



**Lake Lure Parks & Recreation Board**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**January 6, 2022**

**Call to Order**

Chairman Mr. Jim Walters called to order the January 6, 2022 meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board at 1:30 p.m.

**Roll Call**

**Board Members present:**

Mr. Jim Walters, Chairman  
Mrs. Maureen Bay  
Mr. Mark Hoek, Alternate

Mr. Ed Dittmer, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Bill Massey

Mr. Dan Bragdon  
Mr. Robin Worcester

**Board Members absent:**

Mr. Larry Czajkoski

**Town Council and Officials present:**

Commissioner Patrick Bryant  
Commissioner David DiOrio

**Other Town Staff and Contributors Present:**

Ms. Dana Bradley – Town of Lake Lure Parks, Recreation and Trails Coordinator  
Mrs. Laura Krejci – Town of Lake Lure Communications  
Mr. Dean Givens – Parks, Recreation and Lake Director

**Agenda and Meeting Minutes**

The Agenda for the January 6, 2022 meeting was reviewed. **Mr. Massey made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Dittmer seconded the motion and all members were in favor.**

The Minutes of the December 2, 2021 meeting were reviewed. **Mrs. Bay made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Worcester seconded the motion and all members were in favor.**

**Other Business**

Chairman Walters informed the Board that his and Mr. Dittmer's annual terms as chair and vice-chair respectively of the voluntary Board are expiring.

**Mr. Massey made a recommendation to have Mr. Walters serve again for another term. Mrs. Bay seconded the recommendation and all members were in favor. The Board additionally recommended Mr. Dittmer for another term, with Mrs. Bay seconding the recommendation and all members were in favor.**

## **Parks & Recreation Board Members Presentation and Discussion**

### **Parks, Recreation & Lake Report – Ms. Dana Bradley**

Ms. Bradley reviewed the monthly report with the Board and there were no questions. There was a discussion regarding the deep water launch which will be located by the fire department boat house. Ms. Bradley mentioned they are in the final permitting phase and that a date for the completion is not yet established. Mr. Dittmer inquired as to the completion date of the dam drain. Mr. Givens stated it was not in the works yet. There was a discussion regarding Pool Creek Bridge lights and that two were missing and the other two are dilapidated. Ms. Bradley stated she would get with Mr. Dean Lindsey on the update on repair. Members of the Board discussed the new seawall around the gazebo and that it was a wonderful improvement. Mr. Givens mentioned that there is still the railing to be installed upon the completion. He also mentioned that the new pavers being installed in front of the entirety of the beach area, was all a part of the same improvement work that was in part paid for with the TDA Grant.

### **Golf Course Report – Mr. Mark Hoek, Alternate**

Mr. Hoek reported that the total of golf games for Dec 2021 was 548 (a record) making 2021's total 8272. Total foot golf for 2021 was 556. Mr. Hoek stated his disappointment with the closing of the golf course and thanked several people for their work in attempts to save the ninety year old asset. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the disappointment of losing the golf course and many members felt that not enough was done to try to save the course. Mr. Hoek read a statement he had prepared and there was continued discussion. There was agreement that Mr. and Mrs. Minick had done a wonderful job managing the course, and disappointment was voiced that no one from the Town came out to say thank you to them on the last day.

Members further discussed plans for the land. There was discussion of the building being used for the Park, Recreation and Lake Department's new office as well as Ms. Bradley was looking into "Mutt Mits" stations for dog walkers. She mentioned there are many people taking advantage of walking on the course grounds now. The Board visited the thought of allowing some holes to still be used for golfing and Ms. Bradley didn't feel that this was a good idea with the walkers.

Mr. Bragdon stated that Council had made this decision for a reason and the Board needed to as a whole be open to that reason. It was discussed that the Town will be in charge of maintaining the property. Chairman Walters asked for the Board to focus on moving forward with the thought that the course is now a green space and to be open to new ideas for it. There was discussion of moving the tennis courts and basketball courts over to the new green space. Ms. Bradley said that she would look into funding and grants that would help with this project. Chairman Walters mentioned that the Boards purpose was to make recommendations for this area and the Board discussed the positive moves that could take place with the new space. Ms. Bradley continued to discuss PARTF funding for repurposing this land. She also mentioned that they will be moving their offices to the old golf course office on January 31<sup>st</sup>.

The Board discussed that they felt that the entire area should be closed until such time as the office reopens and the Town can be better prepared for use of the land by providing restrooms and trash receptacles. This would also allow the Minicks to fully move out.

**Mr. Bragdon made a recommendation for Town Council to close the course and not permit use of the land until January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 when it's is fully prepared with restrooms and trash receptacles. Mr. Massey seconded the recommendation and all members were in favor.**

There was discussion regarding for the Board to create a Sub-Committee to help create a better vision for the land and its uses. Commissioner Bryant mentioned that they are forming a Steering Committee. The Board discussed that they wanted to further assist with ideas and Mr. Bragdon, Mr. Hoek and Mr. Massey will form a Sub-Committee. Chairman Walters asked for a new topic to be added to the Agenda regarding reports from the Sub-Committee. There was further discussion regarding funding options and grants that could be applied for.

#### **Dittmer-Watts Nature Trail Park – Mr. Ed Dittmer**

Mr. Dittmer mentioned that the trail was being heavily used. Ms. Bradley stated that they had not had a chance to gather trail counter numbers. Mr. Worcester mentioned he could gather the counter numbers. Ms. Bradley also mentioned there was a trail work day and discussed the old well that had been found. January 11<sup>th</sup> will be another trail work day.

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

Mr. Czajkoski was not present to report however Ms. Bradley mentioned that all trails look great. Work days are scheduled for next month.

#### **Lake Lure Flowering Bridge – Mr. Bill Massey**

Mr. Massey stated that he had resigned from the Flowering Bridge Board and that Mrs. Bay will be taking his place to report goings on with the Park and Recreation Board. He mentioned that the white lights will remain lighted until February and stated that because they had switched to LED lights, this would help the Town with the cost of electrical power on the bridge. Tulips will be displayed in February. Mrs. Bay reported that the Bridge Committee raised almost \$20,000 on the 2 promotions in 2021 (the bear art event and the sale of brick pavers). Mrs. Bay also stated that bricks will be back on sale beginning in February.

#### **Morse Park – Mr. Jim Walters**

Chairman Walters was happy to see the work being done at the Gazebo and Mr. Givens further gave a brief on the work. It was mentioned that this work was another step in the master plan. There was discussion regarding the Amphitheatre and where the Town stood with its funding. Ms. Bradley discussed funding options for the \$1.5 Million dollar structure. She discussed the TDA funding that could help with this plan as well as other grants that she is looking into that may or may not involve matching funds.

#### **Programs & Initiatives**

Mrs. Bay discussed that the Carolina Climbers Coalition will be holding their bolder climbing event this year and she has been in touch with them. They are planning the event on the weekend of March 5<sup>th</sup>. She is asking for volunteers to man a welcome tent in the meadows area. They will also be camping in the meadows area. There was discussion regarding the permits and waivers needed. Mrs. Bay also spoke to the Board regarding ways to support the CCC. It was discussed all the good work they do as

volunteers for maintaining the many trails in our area. She mentioned that one could go to their website and donate/give to become a supporter.

Mr. Bragdon mentioned he was still working on the Micro Agreements that he discussed at the previous meeting.

**Input from Town Council Liaison – Commissioner Christopher Patrick Bryant**

Commissioner Bryant further discussed the Steering Committee for the use of the new green space and he was pleased that the Board was moving forward with preparing recommendations for the use of same. Commissioner Bryant mentioned the Town Clerk, Ms. Olivia Stewman was currently working as the Interim Town Manager and doing a very good job. Commissioner Bryant stated that Ms. Stewman and the Mayor were working close together and Commissioner Bryant felt that there was a pleasant atmosphere in the Town Hall. Commissioner Bryant also informed the Board that there were between 6-8 candidates that have made it to the final steps of being interviewed for the Town Manager position. There was a brief discussion regarding the same.

**Other Comments:**

Mrs. Laura Krejci distributed an event schedule to the Board and discussed upcoming events. The Board as a whole thanked Mrs. Krejci for her communication with them on happenings around town. They were very pleased with her work on the website as well.

Commissioner DiOrio spoke to the Board with the matter of the golf course and the reasons why the Town did not renew the agreement as a golf course. He discussed the matters of obtaining funds from the Federal and State government and that when asking for large amounts of funding, the Town had to “clean up” areas that were causing too much red in the books. He mentioned that while this was a hard decision, it was the right decision. Commissioner DiOrio mentioned that it’s a competition when seeking funds from the government and that we competed very well by cleaning up our books. He further discussed that we must be good stewards of our town and make good decisions as a whole. There was further discussion and the Board was pleased that Commissioner DiOrio further explained the reasoning behind closing the golf course.

Commissioner DiOrio also discussed the drain valve for the dam and mentioned that the lake did not have to be drained for the valve to be installed. There was a brief discussion that followed.

**Adjournment**

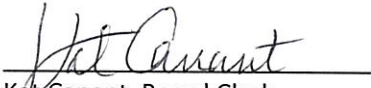
**Mr. Dittmer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:28 p.m. Mr. Worcester seconded the motion and all members were in favor.**

Minutes were transcribed by Kat Canant

The next regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board meeting will be February 3, 2022 at 1:30 pm. It is currently scheduled to be held at the Lake Lure Municipal Center.

ATTEST:

  
Jim Walters, Chairman

  
Kat Canant, Board Clerk



**Dean Givens; Parks, Recreation, and Lake Director**

**DEPARTMENT: Parks, Recreation, and Lake**

**REPORT DATE:**

**PREPARED FOR:**

December 28, 2021

Town Manager

**I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

**Current Parks, Recreation, and Lake Projects:**

1. Boy's Camp Rd. Campground – <i>New master plan has been adopted</i>	2. Luremont Trails – <i>Trail scouted; permits filed; Plan approved by Parks and Rec. Board, legal opinion received; waiting on legal decision</i>	3. Marina Phase II and Amphitheater Funding – <i>Working with TDA/ Rutherford Bound to keep projects moving forward</i>
4. Monetization Schedule for P&R Assets and Facilities – <i>New ideas being considered</i>	5. Updating Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan – <i>Working with Ed Dittmer and Moe Bay on updates</i>	6. Morse Park Walking Path Expansion Grant – <i>To expand the pavement back to town hall</i>
7. Morse Park Master Plan update which includes the design of the amphitheater and additional parking – <i>New plan has been adopted</i>	8. Replacement of boardwalk/seawall at the gazebo – <i>In progress</i>	9. Buffalo Creek Park parking lot expansion – <i>Not selected for grant funding; researching other grant options</i>
10. Permit for Filling in Half of Pond in Morse Park – <i>Permits denied</i>	11. Deep Water Launch – <i>Waiting on final approval</i>	12. Finishing the paver walkway from the small beach house to the big beach house – <i>In progress</i>
13. Island Creek spoils site	14. Non-motorized Boat Ramp Replacement – <i>Complete</i>	15. 2022 Dredging Grant – <i>Submitted</i>

### **PR&LD ACTIVITIES:**

1. Oversee daily operations for Parks, Rec, & Lake
2. Attended multiple staff/public meetings
3. Attended multiple project meetings
4. Worked on multiple projects
  - Dredging – Complete until lake returns to full pond. We were successful in spending the dredging grant funds, and have reapplied for 2022
  - Island Creek Rd. silt disposal site – Working on permitting
  - Deepwater Launch – Waiting on final approval
  - Walkway pavers in front of beach – In progress
  - New seawall at gazebo – In progress
  - Mining permit – Waiting on permitting
  - Boys Camp Rd. plans – New plans have been adopted
  - New permitting software – Working on new Parks & Rec permitting software
  - Assisted Police department due to staffing shortages
  - Replacing boat ramp at the ABC Store parking area - complete

### **PR&TC ACTIVITIES:**

1. Mailed marina boat slip renewal letters
2. Entered in new renewals into spreadsheet
3. Continued checking the commercial applications we received and filing them
4. Obtained permits for the Gazebo Walkway and Walkway Pavers
5. Completed and submitted the 2022 dredging grant application
6. Continued training with LLPD
7. Continued updating the Parks, Recreation, and Lake Department Standard Operating Procedures
8. Continued research for a new permitting software company
9. Led a Buffalo Creek Park workday on 12/8 to blow leaves off the trail and repair eroded areas– 7 volunteers; 35 volunteer hours
10. Organized a Buffalo Creek Park workday on 12/9 to finish blowing leaves off the trail– 3 volunteers; 9 volunteer hours
11. Weed Patch Mountain trail boss worked on the trail on 12/1, 12/4, 12/5, 12/7, and 12/14 – 1 volunteer; 25 volunteer hours
12. Met with Moe Bay and Ed Dittmer about the Open Space plan on 12/14
13. Organized a Dittmer Watts workday on 12/16 to remove dead trees – 6 volunteers; 18 volunteer hours
14. The trail boss for Buffalo Creek Park walked the trail and reported issues – 1 volunteer; 4 hours
15. Planned upcoming trail maintenance days and recruited volunteers to help
16. Checked Buffalo Creek Park, Dittmer-Watts Nature Trails, and Weed Patch Mountain for damage
17. Utilized volunteer to collect water samples from streams – 1 volunteer; 6.5 volunteer hours
18. Utilized a total of **97.5 volunteer hours**
19. Attended several meetings

**P&R Maintenance Activities:**

1. Performed regular ground maintenance activities at all areas
2. Cleaned parks, boat ramp, and marina
3. Sprayed playground equipment and picnic tables with bleach

**Lake Activities:**

1. Lake is lowered, work on the lake will resume when the lake returns to full pond

**1. FOLLOW UP**

1. Open Space Plan: Will continue working with Ed Dittmer and Moe Bay to update the Open Space Plan
2. Luremont Trail: Plan has been approved by Parks and Recreation Board; legal opinion received; working on next steps
3. Dredging Grant: 2022 grant has been submitted
4. Naming Rights Policy: Continuing to gather information for Naming Rights Policy for Town properties
5. Lake Lure Trails: Work days held on Lake Lure trails each month to ensure they are properly maintained

**2. OTHER**

1. Marina Slips Available: 0
  - i. Resident Waiting List: 40
  - ii. Non-resident Waiting List: 48