

TOWN OF LAKE LURE

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 4, 2014

Call to Order

Chairman Ed Dittmer called to order the regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board at 1:30pm

Roll Call

Board members present: Ed Dittmer, Jim Walters, Larry Czajkoski, Jessica Kendall

Board members absent: Linda Turner, Martyn Watts, Jonathan Hinkle

Town officials present: Commissioner Diane Barrett, Parks & Recreation Supervisor Melodie Potter, Environmental Manger Clint Calhoun

Addition of Item

Ed asked Staff Liaison Kat Canant to review the recording process of the meetings. She asked that Board members not leave their phones on the meeting table while the meeting is ongoing, even on vibrate, as the vibration and the texting, cause sound in the recordings through the table microphones and it's difficult to hear all being said. Additionally, she asked that members try to limit side table discussions when a speaker is speaking so that there is only one conversation at a time. Ed thanked Kat for all she's done for the Board transcribing minutes over the last couple of years.

Approval of Agenda and Meeting Minutes

The agenda for the December 4, 2014 Board meeting was reviewed. Jim Walters asked that the Board add to the agenda, a motion that he was asked to work on at the last meeting which was a recommendation to the Town Council regarding what the town needed to do to prepare for the opening of the Tryon International Equestrian Center. It was agreed and added to the agenda and a motion to accept the agenda by Larry Czajkoski and seconded by Jim Walters and all were in favor.

The minutes for the November Board meeting were reviewed and a motion was made to accept the minutes by Larry and seconded by Jessica Kendall and all were in favor.

OPEN ISSUES

Status of Buffalo Creek Park

Clint updated the Board on the continued park development. Clint stated that Trail Dynamics has finished Phase 1. The newly completed trail to the west runs to a logging road with access to Summit Court and that is the end of the trail for Phase 1. It offers some spectacular views. The last portion does not have as many switchbacks nor is not as wide as the first portion of the trail. Clint said that especially in the fall, the views were breathtaking. There are a couple of spots where there are already some erosion concerns. He suggests that it be monitored. Clint walked the trail with Darlene, the state inspector (Division of Land Resources out of the Asheville office). She stated that it was important to quickly stabilize the trails as soon as they move through grading and finishing it. Clint agreed with this and stated that it was important to take care of the trails this way, especially with the further out they go into the back county with the trails, that it would be harder to get out to them for repairing. Ed asked if they could make that a part of the contract. Clint said he spoke with Darlene about this, and that he didn't know what had been pre-arranged with Trail Dynamics, but that it would be certainly worthwhile to ask if they could do that as they go. It would save on the steep bank erosion. As they're going out, they're carrying materials for work, and it wouldn't be that much more to carry erosion control materials out and to lay them as well. Clint mentioned that Town Manager Chris Braund had sent Clint some potential routing for the next phase. The thought is that it is better to try to stay up on the ridges and not putting in so many switch backs, making it easier to make the trail and for trail maintenance. There was discussion regarding this thought. The members felt that this was a good idea, and discussed how to traverse to get back to the lower areas. Commissioner Barrett mentioned the thought of a swinging bridge to cross through the valley areas. Clint stated that the ridge separation was too wide to do something like this. As well, they needed to keep in mind that the trails would be used for bikers as well. Larry Czajkoski asked what has been done as far as the actual route planning thus far. Clint answered that there is a projected line, but there are no flags down as of this point. Clint also mentioned that before this begins he needs to get permission from the property owners, which would be CMLC and the Chimney Rock State Park. There would not be any privately owned land crossed if they were to take this route. Clint did say that state inspector Darlene was very complimentary about the volunteers that had done the trail work. There was further discussion regarding some erosion areas that needed repair. Clint said that the next time Darlene may be out to inspect the trails would be late January or February, because she is getting ready to be very busy with dam inspections over the winter. She will be sending the Town Manager the inspection report on the completed system thus far.

Jessica Kendall reviewed with the Board that Wyndham Resorts management is still reviewing the sale of the lot on Buffalo Creek Road needed for a trailhead parking area for the park. They've had to use a State contract. She said it is just taking a bit of time. This is the contract for the sale of the land to the State Parks Commission for parking for access to any future trails for the northern area of Chimney Rock State Park. There was discussion regarding the process to get this sale underway. There was further discussion regarding future trails. Larry stated that Rumbling Bald Resort was a part of the discussions, working on a sale agreement that outlines

the usage for that piece of land, within the Resort as far as restrictions and guidelines. Larry will be getting with Chris Braund regarding the request the Resort is making. There is parking space for about 50 cars on this lot under discussion.

Status of Town Center Walkway extension

Ed updated the Board with the progress of the walkway extension. He is holding \$10K in the budget for the work. Pavers are on hand, left over from walkway work. Ed handed out a design plan that has been sent to NCDOT to obtain an easement for the walkway extension from the Flowering Bridge to Boys Camp Road. Shannon Baldwin has been working on this. This also includes a pathway down to the water's edge from the west side of the Flowering Bridge.

Status of work on parkland maintenance punch list

Ed mentioned that the spotlights were very intermittently working at the welcome sign down by Hwy 9 and Hwy 64/74A. Melodie stated she thinks it may be something as simple as some tape that Tony had put over the photocells that didn't get taken off after testing. Melodie mentioned that she took care of the drainage area on the Rhododendron Trail at Donald Ross Park that Ed had previously mentioned needed correction at the last Board meeting. The area that needed drainage work on the Mountain Vista Trail is no longer required since that portion of the trail has been obliterated because of the tree clearing for the new school. As far as the drainage issue at Morse Park Meadow near the picnic ground, Ed asked Melodie if she had gotten with Jonathan Hinkle regarding shooting the grade, and she stated she had not, but would get with him and with Tony Hennessee to see what could be done. Ed asked that this work be done during this winter. There was discussion of putting a drainage pipe in, but due to the grade of the land there was a question as to whether this would work. Ed also mentioned getting some trees planted out there by spring after the drainage is corrected and to move some additional picnic tables there.

Development of Pool Creek Park

At the November Board meeting there were plans to meet at Pool Creek the next week to discuss the plans for the park. Several Board members did meet there last month and drew up a plan and sent it to Town Manager Chris Braund and he has forwarded the recommendations on to Town staff to accomplish this winter. Next spring it should be ready to open up for public picnic use. Town Manager Chris Braund had suggested that it would be called Pool Creek Park, and the Board considered that appropriate. Ed mentioned hopes of replacing the dilapidated wharf there currently with a couple new finger piers farther to the north which would make it easier for boats to pull right in and back out. With the water down it should be an easy task. There will be excess posts from the fence being taken out that can be used as the footings for the piers.

Bank stabilization work in Morse Park pond this winter

Ed asked if Clint had a chance to look at the material that could be used (coconut fiber) to stabilize the area of concern. Clint said the material is good and it should not be that difficult to install. He said that Tim Edwards may have the material out at his place. Clint said that he

would check with him on that. Ed mentioned to please do that so that we could get it and do the work while the water is down. Melodie stated that they've been putting rock dust down on the walking paths where needed. Ed asked if extending the walking path around the north side of the pond was in the works this winter. Melodie said she would talk to Tony Hennessee.

Ed mentioned another item concerning Morse Park. Shannon Baldwin, Town Community Development Director has been working on the pedestrian bridge concept. Shannon invited Mike Napier, a representative of a bridge company in Virginia that was in the area, to meet with the bridge steering committee to discuss various bridge options, including the design proposal that Vic Knight had done earlier this year for the steering committee. This group had also suggested several other types of bridges that would be less expensive than the Knight plan. Commissioner Barrett discussed in depth the meeting and different bridges and structures. She showed sample photos to the Board and discussed the plans. Mike Napier had stated pros and cons with each design and went through several scenarios and prices and what might be better for our community. Commissioner Barrett stated that any actual bridge design and construction would be funded by grants and donations, rather than appropriated funds. They are looking at a three year span to prepare plans and funding. There was further discussion regarding the topography of the area and the types of bridges that could be built. Mr. Napier also suggested the possibility of using a natural ramp instead of a metal access ramp or elevator on the Morse Park Gardens side of the bridge to save on cost. Ed stated that the bridge was still a dream and just needs to continue to be worked on to see if it can happen. It was also mentioned that the soil at the bridge site will be bored and tested this winter while the water is down to allow for further planning on footings and the structural anchors for any bridge.

NEW ISSUES

Affect of LLCA ground clearing on Donald Ross Park trails

Ed spoke of the new school site and how it looks now after the tree clearing. He stated that several of the trails have been affected. Melodie, Tony, Russ Pitts and Ed flagged off the areas where land clearing is being done so that hikers won't get hurt in the area. Ed mentioned that now that the trees have been removed, you can now visualize how big a piece of land it is and how big an area the school will be on. The picnic shelter in the park will be moved to a new location. The picnic tables there will need to be relocated as well.

Ed asked that Board members go out to the site to look at the land that has been cleared. Ed discussed the planned gymnasium/auditorium that is not funded under the current financing of the school and where a private fund raising drive is underway. He discussed the need for this being that the kids are having to travel to distant towns and cities to host their sporting events. He said that there would be an all-purpose sports field and ball field cleared during construction. Ed was hoping that they could get the gymnasium/auditorium built this coming year so that the first graduating class in May 2016 would have somewhere to have graduation ceremonies at.

CONTINUATION OF OPEN ISSUES

Recommendation to Council to what needs to be done locally to bring in guests and visitors from the Tryon International Equestrian Center

Jim Walters brought to the Board his recommendation for the Board to bring to the Town Council on efforts to bring in people that will be visiting the equestrian center. He discussed the ways it will affect our community in positive ways and that if the need is ignored and not addressed by our Town, we could lose out on a very great opportunity to market Lake Lure and better this community and its businesses, as well as the prospect of new businesses. There was discussion concerning the Equestrian Center and the overall plans it had within a 5 year span.

There was discussion of possibly building a large resort center to be sited on the land at the south-east side of the intersection of Hwy 9 and US 64/74A. The question was approached to Board Member Jessica Kendall, an employee of Wyndham Resorts, if she could put a bug in Wyndham's ear. Jessica explained her part of Wyndham was for vacation rentals. She asked questions regarding what types of traffic the equestrian center would bring and was very encouraged to hear that they estimate 90,000 rooms needed during their season, which would be about the same type season (spring, summer, fall) that Lake Lure has for its tourist season.

It was recommended that Commissioner Barrett would go to the Town Council with the Board recommendation that the Council help lead the way in bringing visitors from the equestrian center to our area. Jim explained that it would be remiss if we did nothing. Commissioner Barrett asked that the recommendation be sent directly to the Town Manager to be forwarded to Council.

Terms

Two terms on the Board will be expiring this month: Ed Dittmer and Larry Czajkoski. Both have indicated that they would like to continue on the Board. Ed had mentioned that he had talked to Jim Walters about taking over as Chairman. Jim stated that he would like to talk further to Ed regarding taking on the position. Ed stated that he would get with Jim to discuss this. Ed stated he would put his name in for reappointment and at the January meeting, the Board can elect a new chairman. Ed has been chairman for nine years.

Ed Dittmer adjourned the meeting at 3:15pm

Minutes were taken and transcribed by Kat Canant, Town Liaison

The next Parks & Recreation Board Meeting will be January 8th, 2014, since the first Thursday of the month falls be New Year's Day, so the meeting date was moved to the 8th.