passed out a sample of the new signage developed by Town design consultant Valerie Hoffman and reviewed the size of the signs and wording. It was agreed that on the sample, the words Welcome and To needed more space between them. Signage placement in Morse Park was discussed as well. The size of the main sign at Morse Park should be as large as a panel of the current signs at the Donald Ross Park trailhead and that Lake Operations has posted by the marina. A sign by the Gardens was discussed, as well as one by the picnic area. Ed will get with Valerie Hoffman to clarify the signage and locations.

**Status of work on parkland maintenance punchlist** – Melodie Potter is currently staining the pergola at the marina and has done additional landscaping in that area. She priced replacement of the dilapidated railroad tie border with a low paver wall at the north end of the median between the two entrances to Morse Park and received a bid of \$3,200 plus \$1700 to install. It was agreed that she could find a better bid, which she will continue to look at. She also mentioned the need for picnic tables and trash cans. There was discussion regarding using a metal base for the picnic tables with a wood top or using composite material that would last longer than the wood. Melodie will get pricing on these.

## **New Issues**

**Steps on the Berm** – Ed discussed using available P & R budget funds this FY to build steps up to the top of the berm in Morse Park by the land bridge. That area of the berm is being badly eroded by walkers going up and down the slope. He discussed using stone, but there was further discussion regarding using wood steps instead, as being cheaper. Ed mentioned the problem there might be with wood steps when controlled burns were done in the wetlands. There was further discussion regarding this. Ed said that he would look into it further and get estimates.

**Ironman News** – Ed mentioned that the town had formally submitted a joint proposal with Asheville to the World Triathlon Corporation (WTC) to host a full Ironman triathlon in September 2014 and the four years thereafter, Ed described what this entails, with Lake Lure hosting the 2.5 mile swim leg starting at the beach and then the first transition to bike in Morse Park Meadow. The bike route would be one of three 118 mile proposed bike routes from here to Asheville, with the full Marathon run leg and finish in Asheville. Todd asked for and Ed agreed to send Todd the Ironman proposal and accompanying video that has been sent to WTC. We should hear this month whether we made the short list of final host cities for follow-on on-site visits, and then in June notification of selection to the selected host and development of a contract, with a formal announcement by WTC in July. Ed remarked that the proposal was well done and he is hopeful.

### **Adjournment**

Ed adjourned the meeting at 2:15 pm.

Minutes were taken by Kat Canant, Town Administration Employee

The next Parks & Recreation Board Meeting will be held on June 6, 2013