

# Lake Lure Parks & Recreation Board Meeting

November 2, 2023

#### Call to Order

Chairman Jim Walters called to order the November 2, 2023, Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board at 1:30 p.m.

#### Roll Call

## **Board Members present:**

Chairman Jim Walters

Vice Chairman Ed Dittmer

Mr. Bill Massey

Mr. Dan Bragdon

Mr. Robin Worcester

Mr. Ozzie McFarland

#### **Board Members absent:**

Mr. Larry Czajkoski

Ms. Mo Bay

## **Town Council and Officials present:**

## Other Town Staff and Contributors Present:

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

#### Agenda and Meeting Minutes

The Agenda for the November 2, 2023, regular meeting was reviewed. Mr. Massey made a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. Bragdon seconded the motion and all members voted in favor.

The minutes of the October 5, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Mr. Bragdon made a motion to approve the minutes with the modification to the absence list. Mr. Worcester seconded the motion and all members voted in favor.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

There are no updates on the proposal for the former ABC building. Anyone concerned over such proposals can be encouraged to attend the Town Council Meetings.

Mr. Walters reminded the board of the importance of not meeting, nor emailing one another, in groups of more than three. Such discussions should be had during the Board meetings.

Mr. Massey expressed concern over board members' privacy after having received spam that was specific to himself and fellow board members.

#### PRB COMMUNICATIONS

### Parks, Recreation & Lake Monthly Report

Parks, Recreation, and Trails Coordinator Bradley reported on a busy month. The installation of the holiday lights has begun around the Town. PR&T Coordinator Bradley asked if anyone had questions on the monthly report. PR&T Coordinator Bradley reported that she has reached out to Carolina Climbers Association regarding liability upon the boulders. PR&T Coordinator Bradley is also awaiting feedback from the Town's attorney on the matter. Signage along trails is in the process of being updated.

## **Green Space Updates & Recommendations**

The team that does the annual kudzu treatment has completed the task for 2023. Town-owned areas that received treatment include Morse Park, drainage pond, property along Boys Camp area, the sewer plant & dam property, among others. Maddie Bartosh confirmed that pulling of the kudzu along portions of Dittmer-Watts will be addressed on upcoming workdays. Herbicidal treatment to the kudzu in Dittmer-Watts will be done in the spring. In response to a question regarding proposals for The Green Space, PR&T Coordinator Bradley stated that no considerations could be made until the footprint of the Town Buildings have been determined. After those determinations are made, a feasibility study will be done and public input will be sought. Mr. Bragdon spoke on the benefits of the current, early successional forest status of The Green Space. PR&T Coordinator Bradley remarked on the large amount of open grasslands that are remain available to the public along with the return of the forest areas.

## **Dittmer - Watts Nature Trail Park**

Mr. Dittmer commented on the beautiful fall colors in the area and record high trail counter numbers. On his surveys of the trails, he has noted that the PR&L Team have taken care of downed trees. He expressed that at the end of fall leaf season, the drains will need clearing. PR&T Coordinator Bradley agreed with Mr. McFarland that the PR&L Team is responsible for handling yellow jacket nests along the trail. AmeriCorps Member Bartosh announced the November trail workdays as follows; Dittmer-Watts being 11/11, Weed Patch on 11/28 and Buffalo Creek Park on 11/9. Mr .Worcester reported geo caches will be placed along the trail. Geo caches are a lure to trail visitors.

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

PR&T Coordinator Bradley reported that Rutherford Outdoor Coalition has acquired the property bordering Buffalo Creek Park on the north. It will be developed as trailhead for the existing Upper Boulders Trail.

#### Lake Lure Flowering Bridge

Mr. Massey reported the recent art show, which spotlighted local artists with artwork featuring a dogwood theme, was a successful fundraiser. A contractor has found a better footprint for the new education center. The Moore family is working with the Bridge on some benevolent offerings. Fae Nectar's success has proven to be a draw to the Bridge with the trail numbers being high and parking lots being filled to capacity. The Town has provided help with installing steps in the area of the Bridge. The fundraiser chart indicates a high volume of donations. In the future, efforts will be made to quantify volunteer hours. The Rainbow Bridge is a popular feature among tourists.

#### **Morse Park**

The Board discussed the popularity of the newly refurbished pickle ball courts.

### **Programs & Initiatives**

PR&T Coordinator Bradley reported that damages to the seawall railing at the Gazebo area in Morse Park were the result of structural issues and not a result of vandalism. The original contractor has handled the replacement of the railing and will be replacing the pavers.

# Programs & Initiatives

Mr. Bragdon has nothing more to report

## Input from Town Council Liaison Jim Proctor

## **Other Comments**

Laura Krejci noted upcoming events and dates.

11/10 Veterans Day Program

11/29 Lighting Up Lake Lure (note - energy efficient LED lights are being used)

Mr. Dittmer noted that Bills Creek Community Center has been rejuvenated as an events venue.

Mr. Walters noted there is an off-leash dog park in the Bills Creek area.

Mr. Walters thanked Maddie Bartosh, Americorps Member for her hard work.

Mr. McFarland expressed Lake Lure Classical Academy's appreciation for the Town's support.

#### <u>Adj</u>ournment

Mr. Massey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:39 p.m. Mr. Worcester seconded the motion and all members were in favor.

Minutes were transcribed by Corbie Bradley

The next regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board meeting will be December 7, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. This meeting will be held at the Parks, Recreation, and Lake Office.

ATTEST:

Valters, Chairman