

**LAKE LURE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING**

15 May 2006

Members Present: Ed Dittmer, Martyn Watts

Members Absent: Mary Karr, Paula Jordan, Thomas M. King

Town Officials Present: Jeanine Noble, Council Liaison
Chuck Place, Town Manager

The Chair called the meeting to order.

The purpose of this special meeting was to conduct an inventory of all public land not being used for a specific purpose and to do an on-site inspection of such land to ascertain its use for park and recreation purposes so as to make a recommendation to Town Council on those lands which should be left in a natural undeveloped state and which should be developed for use as parks or for recreation purposes.

Chuck Place provided individual maps of the areas of the town where public land is located and the Board members present along with Mr. Place and Ms. Noble proceeded to tour and inspect the respective public land parcels.

The Board members present noted the following parcels amenable to landscaping and beautification:

- 1) the road medians to the south and west of the Arcade Building
- 2) the area surrounding the small pond across US64/74A from the ABC Store and adjacent to the gas station
- 3) the beach area and adjacent picnic grounds
- 4) the wetlands area and additional areas of Morse Park
- 5) along the planned public walkway from Chimney Rock to the post office
- 6) the municipal golf course
- 7) the town limit signs at both ends of US64/74A, on NC9, and at both ends of Buffalo Creek Rd.

- 8) the public land at the US64/74A/NC9 intersection---this highly visible public entry point to the town from the east and south with its commanding view up the lake was singled out as an area needing immediate attention. It was suggested that the town work with the NCDOT to relocate and minimize the large number of road signs at this intersection and to develop this site with attractive landscaping and rock work and the construction of a vantage deck, picnic area and small parking area.

The Board members present also noted the following public land parcels should be left in a natural park state (with limited amenities provided) as follows:

- 1) the large undeveloped public land surrounding the municipal golf course to be retained for possible future expansion of the golf course. In the interim, it was suggested that hiking trails be developed, with benches provided at key vantage points and a small parking area provided at a trailhead off Island Creek Rd. It was noted that there already exists on this land extensive fairly level logging trails that would be amenable with minimal grading and graveling to become a biking trail.
- 2) the undeveloped parcels along the south side of US64/74A stretching from the small pond adjacent to the gas station and across from the ABC Store east to beyond Seton Rd. It was suggested that hiking nature trails be developed on this steep land, with benches provided at vantage points and a small parking area provided at a trailhead off Washburn Rd. It was noted that some of this land is in the right of way of the planned walkway from Chimney Rock to the post office.
- 3) the undeveloped parcel along the west side of Jack London Rd. and at the east shore of the Town Marina Basin. It was noted that this land already contains a limited hiking trail to the Point of Rocks across from Morse Park. It was suggested that the trail on this parcel be expanded, benches provided at key vantage points, and upon the impending demolition of the boathouse accessible from the hiking trail at the waterside of this parcel that a public deck and small gazebo be erected in its place at this key vantage point.

- 4) the undeveloped wetland portion of Morse Park. It was suggested that this public land be left in a natural state with limited cleanup and tree removal with a further expansion of walkways and the possible addition of wood walkways over the wetland for visitors to view the wetland flora and fauna. It was also suggested that all of the town dredging piping be removed out of sight and the dredging spoils area be fenced and/or landscaped to minimize this necessary eyesore as much as possible.

Upon completion of the inventory and inspection, Board members present met with Mr. Place to review the procedures and timeline for budget submission for next fiscal year. It was explained by Mr. Place that at the present time any funds for parks and recreation projects are budgeted through the Public Works Department. The Board is to work with Mr. Hennessee to develop a parks and beautification budget. Due to the imminent timetable for next fiscal year's budget submission and review by Town Council, Mr. Place agreed to incorporate a budget for parks and beautification within the Public Works Department at the staff budget meeting on Wednesday 17 May and the Board Chairman will make a parks and recreation presentation before the Town Council at the budget workshop on 23 May and at the public hearing on 13 June. It was agreed by the Board members present that two projects merited priority for next years budget in addition to landscaping projects to be developed at a later date with Public Works and volunteer support:

- 1) the development of hiking and biking trails in the excess land surrounding the municipal golf course and in the Point of Rocks parcel off Jack London Rd. It was agreed that this could be done with minimal funding and Public Works and volunteer labor.
- 2) The development and landscaping of the public land at the intersection of US64/74A with NC9. It was agreed that this required a significant amount of funding for rockwork, the building of a deck and picnic area, and significant landscaping.

Before adjournment, the Chairman agreed to develop a presentation of Parks and Recreation Board priorities for next year funding for the full Board's approval before the budget workshop with Town Council on 23 May.