

TOWN OF LAKE LURE

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 6, 2014

Call to Order

Chairman Ed Dittmer called to order the regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board at 1:35pm

Roll Call

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

Board members absent: Jessica Kendall

Town officials present: Commissioner Diane Barrett, Town Manager Chris Braund, Parks & Recreation Supervisor Melodie Potter,

Approval of Agenda and Meeting Minutes

The agenda for the November 6, 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 September Board Meeting were previously approved and are posted on the Town's website.

Review of the Budget

No changes in spending or budgeted activity since the last meeting. Ed mentioned that the remaining \$10K in P & R Board discretionary spending is earmarked for extending the Town Center Walkway to Boys Camp Road and he is holding off on any additional expenditure pending that work.

OPEN ISSUES

Status of Buffalo Creek Park

Town Manager Chris Braund updated the Board on the use of the trail. He anticipates that the total number of users by year end will be 5000. The count began in May. Next year he anticipates an even larger number of users. The Trail Dynamics crew is back extending the trail. There is almost 3000 ft of new trail. Expected completion for Phase I is a week to ten days.

With the remaining budget one additional mile should be completed for Phase I. Construction of Phase 2 to extend the trail to Eagle Rock on Shumont Mountain will begin as soon as necessary permits are obtained. The trail has been flagged at this point. The whole trail to Eagle Rock will be a bikeable trail as well as hiking. Total of trail work under Phase 2 will be about 7-8 miles. There was discussion regarding back pack camping and possible locations. There was also discussion regarding other possible access points. Beyond Eagle Rock the Summit Trail will be the responsibility of Chimney Rock State Park. There are existing trails/logging roads that traverse the top of Rumbling Bald Mountain and come around toward the trail to Party Rock, which is at the far eastern end of Rumbling Bald Mountain. There is access to the Blue Herron Point development as well. The trail that currently goes to Party Rock is heavily eroded. As this is state parks property, they would need to work on this trail. The loop that is in place now, offers a nice hike. As the trail continues it gets a little bit of climbing and effort, but beautiful views.

Returning to the discussion of Buffalo Creek Park, it was pointed out that there is a logging road for access for maintenance and possible emergencies extending into the western part of BCP from Summit Drive within Rumbling Bald Resort. Larry mentioned that the resort might allow access on this road, not for public, but for maintenance and emergencies. Phase 2 does not have a firm target date, due to the need to allow for weather change delays.

The trail to the climbing boulders within BCP is being worked on. The steps are completed at the top of the trail, but work remains at the bottom. Chris reminded the Board of the December 13th Triple Crown bouldering competition event at Rumbling Bald Mountain

Chris continued to fill the Board in on trails up to Young's Mountain and the southern slopes of the Tatanka development. The summit of Young's Mountain has been sold by the Dalton family to a conservation buyer who supports trails. The CMLC and the trail coordinator have been discussing plans for this property. There was some discussion regarding access to this possible trail.

Chris discussed the Americorps 11 month program that began last year with Amy Allamong. She has finished up and has done a great job. Her replacement is Dana and she works out of the Lake Operations Department office.

Tryon International Equestrian Center

Chris mentioned the new Tryon International Equestrian Center about 12 miles south of Lake Lure on Pea Ridge Road in eastern Polk County south of Mill Spring. The developers are building a massive facility to host equestrian events for a 30 week season. They are very familiar with the market being that they have a center in Florida. The Center will have a significant amount of lodging properties that will come on line over the next few years, cabins, lodges, etc. For the next several years they are very short of lodging. They are asking all the lodging owners nearby including Lake Lure to get ready. The Rutherford Tourism Development Authority (TDA) has hired a consultant to maximize the impact of this opportunity for the Rutherford County hospitality market. His message: the hospitality and tourism people in the Gorge are going to have to step it up. The equestrian people want to establish a level of quality.

There was further lengthy discussion regarding how the Chamber of Commerce can help. The discussion also regarded how the TDA could help benefit hoteliers and businesses in their area by helping to promote them to the Equestrian Center. There was mention of signage/billboards. Chris said the TDA is deeply involved in spreading the word. Martyn mentioned asking the Council, 'what role should we be playing in this?' Chris suggested the Board giving suggestions to the Council. There was further discussion regarding whose responsibility it is to market the area. Jim mentioned that it would be a disaster if the Board talked about all of this, but nothing was done. There was further discussion regarding how to get with the Council to see what can be done as a community to bring traffic from the Equestrian Center to Lake Lure. Martyn asked if Commissioner Barrett could bring this economic opportunity to the Council. The Board agreed and asked Diane to get with the Council on what part they could play in this market. Chris mentioned the possibility of grants for funding.

Status of Town Center Walkway extension

There has been a Gateway design that was presented to the Flowering Bridge Board and they are all in agreement on the route of the Walkway from the bridge to Boys Camp Road. Chimney Rock Village has been brought in on the plan as well. Shannon has been in negotiation with NCDOT to get an easement. There are funds available in the P& R budget this fiscal year to finish this project.

Status of work on parkland maintenance punch list

Melodie mentioned that she and Public Works have been putting rock dust on the Morse Park walking paths. They've started putting up Christmas lights. There was discussion about the drainage area near the Morse Park picnic area. Melody mentioned that Tony didn't think he had the expertise to grade that area for proper drainage, so there was a question of the process. Jonathan discussed shooting the area to see what the grade was. Melody asked for Jonathan's help in doing this.

There was discussion about where the Polar Plunge was going to take place due to the lake being down. The Plunge will be at The Lake Lure Inn pool. There was discussion about the problems of holding it at the Morse Park gazebo and it was agreed that it would be a poor place to have it again.

NEW ISSUES

Recommendations for development of Pool Creek Park

There was discussion regarding the parkland area between Pool Creek and Memorial Highway. Chris had tasked the Board to work with Public Works to create a plan that would be inviting to let the public know that it was to open for public use. The Board discussed what to do with the fence and where to put the entrances, as well as a possible gateway with arch. There was discussion about access. Ideas regarding picnic tables, trash receptacles, access to the boat dock area to allow kayaker entrance, a grilling area, etc. Melodie explained to the Board that the restrooms in front of the east Beach entrance were for public use. Commissioner Barrett

suggested an amphitheatre in the area. Martyn mentioned that music events had been tried there, but due to the noise there were a lot of complaints. He also mentioned that parking became an issue with large events. There was discussion of a Jungle Gym; however they are priced at \$30K. There was further discussion regarding the possibilities of the area. There was also discussion regarding the picnic park area on the other side of the bridge by the Arcade building.

The Board agreed to meet at the site at 9:30 Wednesday (11/12/14) to further discuss plans and to look at the site.

Bank stabilization work in Morse Park pond this winter

Ed mentioned an area on the south side of the pond where the bank is washing away. There was discussion regarding ways to stabilize the area. Melodie mentioned coconut fiber use. Jonathan discussed Filtrex which is a fiber that you can stake it in. Jonathan has some brochures that he will bring to next meeting. It has a mulch base. The Filtrex system information can be found on the web at <http://www.filtrexx.com> There was further discussion regarding the way the system worked. The Board liked the idea and wanted to look into it further. Ed mentioned he was looking at rock. Ed mentioned he wanted the Board to look further into it as it needed to be done before the lake is put back up in the spring. Ed asked to postpone any decisions until options can be looked at. They'll complete the discussion in the next meeting.

NC-9 Small Area Study recommendation and impact on Donald Ross Nature Trail Park

Ed reviewed the NC 9 Small Area Study with the Board. Vic Knight has been involved in this study. He reviewed a map that has been used for planning and discussed the plans with the Board. Ed discussed how it may impact the Donald Ross Trail system. There was discussion regarding trails that may be taken away as LLCA grows. Ed has an agreement with Russ Pitts of the LLCA school board, that if any of the trails are taken out by school construction work, the school will work with the Board in building new replacement trails.

Commissioner Barrett mentioned that at the NC9 Small area Study meetings, they were also discussing assisted living facilities in the area. Other potential uses are hotel sites, mixed use commercial and residential development, and a repurposing of the municipal golf course. There was mention of a farmers market as well. As portions of Rutherford and Polk Counties are included in the planning area, representatives of both counties have participated in the study discussions and are working together with the Town of Lake Lure as to what's in their master plans for the area so that there is no conflict.

Ed Dittmer adjourned the meeting at 3:15pm

Minutes were taken and transcribed by Kat Canant, Town Liaison

The next Parks & Recreation Board Meeting will be December 4, 2014