



Lake Lure Parks & Recreation Board Meeting March 7, 2019

Call to Order

Chairman Jim Walters called to order the March 7, 2019 meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board at 1:32 p.m. at the Lake Lure Town Hall.

Roll Call

Board Members present:

Jim Walters
Ed Dittmer
Maureen Bay
Bill Massey
Dale Minick
Larry Czajkoski
Martyn Watts

Town Council Members present:

Stephen M. Webber, Commissioner

Other Town Staff Present:

Melodie Potter, Town Parks and Recreation Supervisor
Laura Krejci, Town Communication Specialist
Dean Givens, Lake Lure Parks, Recreation and Lake Director

Others in Attendance:

Robin Schultze, AmeriCorps Trails Coordinator

Absent:

Jessica Hough, Alternate

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MEETING MINUTES

The Agenda for the March 7, 2019 meeting was reviewed. **Mrs. Bay made a motion to approve the Agenda as reviewed. Mr. Massey seconded and all were in favor.**

The Minutes of the February 7, 2019 meeting were reviewed. **Mr. Massey made a motion to approve the Minutes as presented. Mr. Minick seconded and all were in favor**

The Minutes of the February 26, 2019 Special Meeting were reviewed. **Mr. Dittmer made a motion to approve the Minutes as presented. Mr. Minick seconded and all were in favor**

Presentation by Mrs. Ester Lusk and Mr. Aaron Jones regarding Dog Park Discussions

Mrs. Lusk introduced herself and Mr. Jones to the Board and reviewed that they have been speaking with those in the area regrading a Dog Park. To date, Mr. Jones, through Facebook, has 450 signatures in agreement that Lake Lure should have a Dog Park. Mrs. Lusk reviewed that the Town had been approached previously however the idea was not followed through with by the requestors. Mrs. Lusk spoke of the positive reasons to for the Town to have a Dog Park and mentioned two areas that a Dog Park would be ideal. Mrs. Lusk mentioned a couple of areas they felt would be ideal for a Dog Park. There was discussion concerning those locations as well as problems with dog parks dealing with aggressive dogs, as well as the building, maintenance and up keep of a park. The Board asked about financing, liability, land and maintenance. Mrs. Lusk stated that they could function much as the Flowering Bridge does with a 501C3. Mr. Jones spoke to the Board regarding the petition he has and stated there was a huge interest and has been one for years. He mentioned other Dog Parks and how they functioned. The Board was showed an interest in the idea that a park could be built and maintained without the Town's hand in it. The Board asked that Mr. Jones and Mrs. Lusk get more information together as well as bring the Petition. The Board was interested in the location of the petitioners as well as if they were dog owners.

There was further discussion regarding the visitors that come to town that have pets. The Lake Lure Inn, which is a pet friendly place, charges pet fees along with room fees and they brought in over \$10K in 2018. Mr. Jones mentioned the point of this statement was to show that visitors have needs for a Dog Park. Mrs. Lusk felt there was a disconnect in that the Town doesn't offer one. There was further discussion regarding the operation of the park. Mr. Walters stated that they needed to validate the request.

Commissioner Webber asked the Board that when the study for Morse Park begins, if they could try to fit something like that in. Mr. Dittmer stated the area needed to be at least an acre. The Board agreed they would get with the planners to inquire on Commissioner Webber's request.

Buffalo Creek Park, Weedpatch Mountain & the Trail to Eagle Rock – Mr. Larry Czajkoski

Mr. Czajkoski reviewed with the Board that the trails all looked good. The Carolina Conservancy has their maintenance agreement until May of 2021. There were plans to remove a large hazardous tree on March 23 on the Weed Patch Mountain trail. Mr. Czajkoski mentioned an article that was in the February Men's Journal that spoke of Buffalo Creek Park and the trails. Mr. Czajkoski discussed the counters still showed 100 on each leg of the trail, which he felt was good considering the weather. On March 14th at 3pm at the Lake Lure Town Hall, the DOT will meet to discuss the future of Buffalo Creek Road where the road has separated. Mr. Czajkoski mentioned that it will most likely be a permanent solution to reroute the travelers. There was a discussion regarding this solution.

Mr. Czajkoski discussed the Carolina Conservancy maintenance agreement and asked the Board to be thinking about the future of the maintenance of this trail. He stated that hiring the conservancy group for 10K to 15K a year to maintain this area may be well worth it. Mr. Czajkoski also mentioned a workshop that is coming up regarding Sustainable Trail Maintenance. He felt it would be very beneficial for the Board members to attend. He further discussed this and gave information.

Mr. Czajkoski distributed a map and spoke about the Hickory Nut Gorge State Trails system. These are trails that are certified by the State Assembly. He spoke about a 500 acre area that Carolina Conservancy is trying to obtain. Mr. Czajkoski also mentioned the State Park Earth Day celebration that moved to Fletcher and thought it would be great for the Board to visit and had an area for information regarding the Town's trails.

Mr. Czajkoski asked Mr. Givens to be sure to go on the RTP web site and create a log in for the Town. He mentioned that there was a deadline for this and that those that didn't have a log in, would not be able to apply for RTP Grants. Mr. Givens stated he would do this.

Dittmer – Watts Nature Trail Park – Mr. Ed Dittmer

Mr. Dittmer went with Mr. Givens to look at the Park and define the areas that need maintenance regarding the large fallen tree. There was discussion regarding the tree and rerouting the trail however Mr. Dittmer wasn't in fond of rerouting the trail. Mr. Watts explained that he went to view the area and discussed that he had equipment that with others they could cut the tree and put it in a chipper. There was discussion and agreement on this process. Mr. Dittmer stated that there were drainage issues in the Meadow area as well as problems with a culvert area on the Mountain Vista Trail. Mr. Givens took note of these.

Lake Lure Flowering Bridge – Mr. Bill Massey

Mr. Massey discussed that the Flowering Bridge was gearing up for Spring and everything looked good. He mentioned the "Ring in to Spring" event wherein Mrs. Krejci discussed with the Board the plans. Mr. Massey discussed that they are putting finishing touches on the Kiosk and that the sign has been ordered. He also mentioned that he would like to look into getting a security street light put in and that there had been problems with graffiti. It was discussed that he get with Duke to see if they could not, without cost, put up a security light. Mr. Massey will look into this. Mr. Massey mentioned that the Flowering Bridge classes will begin again this month and they will be the 4th Thursday or every month beginning at 10am.

Lake Lure Public Golf Club – Dale Minick

Mr. Minick stated that there were 234 players in February compared to the 272 from 2018. He felt that due to the weather, even 234 was a good number. He mentioned the greens look good and he has installed 55 plugs on the 5th green. There are currently 142 Members. He mentioned the Ladies Group is back meeting at 10am Tuesdays. As well there is a Boys Night Out on Tuesday nights. The Golf Club just signed a lease for a new golf cart fleet in April.

Morse Park – Mrs. Melodie Potter and Mr. Jim Walters

Park and Rec crews are cleaning up the park and pruning the bushes. They will be mulching from the Arcade to the ABC store. Mr. Tim Dicky won the contract for mulching Morse Park and that will occur the last of March into April. Mrs. Potter stated there was close to 10" of rain in February and mentioned the problems with areas the crew was not able to get to due to the water standing.

Boys Camp Road Property and Summary of Carolina Climbers Coalition Event – Mr. Moe Bay

Mrs. Bay attended the February 15th Rumble event and she had received a very nice letter from the event organizer thanking the Town for hosting it. She stated the group had raised \$4300 at this event.

Of that they gave \$478 to the Friends of Chimney Rock State Park and the remainder was used toward the purchasing of land they want to conserve. Mrs. Bay also mentioned that the group assisted in helping clean up the Riverwalk, hauling out two dump truck loads of debris. Mrs. Bay was very excited about this group and stated that next year will be their 5th year here. She stated that continuing to host this group will help our town greatly during the winter months. She stated that it's a great chance for area businesses and hoteliers to reach out and partner with this group. Mrs. Bay ran over items that she felt the Board needed to use at their weekend to help the guests know what's in town, where they could eat, stay, etc. She mentioned the need for merchandise and a card that could give the guests discounts at area shops and restaurants. It was asked that Mrs. Bay get a copy of the items she's discussed and get them to Mr. Givens.

Town Parks & Recreation Supervisor – Mrs. Melodie Potter

Mrs. Potter had nothing new to add.

Town Staff Liaisons – Mr. Dean Givens

Mr. Givens reviewed his report with the Board and state that he will be emailing these monthly to the Board.

Discussion & Recommendations from Guests, Residents & Voters

- Wade Opener and Leslie Roland discussed their new Lake Lure Racing and Rowing Retreats with the Board. They have been to the Lake Advisory Board and other meetings in the town to introduce themselves. They've taken an interest in the area and discussed their business with the Board as well as the Retreats they will offer. It will bring business to the area during slower times of the year. They'll have racing and Regattas. They are currently getting their website together and will share the information with the Town as this goes online. They're very excited and thanked the Town for being so welcoming and great hosts.

Input from Town Council Liaison – Commissioner Stephen Webber

Mr. Webber inquired into who maintains the Cash Points ATM and mentioned that the hub needs maintenance and upkeep. Mr. Webber mentioned he will not be running again for the Commissioner's seat. He also asked that Mrs. Krejci add something to the event calendar pertaining to Memorial Day. Mr. Walters explained that was the weekend for the Arts & Crafts Show and that there wasn't any ceremony he knew of specifically for Memorial Day. There was discussion regarding putting evergreen trees along Boys Camp Road to hide the spoils pits as well as bordering the camping facility. The Board agreed.

Mr. Watts inquired with Mr. Givens if there was any other location other than the ABC Store to put in a Canoe or Kayak. Mr. Givens stated there was not any other location for public launching.

Mr. Minick mentioned that he was happy with the way the floating docks look as well as the new painted fence surrounding the beach area and the new Viewing Platform.

The Board discussed that no one had heard from Alternative Member Ms. Jessica Hough. The Board discussed the matter and requested to go to the Town to check other applications.

***Mr. Jim Walters mad a motion to remove Ms. Jessica Hough from the Parks and Recreation Board.
The motion was seconded by Mr. Ed Dittmer and all were in favor.***

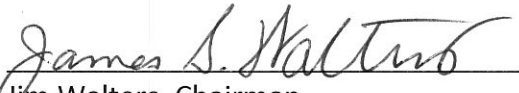
Adjournment

Mr. Dittmer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:48 pm. Mr. Massey seconded and the motion and all were in favor

Minutes were transcribed by Kat Canant, LLPD Admin Assistant

The next regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board meeting will be April 4, 2019 at 1:30 pm.

ATTEST:


Jim Walters, Chairman