

TOWN OF LAKE LURE
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 4, 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, Jonathan Hinkle, Martyn Watts, Jessica Kendall, Linda Turner and Jim Walters

Board members absent: Larry Czajkoski

Town officials present: Parks & Recreation Supervisor Melodie Potter and Environmental Management Officer Clint Calhoun

Approval of Agenda and Meeting Minutes

The agenda for the September 4, 2014 Board meeting was reviewed and a motion to accept was made by Linda Turner and seconded by Jim Walters and all were in favor.

The minutes for the August 7, 2014 Board Meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept was made by Linda Turner and seconded by Jonathan Hinkle and all were in favor.

Review of the Budget

Ed reviewed the status of this year's P&R budget. The aerator system for the water area near the beach is the only expense so far this year. Approximately \$10K remains in the budget for parks projects to be spent at the discretion of the P & R Board. Operational funds for parks maintenance appear adequate at this time, but Melodie will be obligating much of her beautification budget planting in the spring

Status of Buffalo Creek Park Development

Ed updated the Board that Trail Dynamics will start in October to finish the remaining contracted 1.5 miles of trail under Phase 1. The trail will head west to the end of park, forming a leg of the Summit trail. Vic Knight with Knight Strategies has submitted plans for the 1 acre lot on Buffalo Creek Road intended for an expanded public trailhead parking lot. The Town is awaiting approval from Rumbling Bald Resort POA Board for a parking lot on this residential lot within the Resort before taking any further steps on acquiring the needed property, Buffalo Creek Park continues to post impressive use numbers, as the loop trail in the Park was utilized by approximately 1,100 guests in July, 80% of whom were hikers.

Town Center Walkway Expansion

There hasn't been much advancement in the plans at this point in time. The Town has sent the plans to NCDOT and are awaiting the NCDOT approval. The P & R Board has funds this year available to work on extending the Walkway from the west end of the Flowering Bridge to Boys Camp Road, and is working with the Community Development staff and the Flowering Bridge Board to complete this portion of the Walkway.

Parkland Vision in Town Center Master Plan

Ed reviewed the extensive parkland and open space envisioned in the final proposal for the Town Center Small Area Master Plan and the Rocky Broad Gateway Plan and commented that the two steering committees that have been working with Shannon Baldwin, Community Development Director, have a clear vision of the kind of welcoming and event oriented space needed for Lake Lure Town Center. The plans are going to be presented to the Town Council on September 9, 2014 for review and approval.

Status of Maintenance Punch List

Ed reviewed the punch list of work items with Melodie. Melodie commented that she and her temporary hires were tied up in park maintenance in Morse Park and the Town Center due to the major events staged there in August, but will get to some needed trail maintenance work in Donald Ross Park and lay some rock dust in Morse Park where needed.

Capital Improvements

Martyn brought up discussion on improvements to the picnic area in Morse Park. Jonathan agreed to visit the area with Martyn to come up with a plan to present to the Board for consideration for inclusion in next year's capital improvements budget consideration.

New Issues

A Citizen's Proposal for parkland acquisition in the Apple Valley Area

Bill Frykberg, a resident of the Apple Valley area of the Town, presented a proposal for the acquisition by the Town of an 18 acre prime piece of property located the Apple Valley area off Winesap Blvd. and asked if the Board would be interested in pursuing the acquisition of this property having a large pond and a building and parking area that offers a great park and community meeting space that could be quickly brought to use as a park in an area that is not serviced by a Town park. It is currently privately owned by a local family headed by an elderly mother, and in the view if Mr. Frykberg, now is the time to approach the owner for possible acquisition of the property before it gets divided among heirs or is sold for development by others. After much discussion both pro and con on the merits of the proposal, Martyn made a motion that the Board withhold further action on any recommendation on the proposal until Town Manager Chris Braund is consulted for his view of the proposal and to obtain additional information about the property, the condition of the existing building, and grounds maintenance load. Linda seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Ed Dittmer adjourned the meeting at 2:45pm.

Minutes were taken by Jessica Kendall, Board Member

The next Parks & Recreation Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 2, 2014