



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

### **July 6, 2017 Minutes**

#### **Call to Order**

Chairman Jim Walters called to order the July 6, 2017 meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board at 1:30pm

#### **Roll Call**

Board Members present:

Jim Walters  
Ed Dittmer  
Dale Minick  
Martyn Watts  
Bill Massey  
Diane Barrett  
Larry Czajkoski

Town Officials present:

Town Council Liaison Stephen Webber

Others present:

Town of Lake Lure Liaison – Clint Calhoun  
Town of Lake Lure Communications Officer – Valerie Hoffman

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MEETING MINUTES**

The Agenda for the July 6, 2017 meeting was reviewed. Chairman Jim Walters made a request to amend the agenda, moving the Recognition of Guests and their Discussion Topics to the top of the agenda or whenever appropriate, based on requests by citizens to speak. **A motion was made to amend and accept the agenda by Ed Dittmer; and seconded by Dianne Barrett; all were in favor.**

The Minutes of the June 1, 2017 meeting were reviewed. **A motion was made by Dianne Barrett to approve the minutes; the motion was seconded by Ed Dittmer; all were in favor.**

#### **PARK PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION**

## **Discussion Concerning the Town Waterfront Concessionaire RFP and Morse Park Improvement Progress**

Chairman Jim Walters gave an update on the work concerning the concessionaire contract for Lake Lure Tours, Washburn Marina, and the Lake Lure Beach. A meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 11, 2017 at 2:00. Town Manager, Ron Nalley has requested more time to work on the RFP.

Chairman Jim Walters explained that discussion of the Morse Park Improvement Plan will take place at 3:00 where the Board will hear from Shannon Baldwin and Kathleen Osta with Vital Clarity. Packets will be handed out at that time.

## **Recognition of Guests and Their Discussion Topics**

Chairman Jim Walters recognized members of the public who came to speak regarding recent surveying work taking place in the vicinity of the proposed Luremont Trails. Harold and Marlene Wilson (351 Asa Gray Drive, Lake Lure), and Wayne and Janice Lawson (331 Asa Gray Drive, Lake Lure) expressed concern that they were seeing surveyors, but no one from the Town had contacted any of the property owners on Asa Gray to make them aware of the Town's desire to create trails in that area. It was explained to the Wilsons and the Lawsons that there is a process the Town must go through before any trails can be built and that the public will be notified at the appropriate time in the process, but the Town would work to make sure that there are no significant impacts to property owners. Commissioner Webber asked if there were any easement or right-of-way issues, either through private property or through the Duke Power powerline right-of-way. Martyn Watts said that there were not, based on previous conversations with Chris Callahan. Two letters were entered into the record voicing concerns over the possibility of a trail in the vicinity of Asa Gray; one from Travis Parry (361 Asa Gray Drive, Lake Lure) and the other from Wayne and Janice Lawson. Those letters are included in these minutes and are labeled as Attachment 1 and Attachment 2.

## **Progress on the Proposed Luremont Area Trail Development**

Martyn Watts provided an update on the work on the Luremont Trails. He once again expressed that the trail should cause little impact to the concerned property owners on Asa Gray Drive. Martyn said that the Town could possibly offer to put up some fencing if this would alleviate the concerns of the property owners there. He mentioned that that gate on the Pool Creek side of the project needs to be moved as it is on Town property, as well as the pile of junk that has been placed on the Town's property.

## **Dittmer-Watts Park and Trail System**

Ed Dittmer mentioned that Melodie Potter has been working hard to keep the trail maintained and that things look good out there. The "interior" sign still needs to be put up.

## **Lake Lure Public Golf Course**

Dale Minick updated the Board on the Golf Course. He said that June has been a good month. Golf was down slightly from 593 golfers in June, 2016 to 553 in June, 2017, but foot golf is up compared to this time last year with 84 in June compared to 65 in June, 2016. Totals for 2017 are up overall compared to 2016, with 2250 golfers and 255 foot golfers in 2017; 2151 golfers and 188 foot golfers in 2016. The turf looks good despite the heat. The 9<sup>th</sup> green is a mess right now. It has a lot of different issues, but Dale has not decided what route he wants to go to fix the problem. Dale said that on

Tuesday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, they will be replacing the culvert at number 4 with two 24-inch pipes, after which they will be doing some asphalt repair.

#### **Buffalo Creek Park and the Trail to Eagle Rock**

Larry Czajkoski gave a brief update on Buffalo Creek Park. He said that \$2,108.56 was spent from last year's budget on signage. This included the design of the interior signs and fabrication. There is still more work to do for emergency access and trailhead signs as well as the trailhead kiosk. The new signs incorporate the Town's new identity system. Larry projects that another \$10,000-\$12,000 will be needed for completing the signage aspect of the project prior to opening. No target opening date has been established yet as there are still some unresolved issues that were brought up in the initial trail meeting that still need to be looked at and adequately addressed. Larry brought forth the idea of getting a trail professional to do a study and provide a report and asked if there would be any objection to this if it could be done at no cost to the Town. No motion was made but there was no objection to the idea as presented by Larry. There was no update on the parking lot agreement with NC State Parks. Clint said that he would contact Brian Strong and see if he has any knowledge of where this stands. Larry mentioned that Hallie's service term is almost over and that she will be working to turn over her responsibilities to the next Americorps volunteer. She is still working on the counters and thinks she has the kinks worked out. It was recommended that the Town do something to recognize her for her service and contributions.

#### **Pool Creek Picnic Park**

Diane Barrett gave a brief update on Pool Creek Picnic Park. She said that the sign is here but has still not been put up. Otherwise the park looks good.

#### **Lake Lure Flowering Bridge**

Bill Massey stated that they now have water meters in. The footers are going in for the arbor. Bill said that they are picking up 1175 plants from Painters' Nursery for an English Country Garden. They will be ordering 700 more plant tags. The bridge's popularity continues to grow and this time of year they are seeing issues with parking availability. They will also be installing some security cameras to curb theft.

#### **Morse Park**

The paving is completed and looks really good. The new sign looks good as well.

#### **Town Parks and Recreation Supervisor**

Melodie Potter was on vacation so no report.

#### **Town of Lake Lure Liaison**

Clint mentioned passed around some photos that have been captured on a trail camera he has installed in Buffalo Creek Park. He is collecting data for a program called NC Candid Critters, a camera trapping program that is working to inventory mammal and game animal species in North Carolina. He also shared a photo of mountain camellia, a rare shrub that occurs in Buffalo Creek Park that so far has not been discovered anywhere else in Hickory Nut Gorge. Clint echoed Larry's comments about Hallie and talked about some of her recent work on Buffalo Creek Park trails. He also mentioned that very soon it will be necessary to establish some type of fence or barrier to prevent switchback cutting in

several places along the trail. There are also starting to be a lot of invasive species along the trail, particularly near the beginning of the loop.

### **Council Liaison Report**

Commissioner Stephen Webber stated that the signs at the Dittmer-Watts parking area look really good. He also mentioned the water needs of the Flowering Bridge and the need for exploring other water possibilities such as directly pumping water from the Broad River or drilling a well.

### **Board Discussion of the Morse Park Plan (Non-agenda Item)**

Shannon Baldwin and Kathleen Osta with Vital Clarity joined the Board for this portion of the meeting. Shannon distributed a hand-out of the 1992 Morse Park Plan and explained that in 1991, a community-wide survey was conducted to assess wants and needs for Morse Park. A plan was developed and adopted by Town Council. Some things in that plan were implemented, but in different places. Other aspects were included but never implemented. In addition to the 1992 Morse Park Plan, a copy of the new boardwalk concept was included in the handout from Shannon. Shannon stated that the purpose of this meeting was to develop a process for pulling all elements together and to build a spatially accurate plan that prioritizes needs and places for facilities. The Town is working with Fred Grogan of Equinox Environmental and Kathleen Osta of Vital Clarity to put this plan together.

The scope of the plan covers every aspect of Morse Park. Pool Creek will not be included in this concept, but it will include the Town boardwalk. Kathleen will help assess community wants and needs for Morse Park. Equinox will then take Kathleen's work and develop the concept plan. Shannon handed out a packed detailing the scope of work and the contract agreements. The concept also puts high priority on getting the restrooms located and built in time for the World Equestrian Games coming to Tryon International Equestrian Center in 2018.

Ed Dittmer made a motion to "recommend to Town Council that the scopes of work and agreements with Vital Clarity and Equinox be approved." Bill Massey seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

### **Adjournment**

Chairman Jim Walters requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ed Dittmer made a motion to adjourn, Martyn Watts seconded the motion, the board was unanimously in favor and Chairman Walters formally adjourned the meeting at 3:45pm.

Minutes were transcribed by Town Liaison Clint Calhoun

The next Parks & Recreation Board meeting will be by August 3, 2017 at 1:30pm

Town of Lake Lure board,

I am writing this letter on behalf of my family to express our concern and opposition to the proposed loop hiking trail being considered. As we understand this trail will run from Memorial Highway by the ABC store, up the hill bordering our property, and then down the hill towards Bottomless Pools.

I'm an active member of the community and serve as a volunteer with Chimney Rock fire department, assisting with calls in both Lake Lure & Chimney Rock. My wife is also active and volunteers as a tutor teaching English.

I must say that my wife and I are disappointed that no communication has been made on the town's behalf to let us know what was going on with this trail. We feel that since it's going to be right in our back yard we should at least have been access to information during the planning phase.

The main reasons we bought this home were because it's at the end of the street, thus no traffic, and we have 4 acres to give us some additional privacy. Both of these will go away with a hiking trail that runs right up alongside us.

That said, our opposition stems from 2 major concerns and to preface them, we have a 3 year old girl:

1. Dogs. Being avid hikers ourselves and dog owners, we know that people rarely keep their pets on a leash when hiking in the woods, even when signs exist to do so. We have a number of concerns related to this:
  - a. Dogs wandering up into our yard and potentially harming our little girl.
  - b. Dogs wandering up into our yard and causing fights with our dog.
  - c. Dog excrement on our property with no recourse.
2. People / Foot traffic
  - a. Again, we're worried about strangers wandering onto our property since the house will clearly be visible from the trail. Not only will we be weary about theft but more importantly the safety of our little girl.
  - b. Noise from dogs and hikers.

In addition, we're also concerned about our property value and how this trail may negatively impact it.

Please take our concerns into account and think about how we can work together to address them.

A very concerned resident,

Travis Parry

361 Asa Gray Drive

Lake Lure, NC 28746

305-394-5513

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Search Web



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Archive

Spam (199)

Trash (122)

> Smart Views

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## Proposed Hiking Trail

People

Janice Lawson <janice811@att.net>

Jul 1 at 10:27 PM

To Harold and Marlene Wilson

(Please share this email with the Town of Lake Lure)

I am writing this email message to express Wayne and my opinion concerning the news about a possible hiking trail being established next to our property at 331 Asa Gray Drive, Lake Lure, NC.

We have not been contacted in any manner concerning these plans and only found out because a neighbor saw a surveyor out taking measurements. We are very much opposed to this idea because we do not want strangers coming through our yard or neighborhood. We purchased this property 3 1/2 years ago and have put a lot into our place here to create our retirement dream home. We chose this site because of the peace and quit, which has been perfect for us. We enjoy the pleasure of watching deer, turkey, birds and other wildlife out our windows. Please do not allow this to be taken away from us and our neighbors.

We thank you for allowing us to share our thoughts and opinions and please, please reconsider your plans.

Sincerely,

Wayne & Janice Lawson

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