

TOWN OF LAKE LURE

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 5, 2014

Call to Order

Chairman Ed Dittmer called to order the regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board at 1:30pm

Roll Call

Board members present: Ed Dittmer, Jessica Kendall, Jonathan Hinkle, Martyn Watts, Linda Turner, Larry Czajkoski, and Jim Walters

Board members absent:

Town officials present: Parks & Recreation Supervisor Melodie Potter, Environmental Manager Clint Calhoun; Town Manager Chris Braund

Update from Town Manager

Buffalo Creek Park – Everything is looking very good and moving forward. Chris has gotten some feedback on the trail signs. The trail is really being used. There are early plans about putting a footbridge in across Buffalo Creek on the Green trail. Clint has applied the trail permits. Chris met with some folks from the Carolina Climbers Coalition and they're ready to take stewardship of the bolder fields. They're going to have a July workday and have climbers come in and build their trail to the fields.

2014-15 Budget – It looks like we have everyone in agreement with the budget and it has been balanced and it will be voted on at the next Town Council meeting on June 10th. The aerators were not approved however there was \$5K put in towards paving the walkway from the bridge to Boys Camp Road, and \$5K toward trail improvement and development between Jack London and the Point of Rocks area. There was also agreement for the new part time maintenance position. The remainder of the Marina Project fund of \$6K has been reclaimed and it is considered that the Marina Project is complete.

There was discussion regarding feedback from the public on the website concerning the Buffalo Creek Park. Chris mentioned that there is an email address listed for feedback. He also stated that when we get more permanent trail kiosk signs there will be information about going to the

webpage and leaving thoughts or suggestions. There are feedback forms on three sites for cyclists.

Approval of Agenda and Meeting Minutes

The agenda for the June 5, 2014 Board Meeting was reviewed and a motion to accept was made by Jim Walters and seconded by Larry Czajkoski and all were in favor.

The minutes for the May 1, 2014 Board Meeting were reviewed and a motion was made to accept them by Linda Turner and seconded by Jim Walters and all were in favor.

Review of the Budget

Council has approved \$400K this year for silt removal by dredging, and agreed not to raise taxes. Ed discussed other budget issues and the need to get with the LAB to discuss other means to get oxygen into the water other than the aerators. Clint asserted that he really felt the aerators would have worked.

Larry asked where the concern that the aeration wouldn't work came from. Ed disclosed that it was one council member that felt it would not be effective and it would be a waste of money. Another council member felt that the pumps wouldn't last. Ed mentioned to get the LAB involved with them since they were in agreement with this program, to approach Council. There was further discussion regarding this issue. Clint discussed that we had high fecal count numbers in the Broad River this time and at last reading. This could have been due to the collection of samples being taken the day after a heavy rain, which can cause fecal count to accelerate. The beach was in the red the latest reading; however last month the numbers were at an acceptable level. So they'll wait to see what it looks like for the next read.

Jim asked if those numbers could cause a beach closure. Clint stated that it could. Clint said that what would be done is to treat the water with a bacteria killer but sometimes that doesn't work. There was discussion that when the fire department practices their spraying, it actually can help as it aerates the area. Clint discussed that when there is a high reading, they'll go up river to try to locate the problem. For instance, he explained there was a high reading in the lake so they went up to the Geneva and took a reading, which was low, so they knew the issue was between the Geneva and the lake. He wants to see the next reading, since samples were taken right after the rain. There was further discussion regarding the aerators and to approach Council with LAB. Clint explained not addressing this problem could be a huge economic impact. Larry discussed that the \$10k for the aerators would be a small cost in comparison. Ed suggested that the Board try to get a presentation together for council. If it were not budgeted in this FY budget, they may need to do a special allocation.

Status of Buffalo Creek Park Development

(See meeting notes where status was covered by Manager Chris Braund)

Status of Morse Park Improvements

Ed talked with Melodie about some items that needed to be put into her schedule and he talked to Tony regarding the drainage near the picnic shelters. Jonathan suggested creating a drainage path to have it drain out into the river. Martyn suggested a type of French drain. Clint said that the bank out by the dock will at some point need to be redone, and it might be a good time to include this drainage issue. Clint suggested a catch basin in the depression, depending on the elevation. Ed asked for Melodie to take that into consideration before trees are planted out there. Jonathan thought a good time to do this is when they lower the lake this winter.

There was discussion regarding the dredging and the process of where the trucks would be picking up the sediment, which could be the side road to Morse Park along the river. Clint discussed the amount of drop in the lake, which may be 15'. There was further discussion regarding the workings and results of dredging. Martyn suggested building up the road before they started putting trucks on it. Ed felt that was a good idea.

Ed reported that he has received appreciation from people from all over regarding how much they enjoy coming to Morse Park and the work that was put into improving it. Ed suggested putting in a comment box at Morse Park to inquire where they're coming from as well as general comments on the park. Ed did count geese totaling 85 and 11 goslings in Morse Park last week. This would be a reduction of the number close to 120 in previous years, all due to the oiling of eggs.

Larry spoke of some that he has been seen in various areas, but overall definitely not the number in previous years. Ed said there has not been that much droppings on the pathways and they're staying in the grassy areas. There was further discussion regarding the further decreasing the number of geese in the Town Center/Morse Park area.

Status of planning for aeration/fountains for beach and Morse Park Gardens pond

Martyn presented plans for the fountains in the pond. The fountains would create aeration as well. They would spray 6ft high. There was concern on the height not being sufficient. This is the recommendation from Foster Pond Management. The cost is \$4K for both. Martyn discussed the proposals and that by the time you take out all the labor and miscellaneous cost, there is only about \$400 in parts. Melodie suggested looking at the fountain on Boys Camp Road at the Proctors. That this was gravity fed. Martyn suggested Clint look into this feature for the aeration needed by the beach. There was discussion using Pool Creek to aerate the beach area, but there may not be enough elevation difference to produce a gravity fountain effect.

There was discussion regarding the 14-15 FY budget and where to get the money, possibly from the \$10K discretionary fund to get the aeration done. Clint stated that his contact Kerry felt that six aerators would do the trick for the aeration around the beach. Clint mentioned to have him come back out and discuss this again. Martyn suggested putting a pipe up in Pool Creek pulling it down into the lake and just making sure no sediment is coming in.

Jonathan suggested that he would rather attempt to do the aeration than to not do it at all. The Board members agreed with this. Clint said that there was enough evidence out there where aeration has worked and solved problems in other areas. Ed stated that we would have to go back to Council and use the funds designated for extending the walkway to Boys Camp Road and use it instead toward an aeration system at the beach. Jonathan said that even if Council said no, we need to ask them where we could get these funds from. The Board members all felt this was a priority. Clint stated that a lot of people don't understand that dredging is only one of the issues with the lake. Clint stated that evasive species coming into the lake could cost upward of \$400K to rid the lake of them, and then there are aeration issues that are required to be addressed. To properly manage the lake and the resources you need must be looked overall as an entire lake.

Jonathan spoke about how over 3 years the Board dealt with the geese issue and never brought it up to the Council for a solution because it could be a political nightmare. But when we have a program right now, that has had positive results, we need to take this to the front and start getting aeration in the lake. The Board was in agreement. Larry spoke of all the potential problems by not getting aeration in the lake. If LAB agreed, the Board could use the projects funds to get going on this. There was continued discussion regarding the funds. There was discussion regarding going to the Council meeting on Tuesday and going in front of them and the public with this. Jonathan stated that the projects the Council is willing to fund are not priority, the lake is. There was discussion about why to even build a trail that goes to the edge of the lake, when there's going to be a problem with the lake. Jim agreed that this matter needs to be addressed. He stated that instead of the council just saying no, we're not going to fund a solution, they needed to give another answer. Ed mentioned that the Council member that was so opposed suggested getting the aeration from Pool Creek. Jonathan again stated that it would only work if the elevation was enough to force the aeration. Clint agreed that the geography wasn't favorable to support this.

Jonathan stated that this was a consensus that the aeration is an appropriate action to take. There was further discussion on the steps to take to bring this to Council. Ed suggested that several of the members show up at the meeting on Tuesday. Clint stated that at this point we don't have any numbers for that specific area; no supported data other than fecal numbers that can help pull the picture together. Jonathan mentioned that on the same token they (Council) don't have any real numbers on what it's going to take for dredging. They have to do it this year and then base everything off of that.

Clint mentioned that what was important was that data is presented so Council doesn't think we're just spouting off. Martyn expressed that if we don't get this resolved, it could involve closing of the beach, which would be a huge matter. Jonathan suggested that with the same force Council is saying no to aeration they need to show the same force to show us why it isn't needed.

Ed suggested going about this as a Capital Improvement item. If the Board were not to use the designated funds for the pathways/trails, they would need to go before Council and state that they were going to use those funds along with the discretionary funds for something that had a much higher priority. Jessica mentioned the economic impact if this is not dealt with. Jonathan

suggested using \$5K from the pathway/trail funds and \$5K from discretionary. They board agreed that they needed the LAB support.

The Board made plans on going before the Council and emailing them beforehand letting them know of this matter and that it needs to be addressed. Ed will be unable to attend the Council meeting, but has given the Board permission to speak for him. The Board agreed to ask the Council to reallocate the \$5K from the trail to the Point of Rocks), and \$5K from the discretionary fund, into a fund to pay for aeration of the beach.

Status of work on parkland maintenance punchlist

(Issues were dealt with earlier in meeting)

Morse Park spoils berm maintenance and possible visual enhancements

(Deferred to July 3, 2014 Board Meeting)

Open Issues

Ed mentioned an owner of the restaurant, LaStrada, has voiced displeasure over the trees that are growing between Pool Creek and the highway. He asked that they be removed because they're blocking their view. The Town Manager is responding to him. The Board discussed the trees and which were possibly blocking the view. There was further discussion regarding the growth. Ed has given Chris his opinion and the Board felt Chris would respond appropriately.

Ed Dittmer adjourned the meeting at 2:58pm

Minutes were taken and transcribed by Kat Canant, Town Liaison

The next Parks & Recreation Board Meeting will be July 3, 2014