

TOWN OF LAKE LURE
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 3, 2014

Call to Order

Chairman Ed Dittmer called to order the regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board at 1:33pm

Roll Call

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

Board members absent: None

Town officials present: Parks & Recreation Supervisor Melodie Potter, Commissioner Diane Barrett- Council Liaison

Approval of Agenda and Meeting Minutes

The agenda for the July 3, 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 June 5, 2014 Board Meeting were reviewed. A clarification on page 1 was corrected and a grammatical error on page 2 was corrected and a motion was made to accept them by Jim Walters and seconded by Martyn Watts and all were in favor.

Review of the Budget

Ed reviewed the new P & R budget that began on July 1st. The Board discretionary fund was approved for \$20K, to include \$10K for capital improvement projects at the Board's discretion and \$10K for operational needs. An additional parks maintenance part time position was also funded. The aeration system is a go and the equipment has been ordered. \$5K will be used for the continuation of the Town Center Walkway from the Flowering Bridge to the east side of Boys Camp Road. There was discussion regarding materials and cost. Melodie has 10 pallets at 100 sq. ft. per pallet of pavers in storage. There was discussion regarding the planning for a gateway welcome monument, which is planned to be on the west side of Boys Camp Road, with an arch over the Walkway leading on toward Chimney Rock Village.

Status of Buffalo Creek Park

Larry updated the Board on the recent meeting of the executive steering committee. Due to the terrain considerations, there is a parcel of privately owned land that the steering committee would like to make part of the planned new “easy” Green Loop trail across. Town Manager Chris Braund will be talking to the owner next week about the possibility of securing an easement agreement through that property. There was another part of the planned easy trail that Clint was concerned with and there was discussion about improving some of the switchbacks. Ed Sutton from Trail Dynamics is to complete this portion of the trail, but there is a \$10K-\$11K shortfall in the budget. An additional bridge across Buffalo Creek will have to be built regardless. Larry stated the bridge cost is \$7K-\$8K. Based on Clint’s concerns of this area and a shortfall of about \$10- \$11K, the Green Loop trail project will need to be shortened or delayed. Larry feels that we need to have the Green Loop built and that it would allow a lot more casual hikers and bikers. As the trail continues on to Eagle Rock, the trails will become more difficult due to the terrain. There was discussion regarding the people who rent bikes from Rumbling Bald Resort, making sure they know the trail is challenging as is and as the trail completes to Eagle Rock that the bikers know the extreme terrain challenge. There was discussion regarding the Resort practice track which allows the bikers to practice and who is permitted to use this track. Ed mentioned that the Resort is doing a great job advertising the trails. Jessica mentioned that they do cover this in the orientation for guests.

Status of the installation of the Aeration System for the beach area

Ed reviewed a meeting with several members of the P & R Board, L LAB chairman Mark Helms, Public Works, the Lake Operations Director and Clint, George Wittmer and Bo Williams from Lake Lure Tours, and Town Manager Chris Braund. There was an agreement from this meeting on the system and where to put it. It was agreed that the pump house would be the best location. Everyone was very cooperative. Martyn mentioned that the aerators will be in the week of July 27th. Martyn reviewed the system will be less expensive than originally quoted, although was not sure of the exact cost. There was discussion of the operation of the system when the lake is lowered. Ed stated that this particular area would not be re-dug. Larry said that the hoses would be weighted and will settle down into the silt. Martyn suggested taking the stone off the end of the pipes and sealing it so water wouldn’t get in, therefore not allowing the pipes to freeze, but Ed noted that the pipes would be blown out after the water is lowered to prevent any freezing threat. Diane voiced a concern to make sure there is a marker locating the position of the aerators. Martyn thought Clint would be able to mark them by GIS.

There was a brief discussion regarding the geese. It was suggested to George and Bo to do what residents at Firefly Cove are doing by putting up a filament line at night across the beachfront to keep the geese off. There was discussion regarding recommending to Council a limited culling of a percentage of the remaining geese. This would be a geese management program and would be a contracted out program. Tyron Phillips was mentioned for this program. Ed said there was progress on controlling the geese increase, but not in eliminating them, by the egg oiling efforts made over the past several years.

Status of work on parkland maintenance punch list

Melodie mentioned that the new part-timer started on the 2 July. Ed mentioned there was a tree that needed to be addressed in the Donald Ross Park. There was discussion regarding the area that retains water on a couple of the trails to put gravel in. Buffalo Creek Park has some erosion after the recent heavy rains. Melodie said Amy had gone out and inspected this area and they might put in a culvert. Melodie stated that there had been 14 hours of weed eating done overall in the parks. Ed stated that the flowers and grounds at Morse Park looked great and commended Melodie on the great work she is doing.

New Issues

Morse Park spoils berm maintenance and possible visual enhancements

Ed discussed the maintenance of the berm area. Martyn mentioned that the weeds needed to be controlled and that it sounds like attempts are being made. Melodie stated that Tony Hennessee has been spraying the weeds on the berm area with a broadleaf herbicide, and that weed eating the berm area would have to be hired out, 2 men for 8 hours. There was further discussion regarding this. Diane asked about the past problem with the groundhogs creating large holes in the berm. Ed mentioned that Clint had trapped several groundhogs and the problem has lessened. Martyn stated that since the budget was restricted this year, we didn't have the funds right now to make any improvements that he would suggest to landscape the berms and removed the proposal for discussion at a later date.

Restricted Picnic Area across Pool Creek from the beach

Jonathan proposed opening up this seldom used restricted picnic area to the public. The discussion of public access to this area noted that it is restricted now only for use by patrons of the beach under the current contract with Lake Lure Tours and would need to be discussed with them. There was discussion regarding allowing public access to that area. Martyn suggested working with George Wittmer on this. Ed said that Lake Lure residents now have free access to the beach and picnic grounds there by showing identification, but he would talk with the Town Manager regarding making this area open to all.

Jonathan made a motion for the Board to recommend to the Town Manager, who would then bring it to Council, to look into efforts for opening the Pool Creek park area up to the public. There was a brief discussion regarding the use and possible issues regarding people crossing over into the beach area. The motion was seconded by Martyn Watts and all were in favor.

Requested removal of the trees in the picnic area across from LaStrada Restaurant

Ed had given his recommendation to the Town Manager after the Board's discussion at the June meeting. The Zoning and Planning Board has also given their view on this. Both Boards are hesitant to establish a precedence regarding removal of any trees on Town property due simply

to the wants or desire of some. There was further discussion regarding this matter. Ed stated that Chris would correspond with the owner of the restaurant on the decision.

Ed added that there is an asset management committee underway that will advise Town Council on what to do with certain Town properties. The area by Pool Creek is a prime area. The Town boat house and ABC store are all prime potential commercial development areas and could be relocated and the property put to better use for a tax benefit to the town.

New Discussion

Jonathan asked that the dredging plans for this winter be brought up as an agenda item at the next meeting. It was brought up about how the dredging operators should not use the pathway in Morse Park along the river. Jonathan strongly stated that the park area needs to be preserved. It was suggested that any dredging trucks use the boat landing area over by the ABC store and the adjacent parking area there if at all possible.

Ed Dittmer adjourned the meeting at 2:35pm

Minutes were taken and transcribed by Kat Canant, Town Liaison

The next Parks & Recreation Board Meeting will be August 7, 2014