



Lake Lure Parks & Recreation Board Meeting

February 7, 2019

Call to Order

Vice Chairman Ed Dittmer called to order the February 7, 2019 meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board at 1:30 p.m. at the Lake Lure Town Hall.

Roll Call

Board Members present:

Ed Dittmer

Maureen Bay

Bill Massey

Dale Minick

Larry Czajkoski

Town Council Members present:

Stephen M. Webber, Commissioner

Other Town Staff Present:

Shannon Baldwin, Town Manager

Melodie Potter, Town Parks and Recreation Supervisor

Laura Krejci, Town Communication Specialist

Garrett Murphy, Lake Lure Parks & Recreation Coordinator

Dean Givens, Lake Lure Parks, Recreation and Lake Director

Others in Attendance:

Robin Schultze, AmeriCorps Trails Coordinator

Absent:

Martyn Watts

Jim Walters, Chairman

Jessica Hough, Seated Alternate

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MEETING MINUTES

The Agenda for the February 7, 2019 meeting was reviewed. Mr. Dittmer proposed a discussion regarding the Park & Recreation Work Plan where they would discuss a three year outlook and budgeting. **Mr. Massey made a motion to approve the Agenda as amended. Mr. Minick seconded and all were in favor.**

The Minutes of the January 3, 2019 meeting were reviewed. **Mrs. Bay made a motion to approve the Minutes as presented. Mr. Massey seconded and all were in favor**

Introduction of Mike Reardon of the Carolina Climbing Coalition and Presentation – Larry Czajkoski

Mr. Czajkoski introduced Mr. Reardon with the Carolina Climbing Coalition (CCC). Mr. Reardon is the newly appointed Executive Director of the CCC. Mr. Reardon briefed the Board on the CCC. He presented a power point presentation which detailed the purpose of the CCC. This non-profit group began in 1995 and currently had 500 Annual Members. The group is experienced on land acquisitions and stewardship projects. Mr. Reardon's presentation went through the many areas that have been purchased for conservation and recreational purposes beginning with land in the Cashiers area that they purchased in 2005. They specialize in trail building, species identification and erosion mitigation. The group has obtained REI grants as well. In 2014, in Buffalo Creek Park, they oversaw the conservation and trail efforts which have been a great success. CCC holds Trail Volunteer Days which is highly popular and creates great efforts in maintenance of trails.

Mr. Reardon discussed the Bolder Climbing Competition that is held in Lake Lure annually. Their 4th year competition will take place the weekend of February 15th – 17th. The group sets up camp in Morse Park on Friday and begins their bouldering competition at 7am on Saturday morning. There are shuttle buses that take competitors and on-lookers up to Chimney Rock State Park on Boys Camp Road during the day. During the afternoon there is a great opportunity for the area merchants and vendors to meet and great competitors during a trade show. There was discussion regarding the economic impact that the group has in the Lake Lure area. Mr. Reardon mentioned that the Red River Gorge area that brings in thousands of climbers yearly has an economic impact of an estimated \$3.8 million and has created 41 new jobs. There was discussion of other similar studies and he mentioned that Chattanooga has also seen a substantial impact from the climbing coalition. Mr. Reardon mentioned several other areas around Lake Lure and Chimney Rock areas that are dynamic bolder climbing areas. Some are on private land and some are state park land. A large problem in getting to areas they would like to pursue, is parking. He discussed the old Silver Dollar City "Ghost Town" area in Chimney Rock that would be ideal. It is currently on state park land and another adjoining area is private. Use of the state park land was not on the 2006 CRSP Master Plan so this area is not used for anything at this time. Mr. Reardon discussed the great benefits this area could experience by getting some of the areas he mentioned opened for climbing and bouldering. There was discussion regarding the incredible partnership possibilities with CCC and the Town of Lake Lure.

There was continued discussion regarding the bouldering weekend. The Board agreed that they needed to help market it to the area. The Board also agreed that they would set up a booth during the weekend that would allow competitors to inquire about Lake Lure and all it offers. Mrs. Bay will help oversee this and be there for set up of the booth around 4pm. Commissioner Webber suggested to the Town Manager Shannon Baldwin, to make sure the State Employees Credit Union ATM is stocked for use. The Board discussed making sure the visitors know about area restaurants, breweries and hotels.

Mr. Reardon wrapped up his presentation by thanking Lake Lure for its hospitality over the past four years and stated he plans for this to continue for many more years. He was excited about the response from the Board in the partnership as well as their excitement in building upon it. Mr. Czajkoski

thanked Mr. Reardon for his presentation and for all that CCC has done in the region and stated he looks forward to this great future partnership.

Discussion regarding the meeting with SORBA at CRSP on February 12, 2019 concerning Trail Maintenance – Larry Czajkoski

Members from the Southern Off Road Bicycling Association gave business cards to Board members and quickly introduced themselves stating that they were mainly there today to support Mr. Reardon and that they looked forward to meeting with Mr. Czajkoski on the 12th for future talks regarding trail maintenance in our area. There was a brief discussion regarding mountain biking in the Lake Lure area.

Introduction and congratulations to the new Lake Lure Parks & Recreation Coordinator Garrett Murphy – Ed Dittmer

Mr. Dittmer welcomed Mr. Murphy to the meeting and asked Mr. Murphy to tell the Board about himself. Mr. Murphy discussed his excitement in this newly developed position and stated that he was proud that he had been chosen for the position. Mr. Murphy briefed the Board on his educational experience as well as the positions he had in his career that were key to him being chosen for this job. He has many plans and suggestions that he will continue to discuss with the Board and Town. He officially begins his new job on March 4, 2019. The Board was very pleased with Mr. Murphy and was excited for him to begin.

Park & Recreation Board Workplan Development – Ed Dittmer

Mr. Dittmer reviewed with the Board that it was time to discuss future plans and budget them for the next three years. He discussed that Town Manager Shannon Baldwin was facilitating a gathering with Vital Clarity that would help them walk through the planning of the future undertakings. Mr. Baldwin discussed some dates for the Workplan Development and the Board gave Mr. Baldwin workable dates and times. Mr. Baldwin later confirmed a date and time with Vital Clarity for February 25th from 1pm to 5:30pm. Mr. Dittmer continued explaining that the Board would need to bring to the table their ideas and plans for the Town through the Parks & Recreation Board. There was discussion between the Board regarding mutual ideas and what materials they would need to bring to the Workplan Development session. They will focus on one year, two year and three year plans. Mr. Dittmer mentioned the moving of the tennis courts, Luremont Trails and other ideas the Board has had. Mr. Dittmer asked that anyone that cannot attend to please send their plans and ideas to the Parks & Recreation Chairman Mr. Jim Walters. There was discussion regarding where the payment for Vital Clarity would come out of in the budget.

A motion was made by Mr. Massey to use \$4k from the Parks & Recreation Budget to pay Vital Clarity for the Workplan Development. The motion was seconded by Mr. Minick and all were in favor.

Mr. Dittmer mentioned that there had been discussions with Mr. Murphy concerning him updating the Parks & Recreation Open Space Plan that had last been updated five years ago. Having Mr. Murphy at the Workplan will help him with the further development of that plan.

Buffalo Creek Park – Larry Czajkoski

The new entrance sign is now installed at Buffalo Creek Park. The parking lot at the trail head will be on Mr. Czajkoski's wish list for the Workplan. The traffic software has been renewed for five more

years. Conserving Carolina split the \$500 cost with the Town. Mr. Czajkoski mentioned that the Buffalo Creek Park and Weed Patch Mountain closures needed to be coordinated so that the same information was getting out at both ends. The State Park closed their side for about 10 days in December. Mr. Czajkoski stated that he has spoke with Ranger Katie Scheip on how to formally coordinate the closures. Mr. Czajkoski mentioned that Mr. Murphy would be a key in facilitating that coordination for advertizing trail closures.

Mr. Czajkoski reviewed the trail counter numbers with the Board. The numbers were up from December. There was discussion regarding the counters and changes from month to month. Mr. Czajkoski suggested to Mr. Murphy that if there was any other type of information or a change on the graph (line or bar) the he would need from the counter numbers, to let him know. Mr. Czajkoski reported that the Weed Patch Mountain trail was in great shape and mentioned the SORBA meeting later this month regarding trail maintenance. Mr. Czajkoski stated that at next month's P&R Meeting he will be bringing the Weed Patch Mountain Management Agreement that has been ammended to include some summary information by Mr. Tim Johnson. He discussed that Conserving Carolina is over that trail maintenance plan for the next two years. Commissioner Webber suggested Mr. Czajkoski bring the Weed Patch Mountain Management Agreement to the Workplan Development session as well. Mr. Robin Schultze (from AmeriCorps) reviewed Buffalo Creek Park maintenance and stated the trail looks good and noted that he had walked the four mile extension. There are minor erosion issues but those are being looked at. Mr. Czajkoski mentioned to the Board that Conserving Carolina may be available for contract hire after their two year maintenance plan expires. He felt that their cost would be very nominal. He mentioned that Conserving Carolina would want to maintain the asset they built. Mr. Czajkoski reviewed upcoming training classes at Isothermal Community College regarding trails. He suggested board members attend some of these classes with beneficial training with design and maintenance.

Dittmer-Watts – Mr. Ed Dittmer

Mr. Dittmer reviewed the damage on the trail from the previous month's meeting. There was discussion regarding rerouting that trail around fallen trees. He mentioned that the he and Mrs. Potter would need to discuss what was going to be done about that area. He stated there was some erosion at the mountain vista by the east end of the meadow stream bed and stated it was falling in around the pipe. He further explained this issue to Mrs. Potter. She stated she will investigate that area. Mr. Dittmer was also concerned about the drain at the east end of the meadow. He discussed as well that there needed to be maintenance by the pump station and a big pine had fallen there. Mrs. Potter stated she would look at that as well.

Flowering Bridge – Mr. Bill Massey

Mr. Massey reported that the remaining Christmas lights are coming down and will be completely removed by the end of the month. He stated that the daffodils are blooming and that this area was stunning. He stated that they are preparing to do a spring push to clean up and brighten the gardens. Mrs. Bay asked about the condition of the luminaries. Mr. Massey stated that half were destroyed due to the weather. Mrs. Bay stated that she will go look at this area for the Lake Lure Artist group.

Lake Lure Municipal Golf Course – Mr. Dale Minick

Mr. Minick reported that January was an interesting month and that by the 8th of the month they had already hit the number of golfers they had last year for the month. He felt that the increase came from

the membership drive. He stated that February already looked good in that they had 305 to contend with from last year and they've already hit 100. He mowed the greens today and he stated there is a lot of new grass coming up. He is putting a cover on some areas as it acts like a greenhouse. Membership is at about 140 now. Mr. Minick is working with the Town on renewing the lease. He is also looking at bringing in a new fleet of golf carts in April. Everything else is looking good. He reviewed the #4 tee culverts and stated that he is waiting for the engineering permit.

Morse Park – Mrs. Melodie Potter

Mrs. Potter stated that they are working hard on cleaning up. Mr. Carl Landrum is an asset and hard worker. Mrs. Potter mentioned that there were two issues of concern, one being where a lady recently tripped and fell. The other problem that needs addressed is at the boardwalk by the Gazebo where the boardwalk has a sinkhole area. Mr. Givens stated that he was working on that now.

Parks and Recreation Supervisor – Mrs. Melodie Potter

Mrs. Potter mentioned that they are getting proposals for mulching; for material and labor which should be done by the last part of March to April 1st. Mrs. Potter discussed that she and Carl are moving their office location to the Dam House. Mr. Dittmer mentioned that he spoke with Mr. Baldwin noting that David Arrowwood, the Public Works Director, stated that whatever Mrs. Potter needs for Parks & Recreation as far as equipment use, which she was welcome to use. Mrs. Potter mentioned that P&R could use a couple of golf carts to get around for instance at festivals. There was a brief discussion of putting this in the CIP. Mr. Minick stated that he was making two golf carts from the golf course, available for the Dirty Dancing Festival.

Lake Update – Dean Givens

Mr. Givens discussed the hydraulic dredging stating that Mr. Edwards, the contractor, is doing a fabulous job and that he was releasing good water, not muddied, back out into the lake. He has removed 15K cubic yards of silt and is moving down toward the main channel. They are looking at possibly moving into Firefly Cove after the Main Channel is completed, but it was noted that Town Council needed to decide what to do with this area. Mr. Givens stated that dredging is on schedule.

Mr. Givens reported that on Saturday he spent the first part of the day searching the lake in coordination with the police and fire rescue workers who were looking for a missing woman.

Mr. Givens stated that in the next month they will be doing lake maintenance. Mr. Dittmer stated that he had heard the lake was going to be drawn down about a foot for some construction and silt removal. Mr. Givens stated the plan had been cancelled and there was another way to go about what was needed to be done out at the Resort. Mr. Givens also explained that they are working at the spoils pit to expand it for emergencies and then would remove the Morse Park spoils pit. There was a brief discussion regarding this action. There was discussion that the new section will have coverage with trees. Mr. Givens stated that there have been no complaints from residents and that Mr. Edwards was actually putting gravel down on the roads. Commissioner Webber mentioned replacing some of the trees with evergreen trees that would really be a nice coverage for the pits. Mr. Givens felt that would also help to dampen the noise.

Commissioner Webber asked Mrs. Laura Krejci if she knew about the rowing teams that come out during the spring. Mr. Dittmer explained the group and where they are from and that during March

they will be out rowing on the lake. Commissioner Webber felt that it would be great to get that information out to the public for a story. Mr. Czajkoski stated that he would email Mrs. Krejci a contact number out at the Resort.

Summary Report of Town Council Meeting 1/8/2019 – Moe Bay

Mrs. Bay deferred this report to the March meeting. Mr. Dittmer updated the Board on what Mrs. Bay will be covering with her reports. Mrs. Bay also mentioned that there would be an event Friday evening 2/8/2019 at the Event Center in Lake Lure. The Souper Supper (A Chimney Rock Development event) is all you can eat for just \$10 and there is a cash bar. She mentioned that the Event Center was donating the space for this event but that the Event Center would benefit from the cash bar income. The event begins at 5:30pm

Town Commissioner Stephen Webber

Commissioner Webber stated that Commissioner Cameron will not be running again as well as Commissioner Webber will most likely not be run again and that those chairs would be open.

Other Topics

Mr. Czajkoski mentioned to Mr. Dittmer that the geese are paring up again. There was discussion that the Board will discuss this in March.

Mrs. Krejci mentioned that the Sale on Trail is on April 20th. She mentioned that the events are on the Town's Event Calendar on the website. She discussed the Lake Lure Spring Classic Boat and Auto Show that will be held May 10th and the 11th which is also Mother's Day. She reviewed the activities during this event. There was discussion regarding the floating dock and fingers that will be used. There are hopes that this will become an annual or bi-annual event and that it is expected to bring in large crowds. The show cars will be parked in front of the beach area. The Town has invited vendors to participate.

Mr. Dittmer discussed the Olympiad Open Water Swim at the Lake Lure Beach. This is a new event which is a part of the NC Swim Series. Mr. Dittmer will get Mrs. Krejci more information as well as Mr. Givens so he can plan for the lake operations.

Adjournment

Mr. Dittmer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:28 pm. Mr. Massey seconded and the motion and all were in favor

Minutes were transcribed by Kat Canant, LLPD Admin Assistant

The next regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board meeting will be March 7, 2019 at 1:30 pm.

ATTEST:


Jim Walters, Chairman