

Lake Lure Parks & Recreation Board Meeting Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2013

Call to order

Chairman Ed Dittmer called the regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board at 1:35 pm on February 7, 2013

Roll Call

- **Board Members Present:** Ed Dittmer, Linda Turner, Bill Miller, Jonathan Hinkle, Larry Czajkoski, Martyn Watts
- **Board Members Absent:** Todd Dunnuck
- **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 Linda Turner, seconded by Bill Miller. All were in favor and the motion passed.

The minutes from the January 3, 2013 meeting were reviewed. Motion was made to accept the minutes by Linda Turner, seconded by Larry Czajkoski. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Review of Board Member Changes

Chuck Watkins resigned from the Board and Jonathan Hinkle was appointed by the Town Council to fill the vacancy. Ed welcomed new Board member Jonathan Hinkle

Review of the Budget to date

The Parks and Recreation budget was reviewed by Ed. There was discussion regarding the amount remaining that was to be used in the wetlands, now to be allocated into further landscaping of Morse Park. Mulching was discussed. Melodie Potter will look into the cost of mulching as well as where to get the best mulch from. There was discussion regarding types of mulch (i.e. pine straw, bark, rubber from ground-up fires). Melodie will look into these and get back with Ed before the next Board meeting.

Open Issues

1, Status of planning for Buffalo Creek Parkland Development – Larry Czajkoski updated the Board on the progress of the planning for the trail. Next week there will be a pre-bid conference call where those looking to place bids on the new bridge over Buffalo Creek can call in with questions. Trail Dynamics is due to have trail work completed by May 1st. Clint Calhoun reviewed permitting issues that may delay this

progress. Larry reminded the Board that the work needs to be completed as there is only an agreement with the RBR Board for access to May 1st. Larry is waiting on an update from John Woods of Wyndham on the lot needed for trailhead parking. He should have an update next week. That specific lot needs to be purchased by the Resort to be used as a "subjected piece" of land in order for the Resort to term it as "Common Property" so they can lease it back to the Town of Lake Lure to make it a parking area rather than a residential lot. Larry stated that the Resort is very positive about having the trailhead in their community and have spoken about it being an amenity that would have a positive influence on Rumbling Bald Resort. Clint Calhoun reviewed the current permitting issues that are holding up things. The Trail Dynamics plan was not clear on how they were going to cross streams and ravines or any abutment to a water run-off area. Ed Sutton from Trail Dynamics is scheduled to get with Clint to clarify these BMPs (best management practices). There was further discussion regarding the need to get this completed as soon as possible.

Clint also reviewed a letter that was received from Raleigh regarding the trail and if there were any federally endangered species along the trail route. A letter from a biologist will be written to Raleigh to cover these concerns. The award of the RTP grant is held up until this is dealt with. There was discussion regarding these issues and that the trail construction contract cannot be awarded until the funds are there from the RTP grant. There was further discussion and agreement of steps to be taken to assure this project proceeds. Clint mentioned that once the contract is signed, Trail Dynamics can work on the parts of the trail that do not deal with the crossings of water areas. Discussion followed.

Jonathan mentioned that he was going to be bidding on the bridge construction and wanted to know if he needed to exclude himself from this part of the conversation. Ed acknowledged and appreciated Jonathan's concern; however what was being discussed was information that was public and any contractor could access.

Larry again mentioned the view of the resort in that the trails would promote lodging and amenities. The economic impact of the Buffalo Creek Park would be quite positive. Melodie Potter brought attention to a handout she brought for the Board that discussed the impact of trail systems. Ed will send out a copy of a report he has on the economic impact of trail systems. He will email the Board this information.

2. Status of Flowering Bridge Project – Bill Miller reviewed the progress on the bridge and again stressed the importance of the volunteers that have been involved in the process. He reminded the Board that when the project was first reviewed there was an estimated cost to build and complete of \$352k. To date the cost, due to volunteer time and effort, has been a very, very small portion of what was originally thought it to cost, a savings of almost \$300k. Bill discussed the importance of the impact of the bridge and its infrastructure. The 500 bulbs that were planted are starting to come up. The planter filling will happen soon after the inside walls and base of the planters are sealed. They will use the Styrofoam peanuts to fill the bottom of the planters. Bill reviewed how each planter will be independent of the other. Each will have separate types of soil prepared as the greenery in each planter will be themed differently. Each planter was pre-planned for irrigation with these themes in mind. Bill discussed how

each process has been carefully planned and thought of, and that the volunteers' knowledge into this process has been invaluable. The committee will be working on a financial campaign for more members and sponsors and will possibly have the need to go to Council to assist with future funding from the bridge management fund. There was further discussion on the process of the bridge and future management. Clint will get a list of native plant dealers in the area to Bill to refer to when purchasing.

3. Status of Morse Park Wetland Restoration and Enhancement Project – Clint Calhoun the live stake process that is still required in the wetlands area. Clint also reviewed that he was working with an environmental group on removal of exotic invasives in the wetlands. Melodie is treating the privet growth. but Clint discussed the need for a localized hot burn, that will kill the root crowns in the primary privet area below the east side of the berm, which would not be as big as a normal burn in that it is a very controlled burn. This should be done in early spring.

4. Status of work on parkland maintenance punchlist – Ed has given Melodie an updated copy of the punchlist. Melodie mentioned that the tennis courts need resurfacing at some point in the future. There was discussion regarding how to go about this. Melodie will look into cost. Melodie also discussed the need for additional picnic tables at the Morse Park Riverside picnic area. There was discussion about picnic table pads. Melodie has been moving the tables when mowing which is difficult. The Board discussed using bark or some type of material in a framed in pad for the tables to sit in. Melodie will check into this further and get back with the Board.

New Issues

5. Purchase of soccer goal posts for use at Morse Park Meadow LLCA had asked the Town about purchasing goal posts for them to use in Morse Park, however by this meeting date, LLCA had purchased their own. There was discussion about the use of equipment like this in the large field area. The Board discussed that if the Board were to purchase equipment it would need to be for public use as well, additionally, it was agreed that if any equipment were purchased (by a school or other group) and remained in the area, that it would be for public use. Jonathan mentioned he and his family have visited other area public use parks that had soccer fields and that it was open to all, and that it created a welcoming environment. He felt that this was an important feature. Ed opened up the discussion regarding sport equipment use in Morse Park. The Board agreed that it was important to allow the use of the field for this type of activity. Melodie Potter would keep an eye on this area in regards to the grass and land condition. The Board wanted to encourage the school to use this field when needed however they felt it important to get a schedule of the school's activities. Ed will look into this.

6. Additional landscaping and walking paths in Morse Park Ed reviewed the extra funds left over from the wetlands budget that could be used to enhance the gardens as well as other areas in the park, as well as to build additional paths. There was discussion in regards to having a landscape planner to come out and look at the areas. There was discussion regarding a new path around the north side of the large pond, as well as a short path connecting the current paths in the area that borders the

river by where the picnic tables are. There was also mention of up-dressing the pavilion area. Martyn Watts made a motion to use these additional funds of \$27k left over from the wetlands enhancement project to enhance Morse Park in general with additional landscaping and walking paths, Linda Turner seconded the motion and all were in favor. Ed will go to the Town Council to approve this plan if needed and will get bids from three landscapers. These funds will need to be used by July 1, 2013.

7. Initial planning for a pedestrian bridge connecting Morse Park Gardens and public parkland on east side of Marina Bay and connecting trails to Town Center Walkway

Ed discussed communications received from Town Manager Chris Braund discussing the start of planning for the building of a pedestrian bridge connecting Morse Park Gardens and the parkland at Marina Bay eastside. Ed mentioned that the current Town Center Master Plan has the bridge included in it and has been on the CIP out year budget for several years. Chris wants the board to include such a bridge in their new term budget plans. There was discussion of using a design engineer. Chris had mentioned possibly using the same group that Chimney Rock State Park used for their master plan. Ed will work to come up with the estimated cost for building the bridge. Ed is very encouraged and is eager to plan this bridge, viewing it as an important focal point for the area and connecting with the Town Center Walkway. Ed mentioned that next month there will be a budget workshop in which this plan will be included. The Board discussed that it needed to be a significant bridge structure being high enough to safely allow boat traffic underneath and wide enough to provide pedestrian traffic above. Ed stated this would be a major investment and asset to the Town.

Other Business

Ironman Race Potential Ed discussed the news that the World Triathlon Corporation is looking at Lake Lure for an Ironman competition in September of 2014. There were several cities and towns in the Southeast US they were looking at. The Town will receive an RFP in February. The Board was very excited about this news and commented about the major positive economic impact and exposure it would have for the town. The selection would be made in May sometime. There was further discussion regarding the positive impact on outdoor recreation for our town.

Multi-night Cycle Event There is word that Cycle North Carolina, the same group that held the Mountains to Shore Cycle event in 2012, will be bringing several hundred bicyclists to our area in the fall of 2014 for several days of biking, using Lake Lure as the hub. Ed discussed very preliminary reports with the Board. The Board is excited about how word has gotten out that Lake Lure is a positive place for such events. Ed will continue to update the Board regarding this possible event.

Adjournment

Ed Dittmer adjourned the meeting at 3:22 pm.
Minutes were taken by Kat Canant, Town Administration Employee

The next Parks & Recreation Board Meeting will be held on March 7, 2013