



Lake Lure Parks & Recreation Board
Regular Meeting
November 3, 2022

Call to Order

Chairman Jim Walters called to order the November 3, 2022 meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board at 1:31 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members present:

Chairman Jim Walters

Mr. Dan Bragdon

Ms. Maureen Bay

Vice Chairman Ed Dittmer

Mr. Robin Worcester

Mr. Bill Massey

Mr. Larry Czajkowski

Board Members absent:

Mr. Mark Hoek

Town Council and Officials present:

Town Council Liaison, Commissioner Scott Doster

Other Town Staff and Contributors Present:

Dana Bradley, Town of Lake Lure Parks, Recreation, and Trails Coordinator

Laura Krejci, Town of Lake Lure Communications Director

Agenda and Meeting Minutes

The Agenda for the November 3, 2022 was reviewed **Mr. Worcester made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Massey seconded the motion and all members were in favor.**

The Minutes of the October 7, 2022 meeting were reviewed. **Mr. Bragdon made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Massey seconded the motion and all members were in favor.**

New Business

No new business was presented.

Parks & Recreation Board Members Presentation and Discussion

Discuss Term Expirations

Three terms from the current P&R Board expire at the end of this session ending in March, as per Town Council's rulings. Town Council takes board member attendance very seriously. As a result, a board-wide attendance policy will be implemented in 2023. This policy states 3 absences in 12 months will result in a verbal warning. Six absences in 6 months will result in automatic termination. There will be no instances of excused absences. Commissioner Doster will check on phone-in attendance being permissible and if votes can be made via phone call attendance. Chairman Walters would like to see this be a permitted practice.

Parks & Recreation Board terms expiring at the end of the current session are those of Walters, Bay and Massey. The Board has one alternate.

Once the agenda is sent out each month, each member should contact the Chairman if unable to attend.

Standing members are expected to fill out an application for the next term. This confirms their interest in continuing on the board. All applications, current and standing, should be turned into Olivia Stewman.

An individual is allowed to be on a maximum of two boards.

Parks, Recreation & Lake Report

Ms. Bradley elaborated on the Hickory Nut Gorge State Trail Designation. Applications for Dittmer-Watts Nature, Weedpatch Mountain, and the Buffalo Creek Park Trails, along with the Green Space have been submitted. This designation will result in free advertising and will help secure grant monies. Designation will also bring in hikers who are striving to complete the Hickory Nut Gorge State Trail System in its entirety.

A milestone has been reached with the Open Space Document thanks to the time and efforts of Ms. Bay and Mr. Dittmer. Trail information needs updating in order to reflect changes in trail names, trail layouts and current connectors to the Green Space. The Open Space Document will be a topic for the entire board to be working on.

The volunteers for the trail workdays are greatly appreciated. They never fail to make for fun times on the workdays.

Questions regarding the lake level were brought up. Ms. Bradley stated that this was actually an issue that needs to be taken up with Dean Lindsey.

Inquiry was made of the Youngs Mountain Trail. We are currently transitioning to the Town of Lake Lure and Rutherford Outdoor Coalition taking over maintenance from Conserving Carolina. Youngs Mountain could possibly become part of the Hickory Nut Gorge State Trail System.

The status of the Luremont Trail was questioned. It was reported that the project continues to be on hold due to state legislation. Ms. Bradley will readdress the request for moving forward with this project. A request for a footbridge over Pool Creek to provide an approach to Luremont will go before Tourism Development Authority's Trails Committee in the near future.

Ms. Bradley was tasked to look into, and report on the status of the proposed bridge over The Narrows.

Clarification of the Boater License, mentioned in the Lake Use Regulations was requested. Ms. Bradley explained that Issuance of the license would occur once a test, which will be available online or in person at permitting agencies, has been passed. The test is short, with only 10 or so questions, which are specific to the rules for safe boating on the waters of Lake Lure.

Green Space Updates

The trail numbers for October look great. The cut through from the Green Space to Dittmer-Watts has remarkable numbers. An additional connector for the trails is being considered.

There was some discussion as to where the benches should be located for optimal views.

The Equinox Creekside Restoration Project is in the planning stages and will likely be another year for the implementation of the plan.

Dittmer-Watts Nature Trail Park

Mr. Dittmer shared that the numbers from the trail counters along the trail look good. The Parks & Recreation Techs will take care of a tree that has been reported as down and benches that need attention. A workday will not be needed until after the leaves have fallen.

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

Ms. Bradley, Joe Hyatt is the Trail Boss for Eagle Rock and is great at reporting any issues. He stays very familiar with the trail by running it most days.

Robin Worcester, Trail Boss for Buffalo Creek Park Trail does an amazing job reporting issues and is always hands-on with needed projects on the trail and workdays. The bridge will be being pressure washed this fall to address the slipperiness.

Lake Lure Flowering Bridge

Ms. Bay commented that the trail counters show lots of visitors to the Bridge in October. She also reported that the Flowering Bridge has many followers on social media. Fundraising amounts have been impressive. The Bridge has been featured in a recent publication of Laurels of Asheville. The education classes offered by the LLFB are having continued success with LLCA among those benefitting from some of the classes.

A Winter Wonderland display will begin on November 15, 2022 with the Lighting up Lake Lure and the Flowering Bridge will be November 30.

Mr. Massey congratulated Ms. Bay and the rest of the volunteers for the fundraising successful efforts.

Ms. Bay recognized that the bridge is coming up on its 10th year of operating as the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge. She also suggested the Town make plans to celebrating the 100-year anniversary of the building of Lake Lure that is coming up.

Morse Park

It has been a great month, in a great time of year. The walkway is very popular and has been busy with walkers. Chairman Walters expressed appreciation and admiration of the new walkway and the gazebo areas. The Board is looking forward to the new Morse Park Plans. Ms. Bradley reported that the application for the AFP Grant has been submitted. We can look forward to what can be accomplished with those funds, if granted.

Programs and Initiatives

Mr. Bragdon reported that Camp Lurecrest has started recruiting for camp staff interns and questioned if Parks, Recreation & Lake would be bringing on an intern. Mr. Bragdon suggested that if there is work available, the National Honor Society students from LLCA are in need of public service hours.

Input from Town Council Liaison – Commissioner Scott Doster

Mr. Massey suggested a pedestrian-driven crossing as being an option for a bridge.

There seems to be a community-wide focus on the need of connectivity from, ABC Store all the way through Chimney Rock.

Former Sotheby's building will be turning into a themed eatery/music venue.

New rules for food trucks will approved at the next Town Council Meeting. The rules will be up for public review after being approved.

Other Comments:

Laura Krejci and Chairman Walters encouraged all to come to and support the Veterans Day festivities at Rumbling Bald Resort. Laura also provided a list of future events including the Holiday Gala.

on Lake Lure
Ms. Bay reminded members of the raffle tickets available for purchase.

Adjournment

Mr. Worcester made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:14 p.m. Mr. Massey 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 1, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. This meeting will be held at the Parks, Recreation & Lake Department Office.

ATTEST:


Jim Walters, Chairman


Corbie Bradley, Board Clerk