

Lake Lure Parks & Recreation Board Meeting Meeting Minutes

September 6, 2012

Call to order

Chairman Ed Dittmer called the regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board at 1:33 pm on September 6, 2012

Roll Call

- o **Board Members Present:** Ed Dittmer, Martyn Watts, Linda Turner, Chuck Watkins, Larry Czajkoski, Bill Miller
- o **Board Members Absent:** Todd Dunnuck,
- o **Town Officials Present:** Mayor Bob Keith; Town Council Member & Liaison Diane Barrett, Town Manager Chris Braund, Parks & Recreation Supervisor Melodie Potter, Town Planner Suzy Smoyer
- o **Town Official Absent:** Clint Calhoun, Environmental Management Officer

Approval of Agenda and Minutes from last meeting

Meeting agenda was reviewed. An addition was made by Ed Dittmer regarding Landscaping at Morse Park. Motion was made to accept the agenda by Bill Miller, seconded by Larry Czajkoski, and the motion passed.

The minutes from the August 2, 2012 meeting were reviewed. Motion was made to accept the minutes by Linda Turner, seconded by Martyn Watts, and the motion passed.

Open Issues

1, Status of planning for Buffalo Creek Parkland Development – Suzy reviewed work that the Buffalo Creek Park Project Team has undertaken, including the team's first meeting on August 17th and a site visit on August 22nd. She also reviewed the latest cost estimate to build the Type II and Type III trail areas, which was much above the first cost expectation. The initial formal bid from the Trail Dynamics trail building firm does not include use of volunteer labor in the initial build due to the steep terrain, but they believe volunteer labor can be used to do some finish work, once the trail has been laid. Suzy also apprised the Board of the bridge option discussion, including a fiberglass bridge and the cost, which is \$37,000. The project team met on site with Kim Warner, a civil engineer from Forest City, regarding the design. The bridge must meet flood plain requirements. The team is looking at other structure designs, such as a stick built bridge using some material the town may already own or obtain at minimal cost. The bridge is planned to only need to accommodate foot traffic and at times an emergency ATV. Access to build the trails could be approached from access from Rumbling Bald Resort (RBR). Larry discussed that he had looked at

two other pieces of land that could be used to expand the public trailhead parking area on Buffalo Creek Road. One piece of land is owned by RBR and the other larger one is owned by Wyndam Resorts. Larry has met with Desiree Trull from Wyndam management and feels that great progress was made. He discussed the possibility of the purchase of the property and/or gifting and/or other means. The land is ideal in that it is relatively flat and butts up to Buffalo Creek Road. Using this trail head for the larger equipment to access building the trails would elevate the need for a larger bridge. The Board was excited about the reports from both Suzy and Larry.

Martyn asked about the grants status and monies that have been spent so far, as well as what the total cost may be at the end. Suzy reviewed that with trail building there are unforeseen costs, such as large boulders that may need removed in the process.

A handout was reviewed by Suzy that shows the many trails and trails planned in the Lake Lure and Chimney Rock areas. She is putting a brochure together for the NC Trails Committee which is coming to visit Chimney Rock State Park. This request for a brochure showing trail development in the Lake Lure/Chimney Rock area is at the request of Adrienne Wallace, CRSP Superintendent. The map/brochure will identify the Summits Trail, Buffalo Creek Park and Donald Ross trail systems, the Town Center Walkway and Morse Park walking paths, and the Village of Chimney Rock River Walk.

2. Status of Flowering Bridge Project – Bill updated the Board on the progress of the bridge. Equipment will arrive Friday, 9/7/2012 to begin the milling process of the bridge. The rubble/stones from this milling will be used for further use. The Flowering Bridge Board will begin initial work soon on the landscaping at the east end of the bridge with gardens and walkway. They now have access to town water as well as electrical service. The Bridge Board also has decided to be their own general contractor and hire out as needed. They will be diligent in hiring out local workers when available. They will heavily rely on volunteer work. Once the milling is completed the membrane will be laid. There was also discussion involving the erecting of a sign that states “Future home of the Flowing Bridge”. Linda and Bill discussed this and agreed to get on this right away. Martyn also discussed the process to build a dry stone wall which he suggested. Bill also discussed the building of split rail fences which will somewhat hide the metal guardrails along the highway.

3. Status of Morse Park Wetland Restoration and Enhancement Project – Ed discussed the final phase for the enhancement. This needs to be completed to be in compliance with the permit. A prescribed burn still needs to take place. Mel and Ed discussed using herbicide and other means to kill off invasive plants and knocking down the tall plants and unwanted small trees and other tasks what needed to be done before the burn. There was further discussion on the burn as well as holding off until next spring for the planting. It is important that this occurs before the fiscal year ends. Ed mentioned that if at all possible, Equinox will not be further used to assist in the planting phase. Ed will coordinate

with Clint, Mel, Public Works, and the Fire Department/NC Forestry Service on the burn.

4. Status of Leash Ordinance for Morse Park – There was further in depth discussion regarding the need for a leash requirement at Morse Park. A letter was distributed from a citizen regarding whether one was needed. The Board discussed the matter further with Mayor, Commissioner Barrett, and Town Manger Chris Braund. There was discussion about other places in town to walk dogs. Larry mentioned that he as a pet owner, understands and accepts the responsibility to have his pet leashed and doesn't find it a hindrance.

There was also discussion regarding allowing dogs to go unleashed in Morse Park from 9pm to 9am; however it was agreed that this would not obviate the damage that dogs can do while chasing wildlife or bothering others that used the park during that time. There also was discussion regarding a possible dog park, and it was suggested that should enough citizens feel the need for a dog park, that they form a group and find the means, such as ways to cover cost, recommend a location for such, and be responsible for pet cleanup, then approach the Board for consideration.

Linda made a motion that the Board continue to support the need for a leash requirement at Morse Park and to compile a list of areas in town that one could walk their pet without a leash. Martyn seconded. The Board voted unanimously to again reaffirm their recommendation to Council to establish a requirement for dogs in Morse Park be on a leash.

5. Status of work on parkland maintenance punchlist - The punchlist was reviewed and had been previously discussed in part during the discussion on the wetlands.

6. Additional Landscaping in Morse Park – Ed discussed the budget that was available for further landscaping in Morse Park this fiscal year. There was discussion as to new beds that could be established and the use of new plants. Mel will get a plan together and bring it to the Board.

New Items

Chris Braund discussed the Cycle North Carolina bike ride coming to town on the 30th. There will be anywhere from 1000 – 1200 riders. The ride is Mountains to Sea Fall Bike Ride. Some will be camping the night of November 30th in the Meadow area in Morse Park and some will be bedding at our local inns and motels. Michelle Yelton (McConnell Group) is overseeing arrangements on behalf of the Rutherford County Tourism Development Authority.

Ed mentioned the two very successful weekends we've had with the Dirty Dancing Festival and the Olympiad. Martyn noted that the Parks and Rec golf team that he and Bill were on won an Olympiad gold medal. There was discussion into how great the Olympiad was in bringing people from all over the

country to compete and what an important role Linda played in the planning. Linda remarked that it was indeed a combined effort of many folks.

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board is scheduled for Thursday, October 4, 2012 at 1:30pm.

Adjournment

Ed Dittmer adjourned the meeting at 3:26 p.m.

Minutes were taken by Kat Canant, Town employee