

Lake Lure Parks & Recreation Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

June 7, 2012

Call to order

Chairman Ed Dittmer called the regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board at 2 pm on June 7, 2012

Roll Call

- o **Board Members Present:** Ed Dittmer, Martyn Watts, Todd Dunnuck, Chuck Watkins, Linda Turner
- o **Board Members Absent:** Larry Czajkoski, Bill Miller,
- o **Town Officials Present:** Town Planner Suzy Smoyer, Environmental Management Officer Clint Calhoun
- o **Visitors Present:** Jennifer Della Valle Town Hall Intern

Approval of Agenda and Minutes from last meeting

Meeting agenda was reviewed. Motion was made to accept the agenda by Todd, seconded by Linda, and the motion passed.

The minutes from the May 3, 2012 meeting were reviewed. Motion was made to accept the minutes by Todd, seconded by Linda, and the motion passed.

Reviewed

Ed reviewed with the Board the P&R Operating Budget for next fiscal year (\$88,000) that has been reviewed by Town Council. The Council has also reviewed the three P & R CIP projects (\$27,000 for the planting phase to complete the Morse Park project, \$20,000 for the Flowering Bridge project from the Bridge Preservation Fund, and \$8K to complete the Town match for a PARTF grant). Council will approve the budget at their June 12th meeting. Other discussion was made regarding possible grants.

Open Issues

1. Status of Morse Park Wetland Restoration and Enhancement Project – Ed notified the Board that The damaged dredging pipe has been repaired and lowered, and that the construction phase is now complete and full payment made to the contractor. A total of \$27,144 has been requested in the next fiscal year CIP budget to complete the Morse Park wetland project (planting phase). With the planting phase completed, the project can be reviewed by the Army Corps of Engineers for compliance with the permit and closed out.

2. Status of planning for Buffalo Creek Park – Ed handed out a copy of the letter from Governor Perdue announcing the approval from the Parks and Recreation Authority of a matching grant in the amount of \$93,478 from the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund for the Buffalo Creek Trail System project. We have also been notified that we are in line to receive from the NCDENR under the Recreation Trails Program (RTP) a grant for \$75,000, which can be used by the Town as the major part of the PARTF grant match along with the \$10,000 already spent by the Town for planning and trail design, leaving only \$8,000 for Town Council to approve to complete the match, giving us a total of \$176,478 to fund the park and trail development. Hopefully work should start in the fall or winter. Suzy discussed the required follow-on paperwork she is working on for the RTP grant, Ed read an exchange between Larry Czajkoski (in his hat as RBR Building and Grounds Committee chairman) and Town Manager Chris Braund regarding the RBR trailhead and Town trail development plans. Trail Dynamics is still to provide the Town with trail development cost figures as well as concepts for bridge design. Adrienne Wallace (CRSP superintendant) has provided Ed with pre-built bridge designs and cost info. Ed discussed making contact with the Carolina Mountain Club, a group of men with experience in trail building and bridge construction who are all volunteers. Clint mentioned what a great job they do and named some trails they have had experience with building.

2. Status of landscaping plan for renovated Washburn Marina area – The Pergola is up. The design was moved back 4ft to align better with the Lake Lure Tours building. Pavers will be installed instead of wood decking due to underground fuel/electric/fiber optic lines. Landscaping this fiscal year had to be cut back due to cost and the upcoming summer heat; however planning now is for Melodie and PW to complete the perennial planting next fall and spring to keep costs down.

Flowering Bridge Update – Linda Turner shared information regarding a recent fund raising event on the bridge which helped bring in \$750 which now makes the total of private funds raised to help with the bridge to \$20,000., which with funds appropriated this FY and anticipated for next FY (\$40K total) will provide \$60,000 in startup funds for the bridge. There was discussion regarding milling of the bridge deck and its expense before the placement of a membrane to protect the bridge before planting, which brought about cost concerns and further discussion. There was a suggestion regarding building-up and leveling instead of milling. The flowering bridge board headed by Bill Miller will be addressing this issue.

4. Status of Canada geese mitigation program – Clint and Ed discussed the need to gather up the eggs and how to dispose of them. Clint and Ed will work out a time for the both of them to complete this project.

5. Status of leash ordinance for Morse Park and Town Center area – Jennifer Della Valle, an intern working at the Town Hall, put together information regarding an ordinance for the Morse Park and Town Center areas regarding the leashing of dogs. The study was very well put together and gave the Board information regarding what other towns in North Carolina that had leash laws had done and how they were enforced. Fines were discussed as well as wording of the ordinance. Discussion was made that a first offense would be served with a warning; the second and further

infractions would be fined starting at \$50 and increasing by the same amount per infraction. Jennifer will work on wording the ordinance as suggested by the Board. And it will be presented to Town Council for adoption.

6. Status of Town Center Master Plan development – Ed passed out and reviewed layouts of the Town Center Master Plan drawn by Land Design Inc. based on input from the steering committee and input from the public at the drop-in Open House last month. These plans will be presented to Council for their review at their July meeting. In relation to the other park and trail development, further discussion regarding the master plan drawings was made. There was Discussion regarding the new entrance for the Park and the movement of traffic through the area. The Board was pleased with the renditions.

7. Status of work on parkland maintenance punchlist – Melody was absent and not available to discuss punchlist. Ed said he did add to list and will forward to Melodie.

New Issues

8. Rental fees for Town facilities – The Board reviewed a handout of current rental fees given to Ed by Town Manager Chris Braund. There was discussion regarding rental fees for the Pavilion (gazebo) as well as Community Hall and the Meadow.

Todd made a motion to increase the rental fee of the Pavilion to \$400 per event, instead of “per day” this year and raise to \$500 per event next summer; The motion was seconded by Linda Turner and the motion passed with all members in favor. The Board also recommends that the other rental fees for the Community Hall and Meadow event space not be increased as they are under utilized.

9. Donald Ross Trail Maps – Ed informed the Board that he had found trail maps for trails in Polk County that someone had deposited in the trail map boxes at Donald Ross trailhead sign where the Donald Ross trail maps were supposed to go, apparently put there by someone from Polk County Parks and Rec Dept. There was discussion regarding their trail system and the value in working mutually with Polk County. Ed will contact Polk County recreation and discuss with them getting permission to put maps there and to provide their own map box, and we to be able to do the same possibly at their visitor center in Columbus.

10. Instructional Manual for Morse Park Wetlands – Clint brought a draft manual that he has put together to help with the maintenance of the wetlands as well as opportunities that it holds. The manual is informative with procedures for maintenance and management, description of exotic and invasive species, educational opportunities such as bird house building. Clint will have the manual reviewed by Equinox and present it at the next meeting. This maintenance manual is a requirement off the USACE permit. There was also discussion regarding the success of bacteria discs that have been placed in the ponds to manage mosquito larvae. The bacteria specifically eat the larvae but are not harmful to the wetlands.

11. Spoils pits - There was also discussion regarding the spoil pits in Morse Park and the possibility that they may eventually become superfluous and the area be put to better use for park purposes. Martyn discussed the pumping of sediment using upstream catch basins. Clint and the Board discussed the need for the lake to be hydraulically dredged, since it has missed being done the last couple of years. They discussed how harmful this could be should a big storm hit our area. There was further discussion regarding the berm areas adjacent to the wetlands. Martyn suggested a possible observational platform on this raised area, as this area looking out over the wetlands was beautiful and would not disturb the wildlife. Ed mentioned that there will be a need for an additional burn along the west side of the middle wetland below the berm this winter to clear out the dead wood and trees and eliminate all of the invasive privet trees from that area.

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board will be held Thursday, July 5, 2012 at 1:30pm

Adjournment

Ed Dittmer adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.
Minutes were taken by Kat Canant, Town employee