



Lake Lure Parks & Recreation Board
Regular Meeting
December 2, 2021

Call to Order

Chairman Mr. Jim Walters called to order the December 2, 2021 meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board at 1:32 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

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 December 2, 2021 meeting was reviewed. **Mr. Dittmer made a motion to approve the agenda, as presented. Mr. Massey seconded the motion and all members were in favor.**

The Minutes of the November 4, 2021 meeting were reviewed. **Mr. Massey made a motion to approve the minutes, as presented. Mr. Worcester seconded the motion and all members were in favor.**

Chairman Walters reviewed the 2022 Parks and Recreation Board Meeting dates with the Board. **Mr. Dittmer made a motion to approve the dates as reviewed. Mrs. Bay seconded the motion and all members were in favor.**

Chairman Walters reviewed Board Members whose terms were expiring 12/21/2021 as well as two candidates who were applying. He explained that the Town Council will make the final decision

however he wanted to give them the Boards recommendations. The Board had a brief discussion regarding the candidates.

Chairman Walters made a motion to recommend to the Town of Lake Lure Town Council to seat Mr. Robin Worcester and Mr. Daniel Bragdon and Mr. Mark Hoek (Alternate) on the Parks and Recreation Board. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Ed Dittmer 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. There was a brief discussion. Mr. Dittmer inquired into the *Parks and Recreation Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Plan*. There was discussion that due to the census now being in, they should be able to move forward with having the Commissioners review it. There was further discussion that there were still a few items which also included a final review of the plan before delivery to Council. Ms. Bradley mentioned she will get with both Mr. Dittmer and Mrs. Bay to review before taking to Council. Commissioner Bryant stated that this would be a great time since the Boys Camp Road property is in the process of moving forward with plans. The Board was excited about finalizing the *Parks and Recreation Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Plan*.

Mrs. Bay asked Ms. Bradley about the construction on the non-motorized boat ramp by the ABC Store. Ms. Bradley explained the new plans which will consist of pulling up the very old two slat concrete ramp to pour one large platform ramp. There was a brief discussion favoring the change. The Board also discussed with Mr. Dean Givens, the software for boat permits. Mr. Givens and Ms. Bradley both explained that Black Mountain Software would not be able to deliver the software they needed to operate smoothly. They are currently looking at another software to use.

Mr. Bragdon asked about the Luremont Trails and Ms. Bradley reviewed where the plans were at and waiting for approval with the N.C. General Assembly. Mr. Givens stated that Town Attorney William Morgan was handling this matter.

Golf Course Report – Mr. Mark Hoek, Alternate

Mr. Hoek had invited Byon Morrissey to speak to the Board regarding saving the golf course. Ms. Morrissey spoke to the Board regarding the success of the course over the years and how successful it could be in the future. She reviewed several monetization plans that would help alleviate the cost to the town. Ms. Morrissey reviewed the purpose of golf courses in communities as well as creating a group that could operate under a 501C6 plan. There was further discussion regarding ways to create a course that would create revenue for the town. She explained other management/ownerships that may happened from someone “very qualified” within the next week. The Board discussed that Mr. Minick had indeed been an incredible steward of the golf course.

Mr. Hoek reviewed that in November there were 500 rounds of golf and 29 rounds of foot golf, totaling 8000 rounds for the year and 540 foot golf rounds for the year. He stated the greens were being cared for and the course is scheduled to close at the end of December 2021. He was working on creating a survey to verify favor in leaving the course open. There was further discussion regarding concessioner agreements. It was mentioned that the course was a 100k cost to the tax payers of Lake Lure. There was continued discussion regarding funding options and the ways grants were written that would help

with approvals of grants. Mr. Hoek mentioned to the Board that the course had offered a very affordable course to the community. The Board continued with a lengthy discussion of ideas to save the course and increase play and operations with multiple revenue streams.

Mr. Givens discussed that it had been decided that the course will close as of December 31, 2021 and that there were plans for open green space for the community that would offer a great space for future use for the town. There was a discussion of allowing foot golf and disc golf. It was mentioned that the grounds would still be maintained and kept as an open green space.

Parks & Recreation Programs and Initiatives

Mr. Bragdon requested to speak earlier than the Agenda scheduled as he needed to leave. Mr. Bragdon apologized for not attending the past 2 meetings. He reviewed his thoughts on Concessioner Agreements. He felt that by using a micro agreement, it would open up the Town to a higher quantity of vendors to the area. The Board reviewed the workings of the current agreement in that the length of time from applying to Council approving was not favorable and many times vendors miss out not hearing about the event sooner. There was discussion regarding the micro agreement and the Board was in favor of same. As well, there was discussion regarding the Peddlers Ordinance and it needed to be revised. The Board was in favor of this change. It was discussed that an application/agreement could be completed online and paid online, which would create a certificate for the Vendor to display. Commissioner Bryant liked this idea and would help look into it.

Mr. Bragdon also mentioned he had disc golf baskets that they would not be using at the Camp any longer and would like to offer them to the open space place. Ms. Bradley was very appreciate of the gesture and agreed to receive them. There was a discussion about the placement and to keep the course away from the roadway. There was discussion regarding safe walkways across Memorial Hwy.

Mr. Givens liked the idea of the disc golf but felt it needed to be recommended by the Board to Town Council.

Mr. Bragdon made a recommendation to set up a 9-hole Disc Golf course and accept the donation of Disc Golf Baskets for use at the new Lake Lure Green Space land as a part of the green space plan. Mr. Bill Massey seconded the recommendation and all members were in favor.

Dittmer-Watts Nature Trail Park – Mr. Ed Dittmer

Mr. Dittmer was happy with the trail counter showing about 1000 visits each month for the past three months. He brought to the attention of Ms. Bradley, picnic tables that were purchased many years ago, that now needed replacing. Mr. Bradley stated she would look into replacements. Mr. Dittmer was very happy with the volunteers and stated they were doing a great job. There was a brief discussion of an old abandoned well, off the trail way, that had been discovered and filled in, but needed more fill now that that it had settled in some. Ms. Bradley would look into this.

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

Mr. Czajkoski was not present to report however Ms. Bradley did state that there have been good work days and the trails look good. Ms. Bradley reported that the trail counter numbers looked great for all

trails, however was questioning the mountain bike trail counter in that the numbers were very high. She will check them to make sure they're operating properly.

Lake Lure Flowering Bridge – Mr. Bill Massey

Mr. Massey updated the board on the trail counter numbers and while he mentioned it had dropped for November, there was still a total count of 169,680 passes by the counter. Mr. Massey was very happy and thanked Mrs. Krejci for her work on the Light up Lake Lure event. Mr. Massey mentioned that the Pollinator Garden was now finished and they are partnering up with LLCA for a garden at LLCA.

Mrs. Bay mentioned the art show for Lake Lure Artist and that it was very successful and in fact they were able to make large donations to two area schools.

Morse Park – Mr. Jim Walters

Chairman Walters discussed the botanical signage and the letter that was received from Mr. Givens regarding funding of Park and Rec items. There was a discussion regarding the signage and Councilman Bryant suggested a recommendation to the Town Council for the funding to purchase signs, (which would be like the signage that the Flowering Bridge uses).

Chairman Walters made a recommendation for Town Council to allow \$750 to be allocated for the purchase of botanical I.D. signs for plants/trees in Morse Park. Mr. Massey seconded the recommendation and all members were in favor.

There was a discussion regarding smaller project costs and Mr. Givens stated that for smaller projects here are funds, but for larger projects, it would need to be a part of the budget planning. He asked the Board that if there were any projects that would need budget approval to get with him in January or February so that he could input it into the budget planning.

Input from Town Council Liaison – Commissioner Christopher Patrick Bryant

Commissioner Bryant mentioned that Commissioners Kilby and Moore will be stepping down at the December Council meeting. He thanked them for their years of dedication to our Town. He also mentioned that Mr. Scott Doster and Mr. Jim Procter will be replacing Commissioner Kilby and Commissioner Moore. There was discussion regarding liaisons for the Boards. Commissioner Bryant also mentioned the resignation of Town Manager Baldwin and the new slated Interim Town Manager Olivia Stewman (Town of Lake Lure Town Clerk) will be filling in until a candidate is chosen. Commissioner Bryant briefly discussed that the Town is looking into digitalizing the water payment plan. He also mentioned that the sewer work is on track and it is still in the plans to raise the lake by the end of March. He stated that all construction needed to be finished up by the end of January.

Other Comments:

Mrs. Laura Krejci announced that a new sign was approved for the front of Town Hall. She mentioned that the old sign is old and the letters are not secure in place which leaves them falling off frequently. A new electronic sign, similar to the one in front of Bills Creek Fire Department, will be installed this next year and is able to be operated from a computer, which would allow quick notices to be posted as well as events and meetings. (See attachment). Mrs. Krejci also mentioned the success of the town's new website and she's received as received favorable feedback regarding the same.

Adjournment

Mr. Hoek made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:15 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 January 6, 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