

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

March 7, 2013

## **Call to order**

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

## **Roll Call**

- **Board Members Present:** Ed Dittmer, Linda Turner, Jonathan Hinkle, Martyn Watts
- **Board Members Absent:** Todd Dunnuck, Bill Miller, Larry Czajkoski
- **Town Officials Present:** Commissioner Diane Barrett, Parks & Recreation Supervisor Melodie Potter, Environmental Management Officer Clint Calhoun, Town Mayor Bob Keith, Town Manager Chris Braund
- **Others Present:** Vic Knight of Knight Strategies, Greg Hasenfus of PierPointe Landscape

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

Meeting agenda was reviewed. Motion was made to accept the agenda by Martyn Watts, seconded by Linda Turner. All were in favor and the motion passed.

The minutes from the February 7, 2013 meeting were reviewed. Motion was made to accept the minutes by Linda Turner, seconded by Martyn Watts. All were in favor and the motion passed.

## **Review of the Budget to date**

The Board reviewed the current year budget status and reviewed proposed changes to next fiscal year operational budget. Ed stated that he has asked for an increase of \$5k in next year's operational budget in the line item covering P & R Board discretionary funds, to cover costs associated with the new Buffalo Creek Park startup, such as signage, brochures, picnic benches, etc. Melodie Potter advised the Board of the hardwood mulching and pine straw quotes she received. There was a discussion regarding the mulch type and cost. The mulching of beds and laying of rock dust on Morse Park paths this spring will be paid for out of the remaining funds in the P & R operational budget. Ed mentioned setting a date for a P & R Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget workshop for the Board to consider projects for next year. The remaining funds in the P & R CIP budget this year will be used to do landscaping in Morse Park.

## **Open Issues**

**1, Status of planning for Buffalo Creek Parkland Development** – Ed updated the board on the latest happenings with the project. Marion & Moultrie (M&M) had put in a

bid with two other contractors for the construction of the bridge over Buffalo Creek. This bid came in substantially less than other bids. M&M was awarded the contract, however before signing the agreement; M&M noticed that they failed to quote the price for labor. They withdrew their original bid and submitted a revised bid. The BCP executive committee has reopened bidding on the bridge. The Board discussed in length the problem with the bidding process that took place. Jonathan Hinkle asked if M&M had attended the pre-bidding meeting for bid requirements. Additionally the relationship between Trail Dynamics and M&M was questioned. It was mentioned that Trail Dynamics has awarded work to M&M in the past. Jonathan also mentioned that part of awarding a bid is that it is awarded to the "lowest responsible bidder". He mentioned that M&M has now shown a lack of responsibility in the bidding process. Jonathan also questioned the construction of the bridge and if it needed the specified pilings that were a part of the bidding for the job. Ed discussed that not only does the bridge need to withstand the weight of trail building equipment now, but for equipment needed for trail building projects in the park in the future. Ed suggested Jonathan discuss his bidding concerns with Shannon Baldwin who is now chairing the selection committee. Ed reminded the Board that there is only a window of access for trail construction equipment through Rumbling Bald Resort until May 1<sup>st</sup>. The whole trail building and bridge construction has been held up by all of the environmental review needed on trail construction methods over actual or potential streams and until a determination that no endangered plant species will be harmed. These environmental issues must be resolved before the RTP matching grant can be awarded and we can proceed with construction contracts. Clint Calhoun is working on environmental permits and should have them by the end of this month (March). There was further discussion regarding this.

**2. Status of Flowering Bridge Project** – Linda Turner reviewed the Flowering Bridge Revenue & Expense Summary, which will go to the Council next Tuesday. This includes two years of actual and three years budget. The Summary shows the profits for the first two years of the project. Linda praised the volunteers for making the project a success story. They are underway with a membership campaign and hope to raise more money for those efforts as well as support financially from the Parks & Recreation Board. There was discussion regarding the bridge self-sustaining itself. Ed mentioned that there were environmental concerns raised about the planned use of styrofoam peanuts for drainage in the planters. Clint Calhoun mentioned that the potential for eventual breakdown of the styrofoam and resultant chemical runoff into the river/lake would not be good for the environment. Washed stone is going to be used instead for subject planter drainage.

**3. Status of Morse Park Wetland Restoration and Enhancement Project** – Clint Calhoun brought the Board up to date on the scheduled burns. He will get with Fire Chief Ron Morgan. Clint wants to do a smaller burn this year and do some "hot fires" to better burn root crown of specific invasive plants. Live shrub/tree stakes will be planted following these burns. The Board has funds not used for the wetlands enhancement project. Ed has received the OK to use these funds for further landscaping in Morse Park. Ed mentioned that Vic Knight and Greg Hasenfus would be attending the meeting later to both give their landscaping proposals to the Board for new landscaping in Morse Park this spring in specific areas of the park.

**4. Planning for pedestrian bridge over the Narrows to connect with Point of Rocks Trail and Town Center Walkway:** Ed reviewed options of pedestrian bridge construction and associated costs with the Board. He presented handouts of info on wood, aluminum, steel, and concrete structures. Additionally Ed presented a rough comparison ranking that he had done on structure types. Both Ed and Martyn stated how surprised they were in their individual research on how much less expensive prefabricated pedestrian bridge structures are. There was in depth discussion regarding the proposed bridge. The height of the structure was discussed as Clint Calhoun asked to keep in mind the dredging machines that would need access to the marina area. Martyn had measured the span which he quoted at 160 feet. The height difference from one side to the other is approximately 30ft. Our Town Manager Chris Braund has asked the Board to develop a pre-plan with not just cost quotes, but to also include the benefits of a pedestrian bridge, such as pedestrian circulation and the way it would enhance the community and how it would draw people to the Lake Lure – Chimney Rock area. Several pedestrian bridges, such as the Liberty Bridge over Reedy River falls in Greenville, were discussed and the positive impact it has had on those areas. Chris encouraged the Board to bring a solid plan with support for the investment to Town Council. Ed will schedule this to be discussed at the budget workshop. The Board was very positive with what a structure like this could mean to the Gorge area.

**5. Status of work on parkland maintenance punchlist:** Melodie Potter reviewed updates on the punchlist. They have cleaned the beds and cleaned out downed debris/trees. They have cut and removed the tree in the Meadow area which LLCA is currently using as a soccer field and are planning to grind down the tree stump ASAP.

### **New Issues**

**6. Presentation and review of bids for Morse Park landscaping:** Vic Knight of Knight Strategies presented his proposal and layout diagrams to the board regarding the landscaping of specific areas of improvement at Morse Park. Vic also presented his vision of what the pond area in the Gardens could look like. There was further discussion regarding the areas to be landscaped and the types of materials and plants to be used. Greg Hasenfus of PierPointe Landscape also presented his proposal and layout diagrams to the board regarding the landscaping of specific areas of improvement at Morse Park. . There was further discussion regarding the areas to be landscaped and the types of materials and plants he proposed to use.

It was discussed and the Board decided that Mr. Hasenfus be allowed to revise his proposal, as Mr. Knight bid on landscaping the area on the north side of the pond that was not mentioned as a project area to Mr. Hasenfus. Mr. Hasenfus will revise his proposal to include this area and have it to the Board within the week. The Board will consider the bids at the budget workshop this month.

Ed stated that a third bid on the project was offered to Mary Ann Dalton of Earth Connections, however she was unable to bring a prepared proposal to the Board by this meeting and told Ed it would take her an additional two weeks to be ready to present . The Board decided she be removed from further consideration; as they had

the other two proposals and were happy with them. Ed mentioned he would call Mary and let her know this.

**7. Town Memorial Policy Recommendation:** Chris Braund had previously tasked the Parks & Recreation Board to investigate the memorials that have sprung up on Town property (mainly Morse Park) and to advise Town Council on a policy regarding such memorials. There are memorials for donated trees, memorials for a former mayor and some commissioners, and others, and there are even a couple memorials for departed pets. The Board discussed creating a recommended policy that would only allow memorials on significant structures that individuals/family could purchase or contribute to and have names memorialized, and the planned pedestrian bridge was mentioned. The Board proposed that no further individual memorials be allowed until a coherent policy can be devised and approved. The Board tasked Ed to research with Town staff to determine which of the scattered memorials currently on Town property were purchased from the Town (such as the signs under the crepe myrtle trees on the walkway in Morse Park Gardens) or otherwise permitted by the Town to create a memorial, and for how long these memorials are expected to remain. Once this is determined, options will be discussed on other ways to memorialize individuals, such as engraved pavers in a the walking path to the pavilion in the Gardens, or their name be included on a list of donors to Morse Park improvements be include on one plaque, such as was done with contributors to the playground equipment in the park.

The Board agreed to table the issue until the next P & R Board meeting until Ed reports back and a policy regarding the handling of memorials at Morse Park can be worked out and voted on for forwarding to Town Council.

### **Adjournment**

Ed Dittmer adjourned the meeting at 4:16 pm.

Minutes were taken by Kat Canant, Town Administration Employee

The next Parks & Recreation Board Meeting will be held on April 4, 2013