

Lake Lure Parks & Recreation Board Meeting Minutes

August 8, 2013

Call to Order

Chairman Ed Dittmer called the regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board at 1:30 pm on August 8, 2013.

Roll Call

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

Approval of 8/8 Agenda and 7/11 Minutes

Meeting agenda was reviewed and accepted.

Minutes of the July 11, 2013 meeting were approved.

Open Issues

Buffalo Creek Park development – Jonathan reported that concrete piers and steel beams are in place across the stream, will start construction of wooden deck of bridge this coming week. Concrete piers are at a 16" depth and above the base flood elevation. A meeting is scheduled on 9 August with Trail Dynamics and the project steering committee to determine next steps in the trail construction. Two permits have been approved. No signed contract with contractor as yet. Chris Braund advised that Trail Dynamics just completed a fixed-price project in which the trail turned out to be longer (and more costly) than estimated. They now have concerns about the Lake Lure project and cost previously stated. With no signed contract, the town could reopen bid process and select a new contractor to complete the project.

Larry reported that the bridge is looking good but, due to so much rain, there is an erosion problem that needs to be fixed. Also, yellow jackets have nests all around area, so they need to be cautious. Larry is still working with Wyndham but learned the person he has been dealing with has left the company and a replacement will be hired within next 30 days, so talks will begin at that time.

Flowering Bridge

Bill reported the gardens are looking very healthy, still is a work in progress. Some infrastructure has yet to be completed. Hanging baskets have been purchased which are to be installed at each end of bridge. Enclosures are being built to cover electrical wiring and water lines. Surveillance cameras have been helpful in capturing pictures of deer and fawns eating from the flower garden, as well as people removing plants and

some garden fixtures. Action can be taken when individuals are identified. They are in the process of preparing maps for each flower bed since each is different. There are over 500 different plants that fill the planters. Flowers and plants seasonal color change provide color throughout the year. There have been international visitors admiring the bridge. Each week the collection boxes have \$40-\$50. The Board is gearing up for the grand opening on Oct 9th. A feature writer for "Our State" magazine may be the guest speaker at the grand opening. Low voltage lighting and street lamps are to be installed for grand opening. The Flowering Bridge Board is in the process of selecting street lamps and need to meet with Town for approval. A meeting is set for August 19 at 1:00 p.m. to meet with Town officials to decide what lighting system will be used throughout the Town and on the bridge. Pool Creek has historical light fixtures and George Wittmer has two brass & pewter historical lamps he will make available to the committee. Four light fixtures will be needed on bridge.

Walkway west to Boys Camp Road – a plan has already been designed for the west end gardens using the same serpentine walkway in existence across the bridge. The walkway will have heather and wildflowers along some of the border areas. The Board is considering a natural walkway down to the river with a small bridge over rock leading to a small dock for canoes and other small vessels. These plans are on hold while we resolve the ownership of property. NCDOT is to deed the property over to the Town and once the document is signed work can begin on the walkway. The work that has been done is along NCDOT right-of-way property. The west end of the bridge is considered a "gateway" into Lake Lure and Chimney Rock. Once ownership, access and easement issues are resolved, the Town will be allowed to legally continue.

The map boxes in flower gardens have been impacted by the rain. The maps will be printed on waterproof material and will be laminated. The sign holder will be caulked to prevent further leakage.

Clarification was requested regarding funding to cover cost of lighting. Town Council allowed \$10,000 in the P&R budget from the bridge preservation fund. The Flowering Bridge account currently has several hundred dollars available to spend, but has \$6,000 earmarked for another use. Bill will talk with Sam Karr to obtain the needed funds.

Town officials met and reviewed the structures on property at 104/106 Boys Camp Road which was recently purchased by the Town to determine how best to utilize structures. It was determined that none of the structures were sound enough for continued use. It has been recommended that the structures be demolished, with the possible exception of the open pavilion. Meetings will be scheduled with town people for input in what to build in the space or should it be parking? New stores? Storage? Use by the Flowering Bridge Board? Then the Town will develop the land or open up for bids from public. Any new construction must meet Town regulations governing new structures.

Morse Park Improvements

Ed reported a meeting was held last week regarding steps up the berm which are badly eroded because of all the rain and the sediment washed into and has blocked the spillway channel. An erosion control plan needs to be approved before work can begin. Ed is continuing to work with Vic Knight to get plan finalized for steps up the berm at est. cost \$1,300 for materials with total cost of approx. \$3,000. Materials were purchased out of last year's budget, construction will be out of this year's budget.

Parkland Maintenance

All park areas are looking good, but it is a continual job of mowing due to all the rain. Brush that has been cut down will remain in place because it is too wet to be moved; will move this winter. Privet and Japanese grass are dense in wetlands and need to be removed. There needs to be a meeting with Melodie, Clint and Ed to review the wetlands management plan and the current conditions.

Certain areas of the Donald Ross trail system need sand/gravel because of poor drainage. Some evergreen trees are blocking line-of-vision for drivers on Hwy.64/74 at the Tryon Bay Point at Larkin's. Town has received several complaints. Melodie will take care of it.

Melodie showed a picture of a river rock base she wants to have built as a base to support a sundial which she would like placed between the pergola and gas pump near the marina ticket office.

Washburn Marina gas tank

The bamboo screen has been destroyed by wind and bad weather, so a replacement is needed to conceal the gas tank. Martyn provided a price breakdown for materials to construct an off-set slotted wooden fence with estimated cost of \$4,750. Martyn reviewed some of the specifics regarding constructing the fence. He suggested the chain link fence be removed, but this action was questioned because not sure if it is a government requirement or not. Funds are available from the Marina project account. Motion was made by Linda and seconded by Larry to proceed with fence construction.

New Issues

Park brochures printing & distribution

Initially, brochure printing was contracted out; now, Ed copies the brochure on Town printer and places in Donald Ross Park trailhead container. It was suggested the Town prepare an 11" x 17" laminated map for a display board in Visitors Center. No need to spend a lot of money on reproducing quality maps for distribution because people don't generally return the map for others to use. Todd though suggested developing a better quality map and selling it at the Visitor Center to the public for \$1 or some nominal cost.

Todd also suggested the map available on the Town web site so people can download the map on their cell phone for use. It was noted that the majority of people are good about picking up trash and the trail system is clear of trash. Martyn made a motion that printing of maps continue to be done in-house and a trail map be placed on Town's web site. Linda seconded. Motion carried.

Other topics

After all agenda topics had been discussed, Martyn asked what has caused the large amount of red dirt run-off on Island Creek Road. Chris Braund said the State is working on remediating the Town's old landfill and all the dirt movement has changed the land surface which is loose. The rain has washed some of this loose soil into the road, creek and pond at the Peaks development entrance. The State then corrected their actions by placing heavy plastic sections over the entire area and only open one section at a time as they clean up soil. They will level area, back fill, and seed when they finish remediation of site. Building restrictions will be placed on the area prohibiting any structures being built, but land can be used for trails, parking, and certain kinds of recreation fields.

Larry asked that the Town web site include links to conservancy agencies.

Adjournment

Ed adjourned the meeting at 2:47 p.m.

Minutes were taken by Diane Barrett, Town Council Liaison