



# **Lake Lure Parks & Recreation Board Meeting**

## **Meeting Minutes**

May 3, 2012

### **Call to order**

Chairman Ed Dittmer called the regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board at 3:08 pm on May 3, 2012

### **Roll Call**

- o **Board Members Present:** Ed Dittmer, Martyn Watts, Larry Czajkoski, Todd Dunnuck, Chuck Watkins,
- o **Board Members Absent:** Linda Turner, Bill Miller,
- o **Town Officials Present:** Commissioner Diane Barrett, Parks & Recreation Supervisor Melodie Potter, Environmental Management Officer Clint Calhoun

### **Approval of Agenda and Minutes from last meeting**

Meeting agenda was reviewed. Motion was made to accept the agenda by Todd Dunnuck; seconded by Larry Czajkoski, and the motion passed.

The minutes from the April 5, 2012 meeting were reviewed. Motion was made to accept the minutes by Todd Dunnuck; seconded by Larry Czajkoski, and the motion passed.

### **Reviewed**

Ed reviewed with the Board the amount of funds remaining in the budget for this fiscal year. There is \$88,000 in Parks & Recreation operational funds requested for the next fiscal year that was reviewed last month by Town Council. Council has not yet reviewed any Capital Improvements Program requests for the next fiscal year.

### **Open Issues**

**1. Status of Morse Park Wetland Restoration and Enhancement Project** – Ed informed the Board that the construction phase of the project is essentially complete. The As-Builts have been received from the contractor and only the dredging pipe remains to be repaired. A 10% retainage will be paid to the contractor upon project completion. Martyn discussed aeration of the soil in the Meadow and suggested reassessing the Meadow drainage next winter to see what might still be needed. Ed, Clint, Melodie, Tony Hennessee, Shannon Baldwin, and Suzy Smoyer recently completed a tree assessment in Morse Park Meadow and identified trees that needed to come out and be replaced with new trees. Clint mentioned that the plants and wildlife in the wetlands looks very, very well.

**2. Status of planning for Buffalo Creek parkland** – Ed discussed the PARTF Authority meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup> to make the first grant awards this year. There is a total of \$2.5 million to award this year, with a second grant award meeting on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, then those grant applications not successful in the first two cycles for the grant awarding will be prioritized and awarded in order if funds become available. LuAnn Bryan is the representative for PARTF Authority in western NC and has been working with Suzy. The Town has applied for a \$90,000 matching grant to begin development of Buffalo Creek Park. The Town's match can be partially supplemented by the value of volunteer and Town staff labor and staff equipment used. Hickory Nut Gorge Foundation has offered to chip in a small amount to help with the match.

**3. Status of landscaping plan for renovated Washburn Marina area** – Ed discussed the gas tank relocation as well as the moving of the port-a-johns back to the asphalt area. Ed also mentioned that the Board of Adjustment approved unanimously the variance from the shoreline for the proposed pergola structure at the old gas tank location, and the landscaping project now has to go before the Council for final approval and funding. A budget adjustment of \$16,500 will be on the Town Council agenda on May 8 and a contract award can be made thereafter. The area where Lake Lure Tours has placed a kayak and canoe rack will remain as is for now with no landscaping.

Martyn discussed the need for additional lighting in Morse Park Gardens since people enjoy walking after dusk and early in the morning. Light fixtures such as the green street lamps in Morse Park Meadow were discussed, placing them toward the gazebo, but there was some objection to using overhead lights. Larry mentioned the lighting that the Resort uses that might work. It is low in height and very sturdy mounted in concrete and about 3 feet high. Larry will get information on the lights. The cost is \$300 per light fixture. He will bring information to next meeting.

**4. Status of Canada geese mitigation program** – Clint discussed the oiling of the eggs is going well. To date approximately 60 eggs have been oiled this year. Two more nests were discovered recently. Within the next couple of weeks there are plans to destroy the nests along with the unhatched eggs. There was further discussion regarding such. Clint also mentioned that since the program went so well and has had a noticeable affect on the geese population, he would like to put the findings in the Lake Line Magazine, a lake management publication. The Board felt that this was a good suggestion.

**5. Status of work on parkland maintenance punchlist** – Martyn commented to Melodie on how well Morse Park is looking and thanked her for her efforts. Ed had similar comment. She informed the Board of the recent annual plantings made at the Washburn Marina sign in Morse Park. Melodie mentioned that work on the punchlist was coming along. A few more items were added during the discussion from board members.

## **New Issues**

**6. Need for Morse Park leash requirement and restriction signage** – There was discussion regarding the need for restraining pets in Morse Park, being that the park is a high use area and a plant and wildlife habitat and that disturbing certain areas can be detrimental to such. Martyn discussed an incident that occurred recently at the pond in Morse Park Gardens that disturbed a mother wood duck and her recently hatched brood of eight ducklings when an unleashed dog went in the water after them, as well as two other unleashed dogs of the same owner harassing the wood ducks from shore, with no attempt by the owner to control the dogs. The Board further discussed the problems with unleashed dogs. Larry made a motion, seconded by Chuck and Todd, and unanimously passed, to request Town Council to establish a policy requiring dogs to be leashed while in Morse Park and other Town property in the Town Center area because of high foot traffic and wildlife habitat. The Board felt no need to require such a leash requirement at Donald Ross Nature Trail Park where the policy now allows dogs to run unleashed, but dogs must always be under control of their owner. The trail area is much longer with no waterfowl. No problems have been reported at the park to warrant any change to current policy there.

There was also discussion regarding signage, and agreement that there was no need for too many signs. One at each of the entrances to the walking paths in Morse Park should probably suffice, with verbage discussing the wildlife habitat and not to disturb the wildlife, requiring the leashing of dogs and picking up after them, as well as mentioning restrictions on swimming and fishing locations,

**7. Town Center Master Plan development** – Discussion was tabled during this meeting due to time constraints. After adjournment of the meeting, Board members did immediately attend the drop-in meeting to review and comment on the Town of Lake Lure Town Center Master Plan in the Town Hall. Ed arranged for one of the Land Design consultants to brief Board members on the draft plan.

**8. Town Center Streetlight Assessment** – Ed passed out a recent streetlight assessment done by the Community Development staff, and the board quickly reviewed it. Discussion was made regarding having all streetlights lights in the Town Center area be uniform or using the same type of lamp color. This will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Before meeting adjournment, Larry suggested that a 3PM meeting time works much better for him rather than 1:30PM. Discussion was made regarding the time of the meetings, and, as there was no objection, the Parks & Recreation Board meetings will be moved to the first Thursday of each month at 3pm.

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board will be held Thursday, June 7, 2012 at 3pm

## **Adjournment**

Ed Dittmer adjourned the meeting at 4:23 p.m.  
Minutes were taken by Kat Canant, Town employee