

Lake Lure Parks & Recreation Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

January 2, 2014

Call to Order

Chairman Ed Dittmer called to order the regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board at 1:32pm

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Jonathan Hinkle, Linda Turner, Larry Czajkoski, Martyn Watts, Jim Walters, Ed Dittmer

Town Officials Present: Commissioner Diane Barrett, Town Manager Chris Braund, Parks & Recreation Supervisor Melodie Potter, Environmental Management Officer Clint Calhoun,

Approval of Minutes and Agenda

The Agenda for the January 2, 2014 Board meeting was reviewed and a motion to accept was made by Linda Turner and seconded by Jonathan Hinkle and all were in favor.

The minutes for the December 5, 2013 Board meeting were reviewed and a motion to accept was made by Martyn Watts and seconded by Larry Czajkoski and all were in favor.

Election of Board Officers

Ed Dittmer was nominated by the Board to continue to serve as the Chairman for the Parks & Recreation Board. A vote was taken and all were in favor.

Martyn Watts was nominated by the Board to continue to serve as the Vice-Chairman for the Parks & Recreation Board. A vote was taken and all were in favor.

Budget Review

Ed Dittmer was unable to get a current budget statement from Sam Karr due to the holidays. Melodie Potter stated her operational budget was good. It was mentioned that there were still funds left from the marina project funds to use for landscaping at the new wood fence around the marina gas tank in Morse Park.

Open Issues

Status of Buffalo Creek Park development – Clint Calhoun reviewed a map that was handed out to those present which was an overhead view of the completed 3.5 mile trail loop. There was discussion regarding the rating of the course. Chris Braund mentioned that he has asked Ed Sutton (Trail Dynamics construction supervisor) to scout out an area in the middle of this course that would be considered useful for novice to intermediate bikers and hikers. There was further discussion regarding the trail and how those who have ridden it on their mountain bikes found it challenging but very worth the ride. There was also discussion regarding those who have hiked it as a hiking venue. Commissioner Barrett stated she loved the hike and did find it difficult in a few areas but trailed on and was overall thrilled with it. The hike can take anywhere from 2 to 2.5 hours. There was further discussion regarding Trail Dynamics currently maintaining the trail making sure all is set. With the rain, the soil path is settling, so Trail Dynamics is making sure the path is maintained and ready for its Grand Opening which is slated for sometime in the spring of 2014. Chris reviewed his experience on the trail during his mountain bike ride. He stated that there were several places with incredible overviews looking out to Young's Mountain and north and south up Buffalo Creek valley. Chris also mentioned the expansion of this trail to the west which would be in the future but none the less is continuing to make Lake Lure a destination for those looking for these types of venues. Larry is waiting on the agreement offer from Wyndham Resorts management. It's unknown the content of the offer but Wyndham officials have all been receptive to discussions.

Status of Morse Park wetland maintenance – Clint discussed the wetlands and mentioned that he is working with Fire Chief Ron Morgan on the coordination of the controlled burn on a portion of the wetlands, but will need to wait until the ground is dryer. Melodie reported that the privet control measures have been completed.

Status of planning for aeration/fountain for beach/marina/Morse Park Gardens

pond - There was discussion regarding the contractor that Clint has been trying to reach regarding the aeration of the three areas. After discussion, it was agreed that Martyn would get in touch with Clint regarding other contractors that would be able to aerate the areas needed. From there, bids will be secured and brought back to the Board. It was also agreed that Ed would get with the Dean Givens and the Lake Advisory Board regarding the efforts and the process to have their support.

Status of the Canada geese aversion/culling planning – Larry discussed a letter that had been sent to the Mayor citing displeasure with a recent visit. There was mention of geese waste on the beach that would lead the writer to not visit again. Larry discussed the use of drone type hand controlled aviation devices that have been used elsewhere that had positive results. There was discussion of this method being a challenge due to the size of the lake and the other areas that the geese would flock to if they're scared from one area. It would need to be a large joint effort with an overall Town area plan to have this work. The plan would need to take place in May to mid June because after those dates the geese molt and cannot fly again until August, thus making the operation not being successful for the summer season. We would need to have Rumbling Bald Resort involved on this as well, as there are ponds within this area that the geese would flock to. There was quite an interest from the Board regarding the drone flight operation and it was suggested that Larry get more information. Larry has gotten in touch with his Geesepeace contact who is also interested in seeing if this type of geese aversion is successful. Chris mentioned Louie Long has a manual aviation device and Chris would get Larry his contact information. It was suggested that the oiling of the eggs continued as we have seen results with this process. Martyn stated that he knew of a place in Greenville where they had a manual aviation club. He would get more information on that. The group was encouraged to work quickly on the plans and to get approval before May.

Status of work on parkland maintenance punchlist – Melodie was off during the holidays as well as busy with Town Christmas decorations. It rained on other days so much of the list was not tended to. She did mention that she will not be trimming the ornamental grasses until spring. She will get with Tony early spring to put rock dust on the pathways and also build the new pathways around the north side of the pond in Morse Park. Ed invited Board members to let him know if they see anything that he needs to add to the punchlist.

New Issues

New Maples – Martyn discussed that he was able to work with Dale Minick (the municipal golf course manager) to purchase red maples for the golf course area and placed them in areas that would help golf balls from hitting vehicles. He mentioned that Dale was able to purchase these trees for \$65 which the Board members were happy with. It was discussed how big and healthy those trees looked for \$65 and it was suggested by Chris that the Board try to get as many as possible for this price. Ed suggested that he needed several for shade trees at Morse Park to replace the ugly black willows in the picnic area.

Morse Park Pedestrian Bridge – Chris discussed bringing back to the table the previously discussed pedestrian bridge that has been on planning documents going back 20 years and was again pushed by the Board for funding in last year's budget submission at an estimated cost of \$250,000. There have been recent options on funding this project involving a possible public/private partnership to cover the cost as part of the Town Center development. Chris suggested that the Board get the design ideas they worked up last spring and get with the contractors they spoke to previously to get additional information on the pedestrian bridge as soon as possible. He suggested keeping the Lake Advisory Board abreast of this project. Chris has put Town Planner Shannon Baldwin as head of a bridge planning group and asked that Ed get with Shannon for further discussion. Jonathan Hinkle, Linda Turner, Martyn Watts, and Jim Walters also volunteered to serve on this planning group.

Adjournment

Ed Dittmer adjourned the meeting at 2:50pm

The next Parks & Recreation Board Meeting will be held February 6, 2014

Minutes were recorded and transcribed by Town Liaison Kat Canant