



Lake Lure Parks & Recreation Board
Regular Meeting
June 4, 2020

Call to Order

Chairman Mr. Jim Walters called to order the June 4, 2020 meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board at 1:30 p.m. at the Lake Lure Town Hall.

Roll Call

Board Members present:

Mr. Jim Walters, Chairman
Mr. Bill Massey
Mr. Dan Bragdon

Mr. Ed Dittmer, Vice Chairman
Ms. Maureen Bay
Mr. Martyn Watts

Board Members absent:

Mr. Dale Minick

Mr. Larry Czajkoski

Town Council Members present:

Commissioner Patrick Bryant
Mayor Carol Pritchett

Commissioner David DiOrio

Other Town Staff Present:

Dean Givens, Town of Lake Lure Parks, Recreation, and Lake Director
Sam Karr, Town of Lake Lure Financial Director

Others in Attendance:

Ms. Dana Bradley – Outdoor Programs Director for Rutherford Outdoor Coalition
Ms. Callia Johnson – AmeriCorps Representative

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MEETING MINUTES

The Agenda for the June 4, 2020 meeting was reviewed. **Mr. Dittmer made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented. Mr. Massey seconded and all members were in favor.**

The Minutes of the March 5, 2020 meeting were reviewed. **Mr. Massey made a motion to approve the Minutes as presented. Mr. Dittmer seconded the motion and all members were in favor.**

Parks & Recreation Board Members Presentation and Discussion

Parks, Recreation & Lake Report – Mr. Dean Givens

Mr. Givens reviewed the reports with the Board. He mentioned that even through the COVID-19 issues, the staff worked diligently and kept the Town looking wonderful. Mr. Givens updated the Board on the progress of the Marina and stated that the inspector had a punch list that is currently being worked on. Calls will go out to slip renters when slips open. Mr. Givens mentioned that he feels all slips will be filled after the waiting list is contacted. There was discussion of a ribbon cutting ceremony once the Marina is built and completed. Mr. Givens informed the Board that Lake Lure Tours is entertaining the thought of valet service for boaters. He briefly discussed the plan.

Mr. Givens discussed with the Board that Conserving Carolina's proposal to take care of Weed Patch Mountain, was not what the Town was looking for. Mr. Givens mentioned that Ms. Dana Bradley has been hired by the Town and will begin June 15th. She will take care of trail maintenance. Her official title is Parks Recreation and Trails Coordinator. This position will also work on grants and other possibly funding ideas.

Financial and Budget Update – Sam Karr

Mr. Karr gave an overview of the 2020-2021 Budget for the Board. He discussed operation cost. He mentioned that the Lake Advisory Board has been tasked with raising revenue \$165k. Commissioner Bryant spoke to the Board in regards to the Budget expenditures and the repairs that were needed on the Dam as well as the Sewer System. Commissioner DiOrio supported Commissioner Bryant's overview of what the Town needs and added that items that need attention such as the Dam and Sewer are must haves for this budget. The Board discussed the needs for Parks and Recreation. Mr. Givens discussed possible Grants. Mr. Dittmer mentioned the Buffalo Creek Park Trailhead needs. Mr. Givens stated that there may be a lull in projects until the Town gets the financials worked out.

The Town of Lake Lure Open Spaces Plan - Board Discussion

Mr. Dittmer mentioned that he, Jim and Garrett met and discussed the plan and moving forward. With the new information on the 2020-2021 Budget, Mr. Walters stated that they will need to restructure that effort. Mr. Givens suggested allowing Ms. Bradley to get adjusted to her new position and then get with her to see how she can assist the Board with the plan. The Board discussed this process and let Ms. Bradley know they were available to assist where Ms. Bradley needed.

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

Mr. Czajkoski was not available. Mr. Walters read Mr. Czajkoski's email regarding the updates, summarized as follows. Weed Patch Mountain Trail Head is in great shape. There were a couple of downed trees that are being addressed. Conserving Carolina will remediate tree issues in June prior to the end of their maintenance service duties. Callia will deliver the information and graph for the counters for Buffalo Creek Park Trail and Weed Patch Mountain Trail Counters. Buffalo Creek Park should include ongoing trail maintenance for both the BCP Loop Trail and WPM Trail. A plan should be developed for funding sources for the new formal BCP Trail Head and Parking area.

Ms. Johnson reviewed the counter graphs that Mr. Czajkoski's letter mentioned [attachment]. Ms. Johnson mentioned fallen trees on WPM and that overall the trails are in good condition with minor erosion issues.

Dittmer-Watts Nature Trail Park – Mr. Ed Dittmer

Mr. Dittmer discussed he had not been able to get out to the trail as much as normal. Mr. Dittmer mentioned weeds that need addressed on the Mulberry Trail that was causing a thinning the walkway. Mr. Dittmer also mentioned that he had talked with Ms. Bradley regarding the need for an additional trail to Raptor Ridge.

Mr. Dittmer stated that due to the delay of getting out to oil the goose eggs, only 33 eggs were oiled this year, allowing for several more goslings. He reviewed the nest that were treated.

Lake Lure Flowering Bridge – Mr. Bill Massey

Mr. Massey discussed goings on with the Flowering Bridge and that the volume of traffic was good. Due to the loss of traffic due to the COVID-19 virus, they have lost 60% of income. He discussed new features that were being created on the Bridge. Mr. Massey mentioned the new TRAC machine that Mr. Murphy was assisting him in finding a weatherized cover for. Ms. Bradley stated she would assist him now. Mr. Massey also addressed the leaking sprinkler head and that it was being addressed.

Lake Lure Public Golf Course – Mr. Dale Minick

Mr. Minick was not present.

Morse Park – Mr. Jim Walters

Mr. Walters reviewed with the Board that Morse Park, the Amphitheater and the Marina were all looking wonderful and that these areas will help in monetizing efforts for the Town. He felt that those features were significant for where the Board is headed. Mr. Dittmer stated that the “Water Walk” was a very pleasant feature and he felt people enjoyed it. Mr. Dittmer inquired about the small pond by the Amphitheatre that needed filled. Mr. Givens addressed this stating that it is in the plan, but several things needed to happen for that fill to take place. There was a discussion of drainage issues in that area by Mr. Givens and he mentioned the possibility of grant money being sought and used.

Mr. Walters reviewed the Parks and Recreation Charter with the Board. There was discussion of educational arts and the possibility of an Art Center. The Board discussed the many uses of an art center.

Parks and Recreation Programs and Initiatives – Mr. Dan Bragdon

Mr. Bragdon stated that he will get with Ms. Bradley and seek ideas and possibilities. Mr. Bragdon discussed partnerships and rental space possibilities. He mentioned the use of a summer intern to help implement summer programs.

Additional Parks and Recreation Discussion Items – Ms. Moe Bay and Mr. Martyn Watts

Ms. Bay mentioned to the Board the Mr. Webber had given her several years of old business discussions that the Board was welcome to look through. Ms. Bay inquired when the US Flags would go up and Mr. Givens stated that was in the works. She inquired into the hanging baskets, which Mr. Givens stated that due to the cost, those would be not be hung this year. Ms. Bay discussed Catch Basins and the Board discussed areas around the Lake that could benefit from the basins and it will help with the sediment issues. There was further discussion regarding this.

Town Staff Liaisons

Mr. Bryant reviewed the budget planning and future meetings for the public to attend that would help address the planning of the Town’s future. He felt positive in the steps that were being taken and encouraged the Board to help bring the citizens on board for a positive future. Mr. DiOrio discussed the Dam and a valve that would be installed that will allow a further lowering of the Lake to assist in dam maintenance. He mentioned the Council is seeking ideas from all Boards on funding ideas to increase revenue for the Town to afford the plans. Mr. DiOrio discussed lobbying groups for the Town’s behalf that will help with support from the State of North Carolina. There was further discussion regarding funding.

Mayor Pritchett also reviewed the plans for the budget and supported the Town's efforts in seeking state funding. The financial steps planned in the 2020-2021 budget will help show the State that the Town is doing its part, thus opening greater possibilities for their funding.

Ms. Bay inquired about the Boys Camp Road property plans. Mr. Givens discussed the possibility of camping, picnic shelters, grills and a dog park for the property. He is waiting for the outcome of the PARTIF Grant application and if the cost makes the budget for this next fiscal year. The Board offered ideas for help in monetizing this property. There was further discussion of same.

Discussion and Recommendations from Guests, Residents & Voters

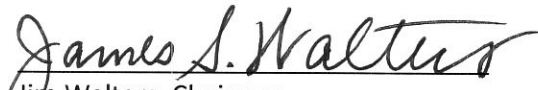
No further discussion occurred.

Adjournment

Ms. Bay made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:10 p.m. Mr. Dittmer seconded the motion and all members were in favor.

The next regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board meeting will be July 6, 2020 at 1:30 pm. In the Town of Lake Lure Town Hall.

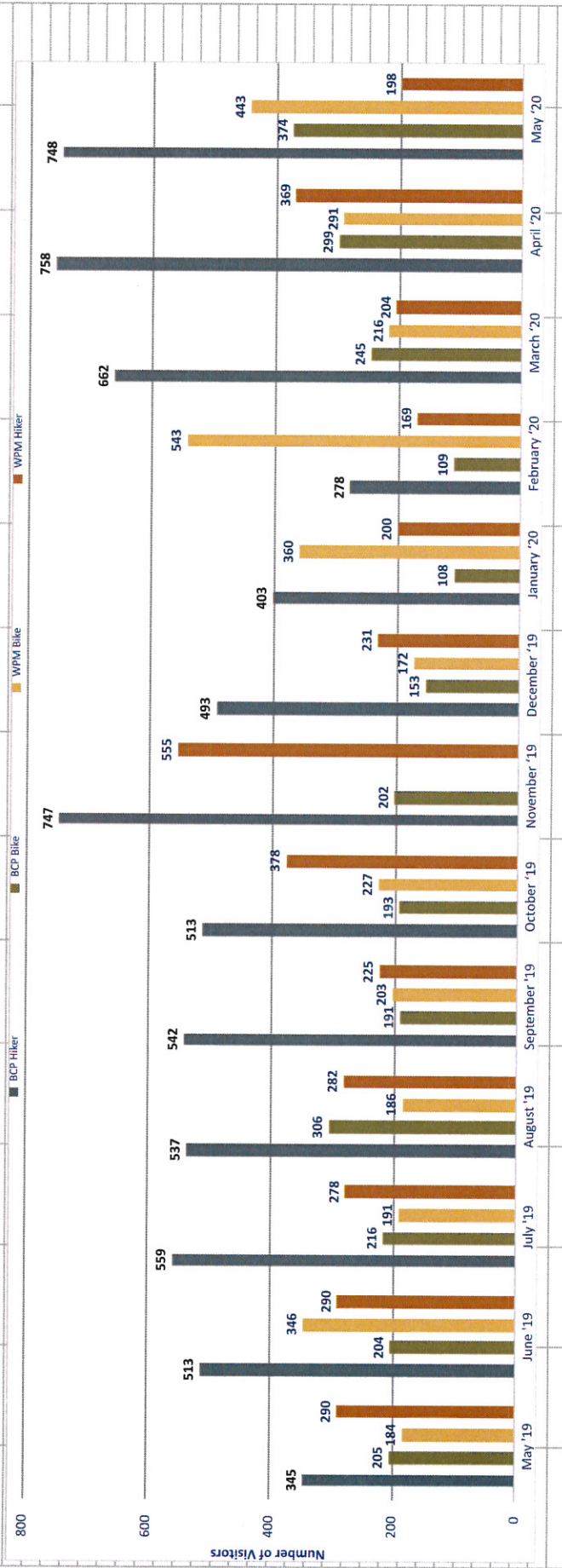
ATTEST:


Jim Walters, Chairman


Kat Canant, Board Clerk

Trail Counter Data - Buffalo Creek Park and Weed Patch Mountain Trails: May 2020

Site	May '19	June '19	July '19	August '19	September '19	October '19	November '19	December '19	January '20	February '20	March '20	April '20	May '20	Days with data
BCP Loop	345	513	559	537	542	513	747	747	493	403	278	662	758	748
BCP Loop Bike	205	204	216	306	191	193	202	153	108	108	109	245	299	152
WPM Bike	184	346	191	186	203	227	-	172	360	543	216	204	291	100
WPM Hiker	290	290	278	282	225	378	555	231	200	169	204	369	198	126



May 2020 Report

May 2020 was a memorable month as play was brisk even though we missed a few days with torrential rain again. We hosted 831 rounds of golf and 32 rounds of FootGolf. Golf rounds are a record for May eclipsing last years total of 665. It will be interesting to see if the trend continues as more businesses reopen and also with the return of short-term rentals. The inability to visit certainly kept the FootGolf number low as that is almost all derived from tourists.

Course wise, I had begun the process of aerification and topdressing of greens before the 10+ inch rain. I was able to finish only numbers 4,5 and six with topdressing and completed the aerification later on the rest except 1 and 2. Fertilizer and seed was spread after topdressing so the rain disrupted my plans.

The rains impact the bunkers the most and we continue to experience increased erosion to the creekbanks and actually had a foot bridge float out of position on hole 7. Mother Nature- she always wins.