

Lake Lure Parks & Recreation Board Meeting Minutes

November 7, 2013

Call to Order

Ed Dittmer called the regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board to order at 1:33 P.M. on Thursday, November 7, 2013.

Roll Call

- Board members present: Ed Dittmer, Linda Turner, Bill Miller, Jonathan Hinkle, Martyn Watts, Larry Czajkoski
- Board members absent: Todd Dunnuck
- Town Officials present: Commissioner Diane Barrett, Parks & Recreation Supervisor Melodie Potter, Environmental Management Officer Clint Calhoun, Trail Stewardship Coordinator Amy Allamong, Town Manager Chris Braund

Approval of 11/7 Agenda and 10/3 Minutes

The meeting agenda was reviewed and two issues were added: Fountain or Aerator, Canadian Geese Program, Linda made motion to accept revised agenda and Bill Miller seconded, the agenda was accepted unanimously.

The minutes from the October 2, 2013 meeting were reviewed. The following corrections were requested be made to minutes:

1. Buffalo Creek Park development topic, 4th paragraph, change Jane Padget to James Padget and change spices to species.
2. Flowering Bridge topic, add the words "by the" town next to the flowering.
3. Morse Park Improvements topic, 1st paragraph, 2nd line, correct the word personnel; 3rd paragraph, 1st line insert a space between a fountain.
4. Parkland Maintenance topic, 2nd line, change verb "is" to "are" because of plural subjects.
5. Parkland Maintenance topic, 3rd line, capitalize the word Board.

After corrections were identified for the record, Bill Miller made motion to accept revised minutes and Linda Turner seconded, minutes were accepted unanimously.

Open Issues

Buffalo Creek Park development:

Amy Allamong went out on Tuesday and walked the trail which is halfway through loop near the intersection at the planned Summit Trail. Trail Dynamics has completed 1 1/3

miles of trail. There is more open space at crest; one bridge yet to be constructed; Soil Erosion Control personnel had comments regarding the slope and erosion possibilities - Clint and Amy have 400 feet of matting to be installed to correct this problem; any barren soil 3 feet and larger will need matting over soil per regulations; it is not a normal practice for trail developers to lay the matting; Green Salamanders are threatened species that have been found in the boulder climbing area on the trail route. Bike trail runs through the boulder area; potential for climbing on CMLC portion of this section of trail so keep as mountain biking trail only.

Larry Czajkoski spoke on 10/29 with Jessica Kendal with Wyndham Resorts and stated an Asset Conveyance contract is in the works. He thinks Town needs to be more proactive in offering tax incentive that would be a tax deduction for Wyndham. Town could offer an easement; sell development rights, with Wyndham maintaining ownership of property.

Clint Calhoun helped Rumbling Bald Resort (RBR) regarding the private trailhead to be installed and so no issues; Tom Judson RBR CEO) is working to get contractor; guardrail/fence getting permit for that aspect of parking area on Resort.

Ed asked Chris Braund about the status of the RTP grant for \$200,000 and Chris replied that the grant process got delayed during the federal government shut-down and is in the back-log process since the government began operating again.

Flowering Bridge project:

Bill Miller reported the grand opening ceremonies were well attended; he stated that approximately 200 people have been crossing the bridge daily; based on this figure he estimates approximately 30,000 people will visit bridge in a one year period; those visiting the bridge so far were from 40 states and 19 foreign countries; Bill is meeting with Time-Warner Cable rep. today regarding the bridge story/publicity; he reported a bus filled with passengers from Tallahassee came to see the bridge and stayed overnight – bridge is good for tourism; looking forward to seeing what plants continue to live during winter; planted NC wildflowers over 700 varieties of flowers/plants have been planted; investigating and planning to create a sensory garden on west end for visually impaired and the blind so they can enjoy the bridge; it is amazing that everything planted survived through the year; exciting that this project is becoming a destination for many people; investigating what can be done to raise level of business during winter months. Preservation of bridge was questioned and Bill stated bridge is structurally sound and they have a bridge preservation plan as well as money to maintain the bridge which was provided to the town by NCDOT for this purpose; approximately \$60,000 has been taken from this fund to date and the Friends of the Flowering Bridge Board have built in their budget to repay the amount taken from preservation fund.

Status of Morse Park Improvements:

Jonathan Hinkle's company Marathon Builders were awarded the contract to install an 8 foot high wooden palisade fence around the gas tank; work on fence to be started next week and it will take approximately 1-1/2 weeks to complete construction; per State requirement the chain link fence must stay up, so the wooden fence will be placed approximately one foot away from metal fence and level all around with the bottom of wooden fence 6 inches off ground at its lowest point.

Per Melodie, David Lee will be coming to work on getting rid of the privet; black willows remain in wetland area and need to be cut down and left in wetland area were they fell; Public Works has yet to remove the large black willows remaining in the Meadow area near the picnic shelters; it costs \$600 per tree to ground out the stumps that are approximately 3-4 feet in diameter; it was suggested that Public Works rent the machine that grinds out stumps and Martyn Watts can do the work or use a back-hoe to knock sown and remove trees and trunks.

Status of work on parkland maintenance punchlist:

Ed commented that Public Works has done a good job of weed whacking around and on the berm and Melodie has done a great job on maintaining parklands in Town for seasonal transition; most every item has been done.

Adoption of policy on Board meeting attendance:

The Town adopted a resolution in 2010 for the Lake Advisory Board regarding attendance of meetings stating "any board member who is absent from three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings in a calendar year, and/or a total of four meetings in a calendar year may be subject to removal off the Lake Advisory Board by Town Council." This issue was discussed at length and it was decided to adopt this same attendance policy which will have to be approved by Town Council at their meeting in December. It is necessary to have a quorum at every meeting in order for the Board to take action on issues and it is very frustrating when members are not present. Linda Turner made the motion to adopt the same attendance policy resolution as the Lake Advisory Board, Martyn Watts seconded, passed unanimously.

New Issues

Morse Park wetland maintenance:

Clint Calhoun stated that Public Works recently bush hogged around the large pond and destroyed some vegetation that had been planted, the action was taken to remove the infestation of black willows. The Town has a management and maintenance guide that

he developed to protect the wetlands and determine the removal of exotic and invasive species. Clint asked that everyone please review the June 2012 management plan and let Clint know of suggested changes. This plan was implemented and distributed to everyone, but apparently not everyone is familiar with the guidance.

Burning is not the answer in getting rid of invasive species. There are methods for managing the pond and wetlands which will take time to accomplish. Clint does a walk-through periodically to determine what action needs to be taken to manage the area. Town staff needs to know exact location where wetland is located so such mistakes don't occur again – these areas are mapped out in the Town of Lake Lure Morse Park Wetlands, Management and Maintenance Guide.

Clint is getting ready to start privet removal which should make a big difference. He is talking with Lake Lure Classical Academy administration seeking to get students participation in removal of invasive species and help tend the wetland area.

Clint stated the flow of water through the wetland area has not been impeded to date.

Fountain or Aerator:

Martyn Watts has researched this issue and presented his suggestions of using a diesel pump on wheels (for easy transport) with a 25 horsepower motor which pumps approximately 200 yards of water or can produce a 45 foot fountain spray to oxygenate stagnant water area. It pumps 36,000 gallons per hour and provides circulation to the stagnant water. The pump has an automatic start/stop feature, and can be placed on the end of the spit of land between Pool Creek and the beach. The pump could be used from Memorial Day through Labor Day and then stored during winter months. The shallow water already has quantities of oxygen so need something for circulation.

Electric flotation devices for the marina area and the pond in the Gardens cost approximately \$5,000 - \$6,000. Diesel pump and flotation machine cost approximately \$25,000 - \$30,000 for the beach area; a surge protector would also be needed.

Clint stated he knows several people who deal with aeration systems and will set up an appointment for them to visit and determine our needs.

Question was raised, is it possible to dig a channel via a culvert from Poole Creek into beach area? Would need Army Corps of Engineers and DENR permits and would tend to bring sediment from Pool Creek into beach area.

Lake Advisory Board and Lake Operations Department are also looking into the problem. It was noted the fecal coliform count was the highest this year than in past years. Geese are major contributors of fecal coliform on the beach and in the water. Chris Braund suggested the formation of a committee of members from the Lake

Advisory Board and Parks & Recreation Board to investigate the problem and determine viable options.

Canada Geese Program:

Larry Czajkoski stated the egg oiling season will be beginning in the Spring and we need to continue with this program. It has been a successful program, however, we now have a large population of geese that continue to thrive here and a solution needs to be implemented soon to decrease that number. Clint was asked if he could obtain a federal deprivation permit to help in reducing geese population through humane actions. Phase 2 – Aversion has failed because we do not have enough trained dogs and volunteers to implement, plus aversion is impractical due to the large size of the lake and shoreline. The Board needs to investigate available options and make a recommendation to town council for the proposed action. June to August is when the geese molt and cannot fly and a plan needs to be implemented prior to June to reduce the population. Clint will investigate possible options.

Adjournment

Ed Dittmer adjourned the meeting at 3:44 P.M.

The next Parks & Recreation Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 5, 2013.

Minutes were taken by Diane Barrett, Town Commissioner