



Lake Lure Parks & Recreation Board
Regular Meeting
April 7, 2022

Call to Order

Chairman Mr. Jim Walters called to order the April 7, 2022 meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board at 1:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members present:

Mr. Jim Walters, Chairman
Mr. Robin Worcester

Mr. Dan Bragdon
Mr. Larry Czajkoski

Mr. Bill Massey

Board Members absent:

Mr. Ed Dittmer, Vice Chairman
Mr. Mark Hoek, Alternate
Mrs. Maureen Bay

Town Council and Officials present:

Commissioner Patrick Bryant
Commissioner Scott Doster

Other Town Staff and Contributors Present:

Ms. Dana Bradley – Town of Lake Lure Parks, Recreation and Trails Coordinator
Ms. Samantha Brooks – AmeriCorps Trails Coordinator
Mr. Mike Reardon – Carolina Climbers Coalition

Agenda and Meeting Minutes

The Agenda for the April 7, 2022 meeting was reviewed. **Mr. Massey made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Czajkoski seconded the motion and all members were in favor.**

The Minutes of the March 3, 2022 meeting were reviewed. **Mr. Bragdon made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Massey seconded the motion and all members were in favor.**

Presentation by Mr. Mike Reardon – Carolina Climber Coalition

Mr. Reardon presented a slide show and spoke regarding a new trail that has been planned at the new boulder field in the cliff area which is on Town property. He mentioned this is in alignment with the trail systems and will be 1.2 miles of new trail with 24" tread. This trail would not be for bikers as the width will be too small and the trails will be populated with rock climbers who will be carrying gear as well as

avid hikers. The (currently named) Upper Boulders Trail has numerous features for climbers and hikers, and features a beautiful water cascade with small pool area at the foot of it. Mr. Reardon stated that professional trail builders will be used to create the trail as well as volunteers. He also mentioned an adjoining property of 21 acres that they are seeking to purchase with grants and funding. Ms. Bradley mentioned that she spoke with the owner of that property today and she was very excited about the outcome. There was discussion regarding other entities to make aware of this trail for hopeful funding options. Mr. Reardon also mentioned an area of a previous homestead that could be used for parking. There was discussion among the Board that was favorable. Ms. Bradley stated that the Town Council had already approved this trail plan and the Board was excited with Mr. Reardon's presentation and the trail features. This incredible trail will not require any funding from the Town of Lake Lure. Ms. Bradley mentioned grants that could be applied for to assist with cost such as a 10-12ft bridge that Mr. Reardon spoke of. Chairman Walters was very excited to hear this plan and the Board voiced their excitement as well.

Parks & Recreation Board Members Presentation and Discussion

Parks, Recreation & Lake Report – Mr. Dean Givens

Ms. Bradley reviewed the Monthly Report and the Board had no questions. She also mentioned that a new crewman had been hired and was helping Carl out in the field. Additionally a new Administrative Assistant had been found and Ms. Bradley just offered her the position today. It was discussed that volunteer hours for the month were great as well as the new walkway around the Gazebo was quite a wonderful new feature that was being appreciated by many.

Green Space – Mr. Mark Hoek, Alternate

Mr. Hoek was not present. Chairman Walters mentioned he was meeting with a professional golf course enhancer group. There was discussion. Ms. Bradley mentioned that whatever discussion this group has, would need to be presented to the Lake Lure Steering Committee as they were over the plans for that Green Space. It was mentioned that all ideas would be considered. Ms. Bradley told the Board that four new Dog Waste Stations had been added to the Green Space as well as trash cans. She also mentioned some pathways that may need replacing in the future. She is in the process of getting directional signs which would help direct walkers around the Green Space as well as where Dittmer-Watts Trail system and the Green Space meet.

Dittmer-Watts Nature Trail Park – Mr. Ed Dittmer

Mr. Dittmer was not present however Ms. Brooks mentioned trail clean up where several trees had been removed. Ms. Bradley stated that she had purchased metal benches for both Dittmer-Watts and the Green Space area.

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

Ms. Brooks stated that the trails look good and further maintenance was planned. There was discussion regarding the trail counter numbers and why the count was down slightly from last year. There was a discussion with counter issues and Ms. Bradley mentioned she would check those counters. Ms. Bradley was happy to mention that the Buffalo Creek Park parking area was almost complete. Mr. Tim Edwards and she had planned and re-planned the lot and actually went back to the original plan which worked perfectly and it should be completed by the end of this week. She is working on signage, which will name the many folks who had a hand in making this parking area happen. There was discussion regarding a Ribbon Cutting. The Board loved the idea and Ms. Bradley will get with all those involved as well as the State of North Carolina. Mr. Czajkoski mentioned Mr. Peter Barr as well as Ms. Bradley and

how instrumental they were on this project. Ms. Bradley will get with Don Cason regarding the Ribbon Cutting.

Lake Lure Flowering Bridge – Mr. Massey

Mr. Massey filled the Board in with the happenings on the Flowering Bridge such as their new basket displays. As well they were planning for major renovations for a new education center and green house. They are planning a new parking area across Boys Camp Road. Mr. Massey also mentioned the Bear Campaign, which was so successful before, is just around the corner. They roughly have 30 volunteers taking care of the bridge now. He also mentioned their trail counter numbers were slightly down and there was a brief discussion as to traffic in March and that spring break was later this year, than last. A brief discussion followed.

Morse Park – Mr. Jim Walters

Chairman Walters reviewed the Lake Lure Steering Committee meeting and while the main concentration prior was the amphitheater, they've now reviewed that parking needed to be forefront and there was further discussion regarding same. Chairman Walters continued that after the parking is in the works they will concentrate on attractions. He mentioned as well that the TDA was very happy with all the plans for the Morse Park Project. They will have their next meeting in June where they will begin putting plans together for 2023. The Board discussed the many magazine articles that had appeared especially that in Southern Living, where they held Lake Lure as a highly desired place to live.

Programs and Initiatives – Mr. Dan Bragdon

Mr. Bragdon had been working on the concessions agreements and spoke with Mr. Givens about the same. They are pulling back on those plans now, however Mr. Bragdon will continue to see where volunteers may be needed with the many upcoming plans.

Input from Town Council Liaison – Commissioner Christopher Patrick Bryant

Commissioner Bryant mentioned that the planning for the Morse Park Project was good and he suggested to make sure the drainage and electricity was properly planned around the Amphitheatre being that that area gets very wet during rains. He stated he was very proud of the Board's achievements over the past year. He was asked about the Council's decision on parking in front of the Marina Office by its employees. Commissioner Bryant stated it was discussed but no decision was made and that the employees would be allowed to continue parking there until further discussion. Commissioner Bryant reminded everyone of the trash pick-up day on Boys Camp Road on April 12th at 9am.

Other Comments:

Commissioner Doster was very pleased with the Board was doing regarding the trails and parks. He also felt getting Don Cason involved on the ribbon cutting for the Buffalo Creek Park parking area was a great idea. He as well mentioned getting the Chamber involved.

There was a brief discussion, a continuing of the possibilities of funding for the new trail.

Mrs. Laura Krejci discussed the many upcoming events in Lake Lure as well as reviewed the many articles in magazines concerning Lake Lure. She has updated the events calendar on the web and passed a copy out to the Board.


Adjournment

Mr. Bragdon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:43 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 May 5, 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



NAME: Dean Givens

POSITION: Parks, Recreation, and Lake Director

REPORT DATE:
04/01/2022

PREPARED FOR:
Town Manager

SUMMARY OF THE MONTH

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
 - New Greenspace and PR&L Offices
 - Walkway pavers in front of beach (Completed)
 - New seawall at gazebo (Completed)
 - Mining permit modification
 - Chapel Point Rd. Easement
 - Selling old golf equipment on GovDeals
 - Budget

PR&TC ACTIVITIES:

1. Began training our new employee, Donnie Martin
2. Worked on new office remodel
3. Began installation of the Buffalo Creek Park parking lot
4. Continued entering marina boat slip renewal payments into the spreadsheet/ calling about late payments
5. LLPD training
6. Continued updating the Parks, Recreation, and Lake Department Standard Operating Procedures
7. Continued building new boat permitting database - RecDesk

8. Organized Buffalo Creek Park workday on 3/15 to repair eroded areas – 4 volunteers, 20 volunteer hours
9. Organized a Dittmer Watts workday on 3/29 to remove dead trees – 5 volunteers; 15 volunteer hours
10. Organized a Weed Patch Mountain workday on 3/30 to repair eroded areas. The Conserving Carolina “Rock Crushers” assisted with this workday– 8 volunteers; 60 volunteer hours
11. Planned upcoming trail maintenance days and recruited volunteers to help
12. Checked Buffalo Creek Park, Dittmer-Watts Nature Trails, and Weed Patch Mountain for damage
13. Utilized volunteer to collect water samples from streams – 2 volunteers; 9 volunteer hours
14. Utilized a total of **104 volunteer hours**
15. Attended several meetings

P&R Maintenance Activities:

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

Lake Activities:

1. Debris pickup
2. Buoy Maintenance
3. Boat Maintenance

TOP THREE ACCOMPLISHMENTS / PROJECT UPDATES

1. Began installation of the expanded Buffalo Creek Park parking lot
2. Completed installation of the pavers on the Lake Lure Walkway
3. Completed installation of pavers in front of the Gazebo in Morse Park

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Began scheduling interviews for Administrative Support Specialist