



Lake Lure Parks & Recreation Board Meeting

March 3, 2016 Minutes

Call to Order

Chairman Jim Walters called to order the March 2016 meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board at 1:30pm

Roll Call

Board Members present:

Jim Walters

Ed Dittmer

Linda Turner

Martyn Watts

Dale Minick

Vic Knight

Larry Czajkoski

Board Members absent:

Town Officials present:

Town Council Liaison Stephen Webber

Others present:

Dana Bradley, Rutherford County AmeriCorps Representative

Melodie Potter, Parks & Recreation Supervisor

Clint Calhoun, Environmental Manager

Debbie Shetterly and Rebecca Robinson of Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy (CMLC)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MEETING MINUTES

The agenda for the March 3, 2016 meeting was reviewed. Jim Walters asked to amend the agenda by moving item #6 up to the forefront of the meeting.

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

The minutes of the February 8, 2016 Special Meeting were reviewed.

A motion was made by Linda Turner to approve the minutes; the motion was seconded by Dale Minick; all were in favor.

Buffalo Creek Park – Guests Debbie Shetterly and Rebecca Robinson

The Board reviewed a hand out given to them by Debbie Shetterly and Rebecca Robinson of Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy. CMLC guests discussed the Buffalo Creek Park and the Weed Patch property which the CMLC currently owns. The idea is to expand Buffalo Creek Park by the Town obtaining the Weed Patch property. There was review of the hand out. There was discussion about the past history of the property being used for timber and how CMLC acquired the property (1324.25 acres) which is rich with streams, waterfalls and vistas. It is also because of the rare species, a prime conservation area. The Weed Patch property was obtained by CMLC in 2009 and in 2010 sold a portion to the town to form Buffalo Creek Park. That transaction will be similar to what the proposal is to purchase the Weed Patch property, in that this will go through the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund and apply for the grant at no cost to the town. There was an explanation of how the grant fund would work. The proposal is that the town purchase the 1324.25 acres through the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund at the cost of \$350,000. There is a requirement for a 50% match, which there will be no problem with as CMLC is donating more than ½ the value of the land. There was discussion about the appraisal CMLC feels they are right in line with. CMLC will monitor the conservation easement and will be willing to look at a long term maintenance agreement. The town would take on fire and rescue services and continue the trail system. There was further discussion regarding funding which was covered in the hand out.

The CMLC guests discussed the benefits for the town. The land would be a tourist draw offering great trails and facilities with a possibility of overnight camping which the town currently lacks. It assures that a major portion of the Summits Trail will come into completion. It was mentioned that this was one of the most mentioned needs in a recent survey that was sent out to the town recently. There was further discussion of the proposal in that it would be a win/win for both parties. The Board and guests discussed the land layout such as the waterfalls and trout streams. This land does include the Gray Rock Vista. Chimney Rock State Park is looking at developing access which may include parking. There is a piece of the land that is in Buncombe County. There was discussion as to whether that would cause a problem. Clint discussed annexation should the town want to do that.

Ed wondered if the town was taking on too much responsibility with future development of that property. He discussed Chimney Rock State Park may have the possibility of gaining funds with the bond that is going to be voted on next week. It was discussed thought that those funds have specific uses and most likely could not be used for this. Larry was concerned about the maintenance. Debbie discussed the habitat and that with this proposal it would leave this habitat alone. The trail would be another portion, and the CMLC would be looking at maintaining that. Larry asked if the maintenance would be a “for fee”. CMLC guest have not discussed that yet. They did state that they would be volunteering a lot of time with the trails. They stated as well that obtaining this land would put it in the jurisdiction of the town, and the town could also request mutual aid from Broad River.

There was further discussion regarding the grant process. Larry wondered if that using the trust fund again so soon would affect the town in the future in either a positive or negative way. CMLC stated that it does impact the town in that they look at your past management of use of the trust fund, what it was used for and the maintaining of what it was used for. If the town did a good job they look at that as well. Clint stated that’s a good reason to finish the trail project so that they can see this work.

There was discussion about the use of the grants back to back. Clint explained how the process works, explaining that they won't discriminate against a group because they apply all the time. CMLC stated that there were groups in Charlotte that applied successfully every year. There was discussion about the gorge being an advantage because of the uniqueness of the area. Larry felt that it would be a good way to show what good stewards the town was of the land. Larry felt that the proposal was very well put together.

CMLC needs the Parks and Recreation Board's approval to take the proposal to Town Council. There was further discussion regarding how the proposal was written with the match included, and that the town gains almost 1525 acres. Linda wondered about the control of invasive species. CMLC stated that Weed Patch is under a plan where a crew goes out twice a year and maintains it and will continue.

Larry made a motion to recommend the Proposal from Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy to the Lake Lure Town Council for approval. The motion was seconded by Ed Dittmer and all were in favor.

Commissioner Steve Webber was asked if he thought anything needed to be addressed. He mentioned that because the town would be taking on fire and rescue, they would need to look at that and any additional cost the town may take on by obtaining the land. On the surface he felt that it sounded great, being that it was obtaining the land for basically nothing. Melodie reminded everyone that the Forestry Service would take on fires as they do with other areas. The town's fire service would be first responders until they got there. Steve asked that CMLC provide a time plan for when this will be happening.

There was further discussion regarding the benefits of obtaining this property and the many people it would bring to the area as well as the future of trail plans.

Larry mentioned in the continuation of the Buffalo Creek topic that they're about to start up trail construction. There are two construction crews. One is ACE out of Asheville. There is a timeline of March to December 16 for the project to be complete. The resort is being receptive and cooperative. Trail Dynamics will be partially involved on the project with their machinery. Larry discussed the excavation portion. Larry was unsure if there would be steps or any structures as Vic asked about. Clint stated that CMLC was taking over the project management. Clint discussed a possible plan revision being that the trail was being moved. This is a variation from what was proposed to the state. Larry read the written uses of the land for Phase 1.

Presentation of the proposed "Naming Standard" to Commissioner Webber for his consideration and presentation to Town Council – Jim Walters

Jim talked about that based on information from Valarie Hoffman, he put together a Naming Standard which was handed out to the Board. The Board reviewed the hand out. Jim felt that by having this in place it puts guidelines for naming the town's parks. There was discussion regarding the proposal and its points. It was mentioned it provided structure.

Linda made a motion for the Park and Recreation Board to submit the Naming Standard guidelines to Council for adoption. The motion was seconded by Martyn Watts and all were in favor.

Steve said he would get with Andi to make sure this got on Tuesday's agenda for Town Council. Jim said he would be there in case there were any questions.

Geese Mitigation

Jim mentioned that he had sent the Board the analysis that he prepared. Larry sent Jim some corrections. Jim felt that as far as a public relations standpoint that if the Board agrees with the principles in the recommendation that he get with Valarie to put in the town's newsletter and other printings to take a proactive effort to let the public know not to feed the geese. There was discussion that by getting this public and what the end result may be if progress is not seen that people may want to volunteer more. There was discussion to involve trained dogs. Larry felt that Jim's paper was well written and that his additions were to let Council know there has been great effort made. The Board discussed the past efforts made. Jim stated he will incorporate Larry's additions and get it to Town Council. Melodie talked about having an egg oiling day followed by a picnic. There was discussion regarding this. Larry felt that it didn't take that large of an effort to oil the eggs and that it could be a dangerous task. Melodie mentioned new areas where geese are paired up. Larry asked her to keep her eyes opened for any new areas of nesting. Larry asked that they find a person to take his place this year due to his physical condition. He could maneuver the boat.

Lake Lure Flowering Bridge – Linda Turner

The Friends of the Bridge Board are unsure about whose responsibility it is to pay the utility cost. Ed said it was the towns. There was discussion regarding the amount of water that was being used. Linda discussed that Bill will be approaching the Council on Tuesday regarding that the town should pay the cost of utilities. There was discussion as to where the money should come from, Linda felt the Park & Rec's budget. There was discussion regarding the use of electric. Jim wondered if the Christmas lights needed to be on constantly. Jim stated that was mentioned to him. Martyn talked to Chris and Chris stated that there is a state mandate that whoever uses the water should pay for it. Martyn discussed with the Board the discussion he and Chris Braund had. Linda reviewed Bill's letter to the Council. Steve stated that the utility commission was supposed to have their second meeting and that the topic of who should be paying for the bridge utilities was to have been discussed, but he wasn't sure that it was. Steve felt that it was a park asset and that it should be Parks & Recreation's cost. Linda stated that Bill may not be approaching the Council at the March meeting but that the letter was to be reviewed with Chris prior to the Friends of the Bridge meeting on Monday. There was discussion regarding the lighting by solar lighting. Windmills were discussed. Jim offered to come to the meeting with Bill and Chris at 1pm Monday.

The pavers are all used now. Linda discussed the areas where they have been used and the cost for laying the remainder pavers. Jim is going to look if there is any money left for this year for pavers. There have been fund raising efforts in progress. Linda asked if the golf course could start selling some of the tee shirts and the remainder of the license plates and Dale agreed.

Jim mentioned there are two big trees in the parking area. They are both dying. Jim felt they needed to come down. He asked if Public Works should take care of this or how he should take care of it. They are on town property. Steve suggested to notify Chris and have him get with Public Works. Melodie said she would mention it to Tony on Monday.

Donald Ross Park and Trail System – Ed Dittmer

Ed updated that Board that he and Dana will go out in the next two weeks and do some work on the trail. There is a big tree down and he reported it to Melodie to get it removed. They are waiting on renaming the park before putting up any new signage. There was discussion regarding the cost of the signs.

Lake Lure Public Golf Course – Dale Minick and Martyn Watts

In February there were 124 players. There were 2 Foot Golf rounds. For the total year to date there have been 266 Golfers plus 12 foot golfers totaling 278, better than last year to date of 269. There was a lot of damage on the creek bank due to the heavy rains. Dale said he discussed with Chris Braund if there was funds available to help with the damage. There has been continued work on the greens. They have been using Morganite, sewage of Milwaukee. It's very inexpensive fertilizer. Crab grass control goes out soon.

Dale reviewed budget needs with the Board in a hand out. He stated the building needed work and the septic system needed replacing. Dale discussed an itemized list with the Board with included adding a food service area such as sandwiches and drinks. Carpet needs replacement. The front deck needs replacing as well as supports. There was a moisture issue with mold on the joists under the clubhouse. Steve suggested a type of ventilation.

Dale also reviewed the subsidy and what they're asking for the next three years. There was discussion regarding the budget and request. There was discussion that Chris Braund asked Dale to come to the Park and Recreation Board for budget decisions. Vic felt like the board needed to see profits and loss before any decisions are made. Dale wasn't sure where the cost of the golf course came out of the town's budget.

Martyn discussed the damage occurring under the clubhouse and suggested repairs. There was also mention of geese that have been frequent at the course. Dale will keep an eye on their activity.

Pool Creek Park – Vic Knight

The bridge is gone. Lake Lure Tours has received bids for building the deck. Vic was asked to put together zoning plans regarding flood plains. Vic stated that he doesn't see an affordable plan for the deck with the zoning issues. Valarie is on standby until the Board comes up with an official name for Pool Creek Park.

Dredging has started in the lake. Jim mentioned that he will get with the dredging company to use some of the dredge for the berm area. Melodie mentioned that she didn't know if what the dredging was pulling up now would be suitable for that use. Martyn stated he used some dredging material and it's absolutely useless and won't grow anything. Jim will discuss this with Dean. There was further discussion of dredging material. Jim stated he had a request from Barbara Bagwell that there are some power poles by the little church that they would like to see what it would take to move them. Melodie will ask Tony to see if there's a solution. She also asked about a tree that had guide wires to keep it straight. Melodie will check to make sure they're gone.

Melodie wants to add to the budget for picnic tables to the park. Martyn mentioned about some that he saw at SAMS for \$120. He mentioned they looked heavy duty. The brand name was Lifetime. He said he also looked on SAMS online and found some heavy duty picnic tables that were \$1800 for 6 of them and they would deliver free to SAMS Club in Hendersonville. Melodie will check on them. Melodie also is asking for grills and trash receptacles with recyclables. She will check and get pricing and get back with the Board.

Morse Park – Melodie Potter and Jim Walters

The grant for the paved pathways was briefly discussed. Ed gave Jim some information on the grant and the process and they are working on it using hard surface pads. Martyn mentioned a drain that had collapsed at the park. Melodie is aware of it and they are replacing it. Melodie is also removing the willows. The park is almost ready to be mulched. She has a crew that will come in and take care of this.

There was discussion about what Melodie had done last year installing wire to keep the carp out of the pond. Dean would like for her to remove the wire so that a friend of his can come collect them. It was decided to not allow this due to the money that was spent to repair the banks and keeping the carp out. There was other discussion regarding ridding the lake of carp eggs.

Ed mentioned to have Melodie look at the drainage ditch at the entrance to trails at Donald Ross Park.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Linda Turner and seconded by Dale Minick and all were in favor. The March 3, 2016 meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board was adjourned by Jim Walters with all in favor at 3:58 pm

Minutes were transcribed by Town Liaison Kat Canant

The next Parks & Recreation Board meeting will be April 7, 2016 at 1:30pm