

Lake Lure Parks & Recreation Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2014

Call to Order

Chairman Ed Dittmer called to order the regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board at 1:34pm

Roll Call

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

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

Also Present: Louie Long, Amy Allamong

Approval of Minutes and Agenda

The Agenda for the February 6, 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 January 2, 2014 Board meeting were reviewed and a motion to accept was made by Linda Turner and seconded by Jim Walters and all were in favor.

Ed welcomed new board member Jessica Kendall, who introduced herself.

Budget Review

Ed discussed a Budget Session will be set for next month. There will be a budget item coming up regarding the pedestrian bridge that needs to be discussed with the Community Planning Department.

Melodie Potter discussed that the cost of building stairs up the berm were taken from her operational budget. There was a brief discussion about where the trees slated to be planted by the golf course would be allocated from in the budget. The trees have not been purchased yet. There was further discussion regarding other trees and the areas to plant them in Morse Park.

Ed mentioned that Town Manager Chris Braund suggested the Board present to Town Council a budget line item for next year that would specifically cover geese control.

Open Issues

Status of Buffalo Creek Park – Chris Braund sent out a recent update today that was forwarded to all Board members regarding the status of the development. Amy Allamong mentioned that the second bridge is finished and the Type 1 trail has been completed with just a little bit of grooming left. Chris discussed his feel for the trail. He's pleased. He thinks it will be ready to promote soon and get some more foot traffic and bike traffic. Amy had a group of Americorp workers come out and they were very happy with it. Chris discussed that this now completes the first loop that is 3.5 miles and this leaves another 1.5 miles that Trail Dynamics is under contract to provide. Chris and Ed Sutton (Trail Dynamics) have been working together on where to locate that trail. One suggestion is to head out west toward Eagle Rock. Alternatively, Clint Calhoun has flagged some easier terrain down toward the creek in the northeast section of the park that's an easier trail and be better for beginners. Larry mentioned that Rumbling Bald Resort (RBR) had hired Trail Dynamics to finish their private trailhead and it is completed. They are going to put the guard rail around it this week. There was discussion about finding a roller to use on the path. Clint suggested checking with the State Park. Larry discussed his meeting with RBR in that the completed bike trail is difficult terrain and that they had talked about a 'warm up path'. They were very interested in this aspect and mentioned and are considering using the boat storage area near the end of West Lake Drive near their trailhead. There was further discussion regarding this. Jessica added that she is waiting for a decision by Wyndham corporate HQs regarding sale/donation of their lot on Buffalo Creek Rd needed for a public parking lot for Buffalo Creek Park. Ed mentioned that he has given maps to Fairfield Mtns.VFD to help them in developing rescue plans. Amy suggested that they get with her regarding emergency access as she knows alternative routes. She has discussed this with Ron Morgan. Chris suggested having a joint session with Lake Lure, Fairfield Mtns., and Bills Creek VFDs regarding an emergency action plan. There was further discussion regarding this.

Morse Park Pedestrian Bridge – Ed mentioned that there would be a meeting tomorrow of a bridge concept group to go over with contracted designer Vic Knight and surveyor Tim Turner to come up with design ideas and specific bridge site location that can be used to inform Council and the general public of what such a pedestrian bridge would look like and once approved in concept can then be sent out as an RFP to bridge contractors/manufactures. Once proposals are back we can get some idea as to what the cost will be for budgeting purposes. We have a commitment from Lake Lure Tours (George Wittmer) to provide some funding support to the project that can be used any potential grant match requirement.

Geese Mitigation – Ed asked Larry Czajkoski to discuss what he has discovered for Canada geese aversion techniques using drone helicopter/multi-rotor equipment. Larry had invited Louie Long who has such equipment and stated that he and Louie had lengthy discussions regarding the geese aversion problem. Louie believed that using such drone equipment would be a really good idea. There was discussion regarding the past Geesepeace aversion techniques using a dog that was very labor intensive and had not been successful since the lake is so large, in that the geese would be scared away from the beach/Morse Park just to fly out into the lake and return when the coast was clear. There was further discussion regarding site aversion using a drone

equipment to scare off the geese. Larry mentioned it would require several such drones used strategically around the lake to make it uninviting for the geese to remain. The time frame to begin this project was discussed. There was discussion regarding the continuing of the oiling of geese eggs to control further geese population growth. There was follow-on discussion regarding the drone and how it would operate. Louie explained the project to the Board. Larry will talk with the Geesepeace director to see how to do this most effectively. Chris mentioned how he had discussed this with RBR and they were very interested. Louie suggested for the Board to call the FAA and discuss this program with them. A lengthy discussion regarding the dynamics of the program followed. Ed suggested using the dogs in conjunction with the drone. Chris suggested Louie putting a plan together with what he can offer. Louie suggested volunteering time to see if it's even going to work. The Board agreed. Larry asked Louie to get together with him to coordinate.

Status of planning for aeration/fountains for beach/marina/Morse Park Gardens - Martyn Watts stated that he has a meeting on 10 February with Mitchell Morton, an aeration system manufacturer. He also is trying to get a meeting together with Foster Lake and Pond Management. Clint mentioned that he has worked with some of the Foster folks and he highly recommended them and said they have a great reputation. Clint got a quote for an aeration system and it is believed that we would need about 8 diffusers that would push about 16K gallons per minute (all units combined). They sit on the bottom with a hose that runs to them from a pump that virtually makes no noise. The cost for this project would be about \$10,000. There was discussion regarding the placement and how it would benefit using them. Clint discussed that, while a fountain may be good, you have a lot more electrical issues versus the diffuser system. There would be no hazard to navigation. Clint mentioned it would be an easy system to move as well. They would be kept outside of the swimming area during the winter. The deeper they are, the more water they move. Clint gave more information regarding the use of this project. Ed discussed the funding, possibly coming from the Lake Operations Department. There will be further discussion regarding this. Clint will make sure that the cost is for the maintenance and upkeep as well.

Status of work on Maintenance List – Melodie explained that she has been painting signs over the past month. She gave Ed a copy of 3 quotes to take the huge black willow trees out near the picnic grounds in Morse Park. There was discussion regarding the cost. These prices did not include removal of the stumps, only cut down and haul off. There was another price to remove the stumps. Melodie will call another tree service as well to get another quote. Melodie will work on getting replacement hardwood trees planted once the willows are removed. The ground is too wet now. Melodie will work with Public Works to lay new rock dust out in the pathways in Morse Park Gardens. Melodie asked if Valerie Hoffman had gotten with Ed regarding painting the park signs. Ed said it was his understanding that they were going to wait until they needed replacing.

New Issues

Amendment and Renewal of Lease Agreement with Dale Minick for continued operation of the Lake Lure Municipal Golf Course – This agreement is for \$75,000 with the Minick family for the operation of the Municipal Golf Course. Ed sent this agreement out to the Board for their

review. Town Council wants to renew for another 2 years at the same cost and they will review again in 2016 to see if either the course is self-supportive at that time or what further steps to take. There was discussion of the maintenance of the golf course and some extra sand that was on the greens. There was discussion from Martyn regarding if a municipal golf course could ever make enough money to be self-supportive. Martyn suggested using the cart paths on the golf course as a recreational amenity for walkers. This would bring more awareness to the course and give a more 'strong hand' as to why we're going to continue spending \$75,000 per year. It was stated that Dale has agreed informally about making the cart paths available. Amy suggested coordinating with the town for signage once some rules were in place. There was discussion about the operation of the course and its use. It was mentioned that it's been a bad year with the weather. Ed asked if there were any problems after the review of the agreement. All agreed to recommend to the Council to renew for another 2 years with review in 2016.

Lake Lure Flowering Bridge Port-a-John – Linda Turner asked if the LLFB Board could borrow a Port-a-John from the Morse Park Meadow area. There was lengthy discussion regarding the upkeep and the appearance of the Port-a-Johns. Clint suggested looking at those in the State Park off of Boys Camp Road. Melodie suggested switching it out to fresh units. There was discussion regarding the cost of maintenance/rental and service. Jonathan suggested purchasing one and just pay for the service. There was discussion regarding the cost of rental versus purchase. It was discussed to purchase and build a containment area for aesthetics purpose. Ed mentioned that he didn't think we needed four units out in the Meadow and if there was an event, the event planner could schedule more for temporary use. Ed asked Melodie to check with Allbright Co. to check on the cost and to research this. There was discussion regarding keeping the Visitor's Center bathrooms opened even though the center was closed, using the police to open and lock it up. Linda mentioned that is not beneficial to the bridge because it would be such a long way to walk. Ed said he did not have a problem as long as the LLFB Board was in charge of maintaining that unit by the bridge. There was further discussion regarding the Visitor Center bathrooms and putting them on a time lock. Jonathan Hinkle volunteered to look into a solution to the need for restrooms in the park and at the bridge.

Update to the Lake Lure Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Plan – Ed discussed that this plan was first developed in 2007, revised in 2009, and again in 2011. Ed asked each Board Member to look at this and to let Ed know what may need change, revision, or deletion and then to get the suggestions to him by email. A copy of the plan is on the Town website. At the next meeting there will be a discussion to summarize the Board's comments and to make a revision to the plan, then get it approved and sent to Council for adoption.

Chairman Ed Dittmer adjourned the meeting at 3:07 p.m.

Minutes were taken and transcribed by Kat Canant, Town of Lake Lure Liaison

The next Parks & Recreation Board Meeting will be March 6, 2013 at 1:30pm