

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

April 11, 2013

## **Call to order**

Chairman Ed Dittmer called the regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board at 1:30 pm on April 11, 2013

## **Roll Call**

- **Board Members Present:** Ed Dittmer, Linda Turner, Jonathan Hinkle, Todd Dunnuck
- **Board Members Absent:** Bill Miller, Larry Czajkoski, Martyn Watts
- **Town Officials Present:** Commissioner Diane Barrett, Parks & Recreation Supervisor Melodie Potter, Environmental Management Officer Clint Calhoun, Town Manager Chris Braund
- **Others Present:** Mary Ann Brown, Kathy Tanner, Ken Brown

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

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

The minutes from the Special Meeting of March 21, 2013 meeting were reviewed. Motion was made to accept the minutes by Linda Turner, seconded by Todd Dunnuck. All were in favor and the motion passed.

## **Open Issues**

**Status of Morse Park enhancement projects** Agenda item #3 was moved forward to hear a presentation of "Grasses, Natives & Perennials" by Mary Ann Brown, one of the Flowering Bridge volunteers. There was discussion with Mary Ann following the presentation regarding heather and aster and how possibly to spread this look throughout the area and give the Lake Lure area a distinctive look. There was in depth discussion regarding the types of plants, such as the heathers and asters that were in the presentation. Chris Braund asked the Board to keep in mind the maintenance of the area. She discussed how little maintenance is required with such plantings and how volunteers could plant the plugs obtained from the plant nursery. Ed mentioned using the Flowering Bridge group for input with plantings in Morse Park and possibly using that volunteer group with further landscape work in the Park.

Ed discussed with the Board the revisions to the landscape plan from Greg Hasenfus of PierPointe Landscape. The Board discussed the use of some of the plants that were on the plan. There was discussion into the native plants of the area. Ed mentioned taking the large stones off of Island Creek Road area and moving them to help stabilize the bank of the pond in Morse Park. There was further discussion regarding native grasses. Clint Calhoun mentioned that it may take five years to get a garden to look the way

the Board was envisioning it. There was discussion having Clint, Mel, Mary Ann, Ed and Greg review the plants that were on the proposal, but Ed mentioned that with it being April, planting soon was a necessity and we need to move on with this planting phase. He would set up a conference call meeting with Greg to discuss specific staff recommendations on some changes around the pond, but recommended follow-on discussions to discuss planting options at other areas of Morse Park. Ed asked for a motion that would allow him to be the liaison between the Board and Greg Hasenfus. Jonathan discussed how important it was that the Board allow Greg to do what he proposed and that was what the Board selected when they voted on his proposal. Clint mentioned that he would send Greg the same list of native plants that he had originally sent the other bidder for the landscaping. A motion was made to authorize Ed to be a liaison and make decisions as needed with Greg, allowing Greg to complete the work on the proposal for landscaping in Morse Park this spring. All were in favor of the motion.

Clint Calhoun reviewed that he has been unable to schedule the burn for the needed wetland areas in the park, due to his schedule as well as the wet conditions. There was discussion regarding waiting until next spring to complete this. It was mentioned that he try to focus on a hot burn for the privet infestations. Clint also mentioned that he would also like to push off the planting of the live stakes in the wetlands until next spring because of scheduling.

**Status of Buffalo Creek Park development** – Clint reviewed the delays in permits. He stated that in the five miles of trails that he walked, there were no rare or endangered plants. He will send these findings and continue moving ahead for necessary permitting required for the RTP grant. There were further discussions regarding his findings. Clint had organized a meeting with all permitting agency representatives and they were mostly concerned about the runoff issues/drainage of the water. Clint estimates early June for the necessary permits to be completed and trail building to begin.

**Town Memorials policy recommendation** – Ed reviewed with the Board the staff finding regarding the memorials that were located in and around areas in Morse Park. All but four were paid for by individuals, with the other four authorized by town officials. After a lengthy discussion regarding memorial plaques in Morse Park, it was suggested that a policy be made and forwarded to the Town Manager and Council which would grandfather existing memorials, but would in effect say that should an individual or group wish to memorialize someone, they would be offered the opportunity to purchase an engraved brick that could be placed in any of the current locations where the brick walkways are. When a larger project is being undertaken, such as a bridge or other structure, memorials may be purchased and names placed on a plaque by or on the structure. The Board agreed that Ed Dittmer would write up a policy for the Board to review for Council.

**Status of the Flowering Bridge project** – Linda Turner brought the Board up to date on the bridge work. This past weekend over 30 volunteers worked hard on the bridge. The Daily Courier covered it on their front page. The planting has been completed and each planter has a theme. Several Board members remarked on how

great the bridge looked. Linda mentioned that the lamp posts will be going in shortly. There will be four posts, two at either end that will have the original Lake Lure lighting fixtures affixed to them. The Flowering Bridge committee will be selling plants at the bridge on the Sale on the Trail day, April 20<sup>th</sup>. Grand Opening for the bridge is set for October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The Board was very favorable with the work that was taking place using mainly volunteers.

**Status of work on parkland maintenance punchlist** – Melodie Potter has been working in the wetlands on the Japanese grass and has sprayed many of the privets. The mulching in Norse Park and Town Center was contracted out and is completed. The paver walkway in Morse Park has been repaired around the sycamore where the ground had sunk in a bit. A new temporary hire started last week to help with parks maintenance.

### **New Issues**

**Annual Canada Geese mitigation** – Clint advised the Board that the Town boat is out for repairs and maintenance and he's been unable to get out to check on nesting. He knows there are six active nest and estimates 18 or so. He is looking for volunteers to oil the eggs. He also has a map of where the nests have been in the past and most likely are again. Ed stated that he could head up the geese mitigation effort this year and asked Board members if they would like to help to let him know. Jonathan volunteered his work boat to the Board if needed. It was mentioned that LLCA has 9<sup>th</sup> graders that need volunteering time. It was discussed that it would be a great experience for them. It was agreed that they have a volunteer with them should they choose to take on this task. Clint said he had most of the materials needed, except the corn oil to oil the eggs. Melodie said she would take care of the nests on the peninsula at the beach.

**New town signage design and park signage requirements** – Valarie Hoffman reviewed the Park and Recreation signage and gave a copy to Ed Dittmer. Valarie discussed the branding process and reviewed a spreadsheet listing the signs in Lake Lure. There was discussion that the Morse Park signs were important to get updated and to include the new leash law. Ed was concerned about the DOT requirements along roadways concerning signage. Chris Braund mentioned that they would look into that for guidance on those applicable signs. There was discussion on the locations and placement of signs as well as the wording. Valarie also spoke with Ed regarding the trail maps. Ed mentioned the maps are copied in-house and not done through a printer to save cost.

### **Other Discussion**

**Light Project, Trash Receptacles & Picnic Tables** – Diane Barrett brought up the streetlight project that had been discussed at previous Board meetings. She asked that the streetlight committee keep in mind the new look that the branding has established. It was mentioned that the streetlight posts needed to have the capability of flying banners. Keeping the branding in mind, it was also discussed that the park was in need

of new trash receptacles and picnic tables. These items should also keep in line with the new Lake Lure branding look.

**Past decision to plant crepe myrtle trees** – Regarding an email from Robin Proctor that had been passed on to the Board questioning the planting of the crepe myrtle trees that replaced the cherry trees in front of the beach, Chris Braund read minutes from an October 2011 P & R Board meeting that mentioned the Board was in favor and has no disagreement with the replacing of the trees. Linda Turner mentioned that she recalled the meeting and that it was agreed to pull up the cherry trees. Melodie recalled that the cherry trees had been diseased and most had died and that the few remaining were not able to be replanted anywhere. Jonathan agreed that the trees would not have lived through a transplant. Melodie will get with Robin Proctor and explain the process and decision to replace the cherry Trees with the crepe myrtles. She explained Robin was very knowledgeable in regards to planting and she would understand.

**Review of Website Access for Board Agenda and Minutes** – Secretary Kat Canant reviewed with the Board the process of using the town's website to access meeting agendas and minutes. She passed out a step by step instruction sheet on how to get to these pages on the site.

### **Adjournment**

Ed adjourned the meeting at 3:24 pm.

Minutes were taken by Kat Canant, Town Administration Employee

The next Parks & Recreation Board Meeting will be held on May 2, 2013