



**Lake Lure Parks & Recreation
Board Meeting
October 5, 2023**

Call to Order

Vice Chairman Ed Dittmer called to order the September 7, 2023, Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board at 1:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members present:

Vice Chairman Ed Dittmer
Mr. Robin Worcester

Mr. Larry Czajkoski
Ms. Mo Bay

Mr. Dan Bragdon
Mr. Ozzie McFarland

Board Members absent:

Chairman Jim Walters Mr. Bill Massey

Town Council and Officials present:

Mayor Carol C. Pritchett
Hank Perkins, Town Manager

Other Town Staff and Contributors Present:

Dana Bradley, Town of Lake Lure Parks, Recreation & Trails Coordinator
Laura Krejci, Town of Lake Lure Communications Director

Agenda and Meeting Minutes

The Agenda for the October 5, 2023, regular meeting was reviewed along with modifications. **Mr. Worcester made a motion to adopt the agenda, as modified. Ms. Bay seconded the motion and all members voted in favor.**

The minutes of the September 7, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Two modifications were made. **Mr. Worcester made a motion to approve the minutes, as modified. Mrs. Mo Bay seconded the motion and all members voted in favor.**

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

PRB COMMUNICATIONS

Parks, Recreation & Lake Monthly Report

Parks, Recreation, and Trails Coordinator Bradley introduced the new AmeriCorps member, Maddie Bartosh. Board members welcomed Ms. Bartosh and introduced themselves. Ms. Bartosh detailed volunteer hours for the month.

Mrs. Bay asked about the Town's new bear proof trashcan. Coordinator Bradley detailed that the bear proof trashcan has worked well. It was noted that Town staff is looking to buy more and are evaluating options. It was mentioned that Chimney Rock Village installed new bear proof trashcans, but they are very expensive. Coordinator Bradley explained that the Town will eventually try to replace all plastic trash cans with more durable options. Mrs. Bay expressed that she would like suggestions for bear proof trashcans to relay to other residents. Mayor Pritchett noted that a lot of bear proof trashcans are pricey. Communications Director Laura Krejci stated that she can send various options to Mrs. Bay. Board members discussed that bears and garbage are an issue. It was noted that the Town could hold a community forum to educate residents on the matter. Board members discussed that vacation rentals are one major contributor to the issue and expressed that there is need to enforce the rules surrounding bear proof trashcans and vacation rentals.

Green Space Updates & Recommendations

It was reported that the Green Space was utilized a lot this month. Coordinator Bradley explained that she is working with the Public Works department to make improvements to the Green Space. It was noted that Town staff received positive feedback about the Green Space from a few people. Mrs. Bay asked if staff had gotten negative comments and Coordinator Bradley said yes. Mayor Pritchett asked if people are doing well with cleaning up after their dogs and Coordinator Bradley answered yes.

Dittmer – Watts Nature Trail Park

Mr. Dittmer noted that he walked at the Dittmer-Watts Nature Trail Park today. It was detailed that the Lake Lure Classical Academy (LLCA) has a cross country meet this afternoon and they will be using part of the trail for their meet. Mr. Dittmer added that Dittmer-Watts is getting a lot of use. It was noted that there will be a trail workday next Tuesday. Ms. Bartosh reported that she did not see any issues when she was last on the trail. Mr. Dittmer noted that there is a need to work on kudzu control on Mulberry trail. Mrs. Bartosh expressed that she is hoping to hold special invasive species clean up days. Mr. Worcester noted that he was impressed with the cleanliness of the trails and others agreed.

Ms. Bartosh reviewed trail counter numbers for the Green Space, Dittmer-Watts, and the connector.

Buffalo Creek Park, Weedpatch Mountain & the Trail to Eagle Rock

Coordinator Bradley noted that there was a ribbon cutting at Buffalo Creek Park for a new trail that had a very good turn out with over 40 people, over 30 of which hiked the trail. Coordinator Bradley added that the trail is about 5.5 miles in total. It was noted that the trail was installed entirely by hand and that it was mainly completed by the Carolina Climbers Coalition. Coordinator Bradley detailed that the trail also provides additional bouldering access. It was stated that there will be articles in the paper about the new trail soon and that it is open for foot traffic only.

Mr. Bragdon asked if the Town had gotten any feedback or entered into any agreements that detail where the liability rests on installing anchors on the rocks. Coordinator Bradley explained that Carolina Climbers inspect and maintain the anchors. Mr. Bragdon asked if there is anything in writing that says this and Coordinator Bradley answered no, but she will follow-up. Manager Perkins noted that the Town has a duty to inspect and maintain trails. Coordinator Bradley explained that she was not aware that anchors were going to be installed and noted that they may need to be removed. Mr. Bragdon expressed support for a contract between the Town and Carolina Climbers Coalition, but noted that he is impressed with the Coalition's work. Coordinator Bradley agreed that she is impressed with their work and with the new trail. Mr. Czajkoski also agreed and thanked Town staff for hosting the ribbon cutting. Mayor Pritchett expressed support for all the different parties that made the trail happen and noted that she liked seeing the diverse attendance. Coordinator Bradley stated that Conserving Carolina is working on acquiring another piece of land that could be used to create another small trail.

Ms. Bartosh noted that work days will be held on Tuesday the 10th at Dittmer-Watts, Thursday the 12th at Weedpatch Mountain, and Thursday the 19th at Buffalo Creek Park.

Lake Lure Flowering Bridge

Mrs. Bay reviewed the August and September numbers for the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge (LLFB) Mrs. Bay reported that the Bridge always has a good number of visitors.

Mrs. Bay explained that the LLFB hired Kim Warner as the engineer for the construction of the education center and that the building was reconfigured on the site. Mrs. Bay added that the LLFB also hired the K Brothers who will be retrofitting a modular piece. Mrs. Bay reported that the LLFB accumulated \$155,000 in donations for the education center and that their goal has nearly been met.

It was detailed that Dogwoods auctions are on display now and that the LLFB is hoping that the auction will be as successful as it was last year. Mrs. Bay added that the auction goes live on October 13th and those who are interested can visit the LLFB website.

Mrs. Bay explained that Mr. Alan Moore had passed away and that his daughter Chloe has inherited his property that the Bridge is partially on, so the LLFB is negotiating with Chloe and would like her to donate this land to the Town for the LLFB's use. Mrs. Bay noted that if the land is donated, the LLFB would create a meadow on the property and it would be designated to the Moore family.

Mrs. Bay announced that there will be a new display soon that will include fall pumpkins. It was also announced that there will be a seasonal wreath class held on the 24th at 10:00 a.m. Mrs. Bay provided Board members with four pages of publicity that the Bridge has gotten over the past few months and expressed that she is happy about the attention that this landmark is getting.

Morse Park

It was noted that the Dance Festival was recently held in Morse Park and Director Krejci noted that she heard positive feedback about the Festival. Mrs. Bay noted that she attended the Festival and there were not as many attendees as there were in previous years for the Dirty Dancing Festival, so the Chamber would like to re-evaluate the Festival name in the future. Board members discussed that there will be a *Dirty Dancing 2* and it might impact the festival.

Coordinator Bradley detailed that the tennis courts are being refurbished and should be completed within a week. It was noted that there may be a ribbon cutting for the re-opening and that the court is looking good so far.

Mr. Bragdon asked if the Town has any standing proposals for pickle ball tournaments or use of the court for profit purposes. Manager Perkins noted that Sonny Clark held a small tournament for locals and that he had an agreement with her that the tournament could not interfere with the access of the court to those who were not participants in the tournament. Manager Perkins noted that the Town is not discussing for-profit activities on the court at this time. Mrs. Bay noted that the Board had discussed monetizing on different recreational facilities in the Town, but no conclusions were made. Mr. Bragdon asked if the Town had moved away from this idea. Board members discussed. Manager Perkins detailed that issues occurred with for-profit use of facilities in the last municipality that he managed because there is a lot of liability. Mr. Bragdon agreed that there would be liability involved and noted that activities would need to be monitored.

Mr. Bragdon expressed that it is his understanding that the Town needs to evaluate best uses for the Green Space before making any decisions on uses for the property. Manager Perkins explained that the Town is in the process of having a space needs study completed for the future fire department and that master planning for the Green Space can begin after the space needs study is completed. Mr. Bragdon noted in the meantime, the current state of the Green Space is very healthy and impactful to the environment. Mr. Bragdon expanded that the current state of the Green Space is improving the stabilization of the area. Manager Perkins noted that it is currently a pollinator garden and that the Town could do better to educate residents on this. Mr. Bragdon recommended getting the LLCA involved in the educating of forestry restoration and health. Mr. McFarland asked that he be provided with an accurate narrative on forestry restoration and health and that he can work on incorporating this into the LLCA curriculum. Coordinator Bradley agreed.

Mrs. Bay asked if the Town has a timeframe for the Green Space master plan. Manager Perkins answered that the master plan can begin after the space needs study is completed. Manager Perkins added that the space needs study is about 50% completed.

Mr. Dittmer asked if there is anything else that the Town is planning for the Green Space. Manager Perkins explained that the Town plans to create a laydown area for infrastructure projects and Public Works area on the driving range portion of the Green Space. Mr. Dittmer expressed that he had thought that Public Works may be moving into the current fire station when the new station is built. Manager Perkins noted that there are too many unknowns with the future Fire Department right now to make that decision. Mrs. Bay noted that she has heard a lot of pushback about the laydown area and Public Works facility and expressed that she does not think that it will be a pleasant view. Manager Perkins noted that this was discussed at the last Council work session and the Town is planning to protect the view shed by creating a tree line or another attractive barrier.

Mr. Dittmer asked where the new sewer plant will be located. Manager Perkins noted that LaBella Associates is finishing the Town's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Master Plan which will include three options that the Town can start reviewing and evaluating for the future plant. It was noted that

the new plant will not be far from the existing plant, but it needs to be out of the flood zone. Manager Perkins noted that LaBella is also evaluating sewer technologies which will also be a factor in determining placement. Mayor Pritchett noted that there are a lot of moving parts that will determine details regarding the future WWTP.

Mr. Czajkoski asked about the proposal for the lease of the former ABC Store. Manager Perkins explained that Lake Lure Tours' proposal was rescinded and a new one was sent that included the maintenance of Pool Creek Park. Manager Perkins added that Town Council has expressed that they want the Pool Creek Park removed from the proposal altogether. Manager Perkins noted that two other proposals are being reviewed from Mr. John Venuto and Mr. Wade Oppliger. Manager Perkins stated that this subject will likely be discussed at the next work session meeting. Mr. Czajkoski asked if Town Council is considering the rest of the motion previously made by the Board. Manager Perkins answered that Commissioner Jim Proctor read the motion verbatim to other Council members, so they are aware of the recommendations. Mrs. Bay asked about the docks located on the former ABC Store property and Manager Perkins noted that the use of the docks are included in two of the proposals, but the hot dock is not being discussed. Mrs. Bay asked why we can't offer these for public use and Coordinator Bradley noted that it is attached to the beach, so people would have to pay a fee if they got off of their boats at that location.

Manager Perkins noted that there have been recent damages made to Morse Park and the Town is not sure what happened, but it is being investigated. Mayor Pritchett noted that Town is looking to get better security cameras throughout Town. Manager Perkins detailed plans for Town building access and security of Town facilities.

Mrs. Bay asked if the Town is still planning to move gas pumps. Manager Perkins noted that it has not been discussed recently, but there are still plans to relocate them in the future. Mayor Pritchett agreed and noted that the relocation of the gas pumps is still included in the Morse Park Master Plan. Manager Perkins mentioned that there had been negative comments about the price of gas at the Marina and that Director Krejci had called other nearby marinas and it was determined that the prices at the Lake Lure Marina are in line with prices at other marinas.

Programs & Initiatives

There was nothing to report.

Input from Town Council Liaison Jim Proctor

Mr. Dittmer thanked Mayor Pritchett for filling in for Council liaison Commissioner Proctor. Mayor Pritchett thanked everyone again for their work towards holding the Buffalo Creek ribbon cutting. Mayor Pritchett explained that the Lake Lure Steering Committee would be meeting on October 19th to discuss funds for the Morse Park Master Plan. It was noted that the Town was not awarded the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) grant during the last applicant cycle. Mayor Pritchett expressed the importance of enhancing Morse Park is important and noted that improving the parking lot and other supporting feature will be the first steps to completing the plan. Mayor Pritchett noted that the Steering Committee will discuss how to utilize the funds that the Town does have for the Morse Park Master Plan and that the Town will re-apply for the PARTF grant in the future.

Mayor Pritchett thanked Parks and Recreation Board.

Other Comments

Mr. McFarland noted that the Lake Lure Haunted Trail Festival will be taking place on October 27th and 29th from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Mr. McFarland also noted that sports are going well for the LLCA.

Director Krejci detailed that the Town recently held two round table meetings. It was noted that the farmer's market has been successful and will continue to be held each Friday through the end of October. Director Krejci detailed that the music festival is this weekend at the Gardens restaurant at Rumbling Bald at 5:00 p.m. and that there are a few tickets left. Director Krejci added that the Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach Arts and Crafts Festival will take place on October 21st through October 22nd. Director Krejci stated that the Town will hold a community fish forum next Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall to help educate community members on the Lake Use Regulation changes and the 2023 Fish Study. Board members were advised to be on the lookout for a date for a ribbon cutting for the refurbished tennis courts. Director Krejci noted that a community forum will be held next month for workforce housing. It was detailed that the Town will be coordinating a Veterans Day program on November 10th at 9:00 a.m. Director Krejci added that the artist sale will be taking place on the 11th and Mrs. Bay detailed that the artists are a small group of people and the proceeds from the artist sale are donated. Director Krejci explained that the Town has had a committee working on plans for holiday lights and that the plan has been finalized. It was noted that Lighting up Lake Lure will be on November 29th.

Mayor Pritchett recognized the Lake Advisory Board and their work towards continuously evaluating and improving the Lake Use Regulations. Board members and Mayor Pritchett discussed that permits will not be required for non-motorized boats beginning in 2024. Mayor Pritchett noted that there will be increased signage detailing the rules for non-motorized boats.

Mrs. Bay provided flyer for the Chamber of Hickory Nut Gorge's Gala.

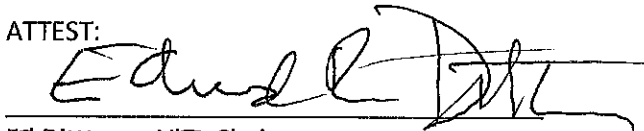
Adjournment

Mr. Bragdon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:42 p.m. Mrs. Bay seconded the motion and all members were in favor.

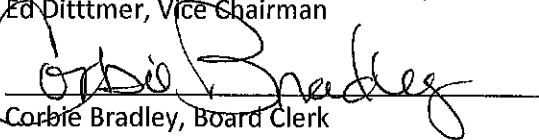
Minutes were transcribed by Olivia Stewman.

The next regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board meeting will be November 2, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. This meeting will be held at the Parks, Recreation, and Lake Office.

ATTEST:



Ed Dittmer, Vice Chairman



Corbie Bradley, Board Clerk