



Lake Lure Parks & Recreation Board
Regular Meeting
August 5, 2021

Call to Order

Chairman Mr. Jim Walters called to order the August 5, 2021 meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board at 1:33 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members present:

Mr. Jim Walters, Chairman
Mr. Ed Dittmer, Vice Chairman

Mr. Mark Hoek, Alternate
Mr. Bill Massey

Mrs. Maureen Bay
Mr. Robin Worcester

Board Members absent:

Mr. Dan Bragdon
Mr. Larry Czajkoski

Town Council and Officials present:

Commissioner Christopher Patrick Bryant

Other Town Staff and Contributors Present:

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MEETING MINUTES

The Agenda for the August 5, 2021 meeting was reviewed. **Mr. Dittmer made a motion to approve the Agenda and Mr. Massey seconded the motion and all members were in favor.**

The Minutes of the July 1, 2021 meeting were reviewed. **Mr. Massey made a motion to approve the Minutes and Mr. Dittmer seconded the motion and all members were in favor.**

Special Topics – Presentation & Discussions

Board members discussed the news of an invasive, poisonous hemlock plant that is becoming prevalent in Ohio that has a similar appearance as Queen Anne's lace. Mrs. Maureen Bay suggested that Town Communications Specialist Laura Krejci include information about the poisonous hemlock on the Town Website for the purpose of cautioning residents and providing details on how to distinguish this plant from a Queen Anne's lace.

Commissioner Patrick Bryant presented a statement regarding work being done at Boy's Camp Road, including the removal of one tree on August 5, 2021.

Parks & Recreation Board Members Presentation and Discussion

Parks, Recreation & Lake Report – Ms. Dana Bradley

Ms. Bradley reviewed her report. Ms. Bay asked why dredging was still listed as an activity in the report when it has halted for the season. Ms. Bradley explained that the Parks, Recreation, and Lake Department is now working on dredging paperwork and preparing permits and taking other preliminary steps to prepare for the winter. Ms. Bay asked if the cell tower has been sited. Commissioner Bryant stated that this decision has not been voted on by Town Council for final approval. Commissioner Bryant also stated that land had been exchanged with Chimney Rock Village. Mr. Dittmer asked what land had been exchanged. Commissioner Bryant explained that the land exchanged was a property that was north of Chimney Rock Inn. This land was exchanged for the property on Boys Camp Road.

A discussion was initiated when Mr. Dittmer questioned whether or not Buffalo Creek Park was formally incorporated into Town limits. Commissioner Bryant explained that it is not. Mr. Dittmer suggested that the Parks and Recreation Board recommend to Town Council that Buffalo Creek Road be formally incorporated into Town limits. Mr. Dittmer questioned what this process might look like if the recommendation passes. Commissioner Bryant explained that Town Attorney William Morgan would take over if a recommendation were made to council. **Mr. Dittmer made a motion for the Town of Lake Lure to formally annex Buffalo Creek Park into Town Limits. Mr. Bill Massey seconded the motion and all members were in favor.**

Mrs. Bay asked Ms. Bradley to provide information on the new Parks, Recreation, and Lake Department hire. Ms. Bradley explained that the Department had recently hired Chris Shields who has had over 20 years of experience in landscaping and previously worked for the DOT. Mrs. Bay stated that the Welcome to Lake Lure sign could be improved. Ms. Bradley stated that she will look into this. Mr. Dittmer asked Ms. Bradley to explain any progress that has been made on the Luremont Trails. Ms. Bradley explained that the Town is still waiting on the appropriate legislation to be passed and the project will progress following the passing of legislation. Ms. Bradley mentioned that Attorney William Morgan should provide the Town with an update on this matter in the near future.

Golf Course – Mr. Mark Hoek, Alternate

Mr. Mark Hoek reviewed a summary of the Lake Lure Golf Course statistics provided by Lake Lure Golf Management, Inc. President, Dale Minick. He informed the Board that the Golf Course Deed has not been updated and the topographical survey has not been conducted, but will likely need to be completed if the property is going to be sold. However, financials have been received, an asset list is in existence, and an appraisal has been completed. The Board discussed possible uses for the Golf Course. Mr. Hoek has had discussions about Golf Course matters with Ed Dittmer, Mayor Pritchett, Laura Doster, and other private and public organizations.

Dittmer-Watts Nature Trail Park – Mr. Ed Dittmer

Mr. Dittmer discussed Ms. Bradley's trail counter findings that show an increase in trail users. He stated that there was a work-day in July which involved maintenance work on the trail. Ms. Bradley announced that the next work-day will be on August 10th. She also announced that the former AmeriCorps member had finished her time with the Town and that the new AmeriCorps member has been hired and will

begin working in September. Ms. Bradley explained the purposes and benefits of AmeriCorps member, and the importance of volunteer hours.

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

Mr. Robin Worcester reported positive feedback from citizens regarding trails. Ms. Bradley announced that there would be a work day at Buffalo Creek Park at the end of month and explained operations that took place at the most recent work day. Ms. Bradley announced that there was an easement lacking on two small pieces of property on the Weedpatch Mountain trail, but an easement has now been signed. Mr. Dittmer requested updates regarding Conserving Carolina and the property containing 1500 acres that is located north of the Buffalo Creek Loop. Ms. Bradley did not have any updates on this matter.

Lake Lure Flowering Bridge – Mr. Bill Massey

Mr. Massey announced that in July a new record had been broken for the amount of visitors at the Flowering Bridge. He also stated that a deal was negotiated with Skyrunner to allow public Wi-Fi on the bridge and implementation is now in process. Mr. Massey explained that visitors will be able to connect to the Wi-Fi by scanning a QR code. Commissioner Bryant recommended working with the Rutherford County TDA for the purpose of providing an additional QR Code that directs to the County guidebook. Mr. Massey explained that a landscaping organization that is in contract with the Flowering Bridge completed a work day and will continue to hold work days periodically. He stated that Ms. Bay and other Flowering Bridge leaders met with a webmaster for the purpose of redesigning and improving the Flowering Bridge website. Mr. Massey explained that money has recently been spent on signage and plants. Ms. Bay explained that the new QR Code that will be on the grid will link to a website that will include sections of local eateries, trails, accommodations, scenic locations, etc. She welcomed recommendations from Board members. Ms. Bay also explained that the themed art display and auction went well last year and this year local artists will be displaying paintings of bear themed pictures starting September 9 through October 24 and another virtual auction will take place. She will update the Board on this next month. Ms. Bradley informed the Board that the website now includes all trail information and this should be accessible through the QR Code on Flowering Bridge. Commissioner Bryant recommended this be accessible through a link and the Board agreed.

Morse Park – Mr. Jim Walters

Mr. Walters asked Ms. Bradley to report on the Morse Park Amphitheater. Ms. Bradley explained that there are existing design options and that the project is in the planning stage but there is currently no timeline. She explained that the Parks, Recreation, and Lake Department met with Destination by Design and Ms. Bradley relayed Board suggestions to the design company. Ms. Bradley detailed the current design plans to the Board. Commissioner Bryant suggested the option of installing turf on the amphitheater terrace. Board members also made suggestions regarding parking, seating, and green space for Ms. Bradley to note and discuss during her next meeting with Destination by Design.

Parks & Recreation Programs and Initiatives

Mr. Bragdon was not present to discuss Parks and Recreation programs and initiatives.

Input from Town Council Liaison – Commissioner Christopher Patrick Bryant

Commissioner Bryant had given input throughout the meeting on the topics of the cell tower, amphitheater, Wi-Fi, golf course, etc. He also announced that the Lake lowering will be in effect from November 1st to April 1st this year. Ms. Bradley mentioned that this time frame may be shorter depending on circumstances. Commissioner Bryant mentioned that Kurt Wright has been helpful in facilitating a timeline. Commissioner Bryant reminded Board members of the departure of

Commissioner Kilby and Commissioner Moore from their seats on Town Council and the Marine Commission. Commissioner Bryant informed the Board that public record shows that Jim Proctor and Scott Doster are the two candidates running for the open Council and Commission seats and that Mayor Carol Pritchett will be running for Mayor again. Ms. Bay asked members if they had any knowledge as to why the Broad River is low and no Board member had information on this topic. Mr. Bryant explained that there will be an existing report on the Lake water levels within the following weeks.

Other Comments:

Mr. Dittmer reminded the Board that the Olympiad was occurring the upcoming weekend of August 13th through the 15th and discussed the large number of participants signed up for events and warned of issues that occurred at past races that should no longer be issues.

Adjournment


Mr. Dittmer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:18 p.m. Ms. 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 September 2, 2021 at 1:30 pm. It is currently scheduled to be held at the Town of Lake Lure Town Hall.

ATTEST:


Jim Walters, Chairman


Kat Canant, Board Clerk