



Town of *Lake Lure* est. 1927 North Carolina

Lake Lure Parks & Recreation Board Meeting **May 7, 2015 Minutes**

Call to Order

Chairman Jim Walters called to order the regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board at 1:32

Roll Call

Board Members present:

Jim Walters
Linda Turner
Larry Czajkoski
Martyn Watts
Ed Dittmer
Dale Minick

Board Members absent:

Vic Knight

Town Officials present:

Town Manager Chris Braund
Town Council Liaison Diane Barrett
Environmental Manager Clint Calhoun,
Parks & Recreation Supervisor Melodie Potter

Others present:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MEETING MINUTES

The agenda for the May 7, 2015 meeting was reviewed. A change in order was made by moving the Geese discussion (#12) to the first topic.

A motion was made by Ed Dittmer to accept the Agenda as presented with changes; seconded by Linda Turner; all were in favor.

The minutes of the April 2, 2015 meeting were reviewed.

A motion was made by Linda Turner to accept the minutes as presented; seconded by Larry Czajkoski; all were in favor.



Geese Mitigation

Larry Czajkoski updated the Board on Geese Peace efforts. In the past two weeks Ed and Larry went out on the lake, with the exception of Buffalo Bay. They found 9 nests with only 44 eggs. He reported that the geese count has gone down as well as the nest and egg count. The geese behavior is odd in that the majority of these nest had no male geese near them. Larry and others will continue to go around to continue oiling what eggs they find. There was discussion about the very small amount of goslings that they've noticed around town. Larry was very pleased with the reduction and there was discussion regarding what might attribute to such a reduction. Clint Calhoun suggested the odd and long winter might have been a cause but the Board overall agreed that the "harassment" of the geese by egg oiling over the past five years seems to be successful. Notes have been made and Larry suggested keeping an eye on things as well as seeing how things go this next year. Clint thought that what was being done was a very good approach to the problem the town has had with the geese population. Town Manager Chris Braund asked the Board if they would like to write an article on the great success of the egg oiling. This was discussed and the Board wanted to wait until later. Chris Braund mentioned that an article should be thought about and that the view from the public should be positive being that this was a much more humane approach to problem geese populations. There was further discussion and the result was to wait and see how things were going in regards to an article. There have been no complaints regarding the oiling of eggs.

Jim Walters spoke of how horrible Lake Junaluska was since they have an over-abundance of geese and there is no control measures taken. Larry really felt that the Board had done a great job over the last five years in doing the best thing for the lake. Clint stated that he had asked Tyrone Phillips about euthanizing the geese and Tyron opted out and stated it would not be good for him and he didn't want to go down that road.

There was a discussion regarding the duck population that seems to have increased with ducks such as the Buffle Heads, Mallards, Cormorants, Loons and Kill Deer. There was discussion that the wild ducks were reappearing due to the drop in the geese population. Larry will continue to monitor the project.

Lake Lure Flowering Bridge and Town of Lake Lure – Village of Chimney Rock road connector walkway

Linda Turner mentioned that the recent flower sale had brought in \$9000 (this is before plant cost is deducted). There is now a mural scene on old wooden doors that Amy Wald and Veryl Lynn Cox put together. The Annual Meeting will be in June. The bridge is looking very nice after our hard winter. Bill Miller is working with a phone tour, where you'll be able to use your phone to dial a station number on the bridge to get information about that particular location. Bill found donors to support the cost. Linda mentioned that they are looking for other sponsors as well. They have had to cut their payback to the preservation fund from \$5000.00 to \$2500.00. They are discussing advertisement for those who sponsor. There was discussion regarding a take home brochure which sponsors could advertise in as well. Melodie Potter mentioned that the Flowering Bridge banners are now up in front of the Town Hall and the Ingles banner location.



Donald Ross Park and Trail System

Ed Dittmer brought the Board up to specs with the trail system which the trail to the meadow area has opened up. There are construction barriers to keep guests on the trail system so they'll not wander over into the school property. The shelter has been secured and the area around needs mulching. There was a problem with drainage in the meadow where Ed used fill dirt. He found that there was a runoff of water up on the hillside that collects after the rain. He made a trench to divert the runoff of water. There was discussion with Chris Braund regarding use of a professional designer for steeper trails. Chris gave Ed two contacts to make recommendations. They will be flagging the trails hopefully using volunteers. There was discussion using the old logging road as a trail and they still needed to get with the owners of this land. Overall the trails are holding up very well. Chris Braund discussed the use of trails for classes but also to make sure the public was aware not to venture onto the school grounds during school hours. Ed also mentioned putting a new trail behind the church. Chris Braund spoke of the beautiful panoramic views and destinations now afforded to the public by this trail system.

Lake Lure Public Golf Course

Dale Minick stated that the membership at the course is 37, the same as last year at this time. He is optimistic for 50. Their goal is 75. The April rounds played is the same as last year as well. May 20th they will be laying out the new course for Foot Golf. Dale will be marketing on TV and in the newspaper. He will be renting the Soccer Balls out. Foot Golf has National Tournaments. The round of Foot Golf will be the same as a round of Golf. Dale said he was excited see how this new event will take off. He will be checking with athletic stores to exchange advertising for soccer balls. Dale thanked the Park and Recreation Board for their help and funding to get this going.

Pool Creek Park

Jim Walters updated the Board on moving forward on plans for the new dock. Chris Braund stated that the same contractor that did the Marina docks is doing the Pool Creek dock. Dean Givens is getting with Tony Hennessee to get the old dock removed as well as removing the concrete and installing rip rap.

Jim mentioned in regards to the Porta-Potty issue at the Marina, he will be getting with the TDA to get the okay for use of their restrooms after hours, that way the Porta-Potty's can be removed from the parking area.

Melodie felt that Pool Creek Park can be up and running by Memorial Day. She plans on putting tables, grills and trash receptacles in the new budget to install in the park area. For the upcoming holiday she'll get some trash receptacles to place in the park. Jim is working with Valerie on signage. There was discussion for getting with the ABC store to let them know of parking for the park. Chris Braund stated that there are plans for repaving that lot and when it's done they'll put designated spots by the ABC building, for customer parking only when open.

Jim spoke to the Board about a possible new look for the boardwalk area. Councilman Bob Cameron, Vic Knight and Town Planner Shannon Baldwin met last week and are discussing pulling the shore out into the lake further around the corner of Memorial Hwy, just past the Marina on Hwy 64/74A. They had a discussion concerning with the boardwalk replacement, and at the same time to add shoreline



out enough to add a pull in parking area. The boardwalk would have the same material as the new Marina walkways. The addition would be secured by boulders. The addition would begin at the Marina and follow the current shoreline around to the pump house. This follows the design for the Town Center Plan. There was discussion amongst the Board Members regarding the pros and cons for the idea.

Town Parks and Recreational Punch List

Melodie Potter updated the Board on positions that were filled for her staff. Ed stated that everything looks very good. He also applauded the work that Melodie and her team did on the soccer field area of Morse Park after rain, in order for the schools to play.

Melodie informed the Board that even though there is a grate to keep carp out of the pond, they've gotten in and have laid eggs along the shore line. There was discussion, which Chris Braund took note of, regarding Donnie pulling down the lake about a foot, in order to dry out the eggs. Melodie is going to coordinate with a 'carp wrangler' to make sure he's ready for the level lowering so he can get the carp that made their way into the pond area. She will also work on the mesh to secure it.

Buffalo Creek Park

Larry Czajkoski brought the Board up to date on the Phase II development. He mentioned that Ed Sutton from Trail Dynamics still had some deliverables he needed to take care of. There was discussion concerning the time frame for the grants and that these items needed to be completed. Chris Braund mentioned that they can extend the date with written request showing that they're making progress. There was further discussion about the next planning phase and when to put out this portion to bid. Larry stated that the grant money was \$180K for the seven mile segments for trail building. Clint stated that this was rough country and he wouldn't be surprised if the plan came out to cost more than what was originally scoped out. There was discussion on diverting some of the path than the original plan. Clint agreed it was a better route than he had looked at. Assuming those easements can be acquired, that would be the way to go.

Chris said that he would be getting the foot traffic numbers and count them from last April to this April. Larry showed the board an email from the Outdoor Coalition and they're holding a Buffalo Creek Park Challenge. This is in conjunction with the town and several area establishments. Larry explained the challenge and the prizes that would be awarded. This would be during the month of May and for different age groups.

Clint informed that Dana apologized for not being able to attend today's meeting. She has been working out on the trail working on seeding and is also getting some of the rock down in some of the gullies. She is having a difficult time getting the rock out there in a wheelbarrow. Clint discussed options. Chris mentioned that there is an incredible crew out there working. He mentioned that the trails, that had been damaged during heavy downpour, have seemed to 'self-heal' themselves. There were still some places that needed help, but the first route is in a great maintenance mode. Valerie is working on a new set of signs identifying points along the trail. There is currently mile markers that coordinate with the color of the trail you're on.

Larry also mentioned an article he saw in the Life Section of the USA Today titled "Come to Lake Lure for Dirty Dancing". Martyn mentioned that he has seen much more traffic at his establishment. There



was discussion regarding the new mini-series of Dirty Dancing. Chris Braund said that Lionsgate has not revealed the new sites for filming. The town is working with our TDA and Michelle on getting these folks invited out here. There was further discussion regarding this.

New Business

Budget Considerations

Jim is working with Ed on the preparations. Chris Braund mentioned he has the CIP from prior years and anything that we haven't done, he has moved forward. For next years, he's added the extension of the walkway all the way to Chimney Rock and presuming that we get the DOT grant we pay 20% of that and split that with Chimney Rock Village and then split that at \$40K over the next two budget years. We would also have the \$10K for discretion. Chris said other than that we may not be able to fit anything else. Ed mentioned that we had wanted to build a large Picnic Pavilion, as well as repaving the walkways in Morse Park. Chris asked Ed to give him the cost estimates. He said that those most likely would need to go for future years and that most of the budget would go to the walkway projects. Melody mentioned about some erosion out at the point and wanted to know if she should get some price estimates. Chris asked her to get with Dean being that he had already been working on that. Clint confirmed that Dean was talking with Tim about this.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Linda Turner and seconded by Ed Dittmer. The May 7th meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board was adjourned by Jim Walters with all in favor at 3:15 p.m.

Minutes were taken by Town Liaison Kat Canant

The next Parks & Recreation Board meeting will be June 4th, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.

