



City of Boiling Spring Lakes

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Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2015

6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE: Robert Stanley, Chairman, Verda Darrell, Vice-Chair, Sandra Krasnow, Bruce Pennington, Suzanne Goffredo, Bon Cantrell, Janet Wall

Commissioner Liaison: Mary Stilwell

Staff: Mary Green ~ P&R Director, Pamela Bellina ~ Administrative Assistant

Prior to the call to order, Bruce Pennington advised he had to leave by 7:30 PM for work reasons if the meeting was not concluded by said time.

I. CALL TO ORDER ~

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Stanley at 6:32 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA ~

A Motion was made by Bon Cantrell and seconded by Suzanne Goffredo to approve the agenda as written.

Vote: 7 – 0; Motion Carried

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~

A Motion was made by Suzanne Goffredo and seconded by Verda Darrell to approve the January 21, 2015 minutes as written.

Vote: 7 – 0; Motion Carried

IV. Public Comment ~ None.

V. Old Business ~

A. Lighting at Tennis/Basketball Courts ~

Bon Cantrell felt there was still a need to provide lighting at the tennis and basketball courts. The survey results show the need. The Advisory Board members discussed mercury vapor lamps for the park and Mary Green suggested they take this recommendation to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Stilwell suggested they research what the monthly cost would be which should be included with the recommendation to the Board of Commissioners. Mary Green advised the park hours will have to be extended. Bon Cantrell and Bob Stanley volunteered to present the recommendations to the Board of Commissioners.

Bruce Pennington asked if it was found that no one used the park after dark, could the light be removed or turned off. Bon Cantrell understood there was a one year mandatory usage policy. Commissioner Stilwell believed the lights would go along with the responsibility of the City's street lights. Mary Green stated if the Advisory Board wanted to just have the lighting installed, that could be done at any time, not specifically during budget talks; but if the members wanted to partner this with another agenda item such as transportation, then the request would have to be made by the last week in March for it to be added to the April BOC Agenda. Mary Green also asked that members of the Advisory Board be present at the Board of Commissioners' meeting to support the recommendation. Bon Cantrell and Bob Stanley stated they would be present.

A Motion was made by Bon Cantrell and seconded by Suzanne Goffredo for the Advisory Board to find an inexpensive way to have lighting at the tennis and basketball courts, to extend the park hours at that location to 9:00 PM and once the findings are compiled, to make this recommendation to the Board of Commissioners.

Vote: 7 – 0; Motion Carried

B. Flotilla / Chili dinner ~

Bon Cantrell met with the Special Events Committee to discuss a Christmas flotilla but Special Events felt with all of the events taking place in the surrounding areas during the Holidays, it may not be a good time. Bon and the Special Events members discussed the possibility of a 4th of July Flotilla which Bon was presenting to the Advisory Board.

Bon felt the event would be great for the City since it would be the only event held on the big lake at this time. He stated that in the past some residents set off fireworks which would add to the flotilla event and offered that in the future fundraising could take place so the City could have its own fireworks display and maybe its own parade to the flotilla. Bon requested that the event not tax the Parks and Recreation staff and suggested the two Committees (Special Events and Parks & Recreation Advisory Board) volunteer to staff the event. He also advised that Special Events may be able to add the event to their budget. Verda Darrell questioned if the residents would support and attend the event because of the Southport/Oak Island events. Mary Green questioned if the Chamber of Commerce might be offended if BSL had its own event as it

may come across as non-supportive or in direct competition with their events. She also advised that fireworks would be a tremendous expense. Sandra Krasnow offered to speak with the Chamber of Commerce to get their thoughts on our City hosting its own event and possibly being included in their event schedule. Commissioner Stilwell mentioned that the officials of Boiling Spring Lakes, including the Police and Fire Departments, were expected to attend the Southport events. Bruce Pennington posed to the Advisory Board two problems he foresaw: fireworks would be a problem in this area because of all of the trees, pine straw and shrubbery. The second problem he discussed was where the flotilla could be viewed by the residents. Closing Alton Lennon Road was discussed but would require the Fire Department's permission to close the road. Mary Green asked if the Advisory Board was going to make a Motion to move ahead on the 4th of July Flotilla or table the discussion. Sandra asked for the matter to be tabled until she could speak with the Chamber of Commerce. Commissioner Stilwell suggested that the Advisory Board members ask their friends and neighbors if they would attend a local event or would they attend the Southport events. Bon Cantrell mentioned that last year there was a flotilla on the big lake that was not an organized event and he felt that organizing the event could make it bigger and attract more residents. Bon stated there would be no fireworks this year but it could hopefully be considered for the future.

A Motion was made by Sandra Krasnow and seconded by Bon Cantrell table the 4th of July Flotilla discussion until next month after Sandra has had a chance to speak with the Chamber of Commerce.

Vote: 7 – 0; Motion Carried

C. Advertising in the Parks ~

Mary Green asked the Advisory Board if they wanted her to move forward with and to make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners on the advertising park benches. Mary asked Commissioner Stilwell if advertising on park benches was something that had to come before the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Stilwell advised it would be a decision Mary could make since she is the Department head; however she suggested Mary speak with the City Manager. Mary presented to the Advisory Board that if there was money in the budget to purchase the benches and she had permission from the City Manager, if these benches were something they would like Mary to pursue. The Committee discussed at length whether to have advertising park benches or memorial park benches. Mary Green asked each member which benches they would like to see in the parks. Following is each Advisory Board member's vote:

Janet Wall – memorial benches
Verda Darrell – memorial benches
Suzanne Goffredo – memorial benches
Sandra Krasnow – advertising benches
Bruce Pennington – memorial benches
Bon Cantrell – advertising benches
Bob Stanley – memorial benches

The members also discussed whether there could be the two types of benches, both memorial and advertising.

Vote: 5 for memorial benches; 2 for advertising benches

Mary Green will bring a package on memorial park benches to the June meeting, after budget meetings.

D. Pets in the Parks ~

Commissioner Stilwell apologized to Bob Stanley because she was under the impression that Pets in the Parks would be discussed at the Board of Commissioners' Workshop on February 17. She advised Pets in the Park is a separate issue altogether and was something that this Board needed to decide. Bob Stanley stated he was advised that no dogs allowed in the swimming areas was already in the Ordinance and that dogs were only allowed at North Lake on a leash. Commissioner Stilwell stated the Board of Commissioners' March Agenda will have the Ordinance that has been written by the Police Department and Animal Control Officer which states all dogs must be on a leash when off their owner's property and it would be up to this Advisory Board to decide if dogs would be allowed in the parks or not.

Commissioner Stilwell further advised it was discussed at the Workshop that because Parks and Recreation owns a lot of property, it should utilize one of those parcels of property specifically for dogs, which seemed to be the consensus of the Board, so Mary may want to discuss and bring that idea up during budget talks. Mary Green asked if the discussion was for a fenced dog park which Commissioner Stilwell stated yes and it was the consensus of the Board that they just want dogs away from the children in the parks. Verda Darrell asked if dogs must be leashed anywhere in the City if not on their property and how would people know this because she sees people with their dogs running loose. Commissioner Stilwell commented, yes but it will take time. Commissioner Stilwell discussed that the Ordinance was not new but portions of it have been changed. She urged the members to read the Ordinance on the City's website. She also advised that if the Advisory Board wanted to allow leashed dogs in the parks, the recommendation would need to come before the Board of Commissioners to change the Ordinance. Commissioner Stilwell stated she will lobby the other Commissioners for the dog park.

The Advisory Board members also discussed the signage at the parks. Commissioner Stilwell stated there was some controversy at the Workshop of the size of the wording on the signs and whether those signs should specifically state no dogs allowed. Mary Green said she could spend more money on signs but the signs need to be enforced. Mary Green mentioned the parking area across from Spring Lake does not have any signage and Commissioner Stilwell stated there was some controversy over that as well at the Workshop. Mary stated she is working toward signage for that area. Commissioner Stilwell stated Mary should advise the BOC that she is working on signage for that area.

A Motion was made by Bon Cantrell and seconded by Bruce Pennington to table Pets in the Parks to the April meeting.

Vote: 7 – 0; Motion Carried

E. Survey Results ~

Mary Green provided the survey results to the Advisory Board and asked them to take a week to look at it, let her know if there were any typos, if the layout was good and to give Mary their input. The Advisory Board members discussed some of the comments and in particular one about the current Parks & Recreation bus and the need for a new bus.

F. Parks and Recreation Transportation ~

Mary Green advised the Advisory Board members that she had a change of heart about the size bus needed. She felt that Parks & Recreation would be better served with two 15-passenger buses than one 25-passenger bus as it would be better suited to their daily needs. Commissioner Stilwell suggested Mary Green ask for what she needs instead of offering a choice. Mary Green emailed with the Jeff Repp, City Manager earlier that day about purchasing two 15-passenger buses this year before July 1st. His reply was the money was there but he was not sure the Board of Commissioners would agree. Jeff advised Mary to make a presentation to the Board of Commissioners in March on why she should buy one now because money is available and buy one in July.

Mary discussed with the Advisory Board the ability to move people in different directions with two buses rather than one, summer camp with multiple buses going out or the afterschool program with one van and a bus able to go in one direction and the seniors go in another, children turned away from summer camp, the ratio of kids to drivers/spotters on the buses, CDL drivers on staff and the expense of maintaining two buses. Mary advised a 25-passenger bus would be dedicated to one group only and if they do afterschool with that size bus, unless the bus is back by 2 PM, it would eliminate the seniors. Bon Cantrell suggested Mary ask for two buses first instead of one bus now and another bus next year because you would still have to rent a bus until you could purchase the second bus. He suggested to write down the pros and cons of both, make a decision and present to the BOC which one you want. Mary clarified she would ask for one bus in this budget year and then ask for one in the next budget year. She advised it is up to the Board of Commissioners, City Manager, and the Finance Director whether the buses would be financed or purchased outright. She advised typically there was money at the end of the budget year and that Jeff was a proponent of getting things done now so you do not have to ask for it again. Bon further suggested asking for both now but have a back-up plan. Bon added why throw \$5,000 away on having to rent another bus until the second one was purchased. Commissioner Stilwell also thought it would be a good idea to ask for the buses now. Bon offered the following synopsis: with buying the two 15-passenger buses, there will be five more seats. Mary was spending \$8500 a year on bus rentals. The two 15-passenger buses will bring back to the City \$10,000 - \$12,000 because of the ability to add more children. It may cost \$60,000 this year to purchase the vehicles but it will only be \$50,000 because Mary will be getting at least \$10,000 back with the added seats. Commissioner Stilwell advised Mary to emphasize how important afterschool and summer camp programs are to the residents of the City and she urged the Advisory Board members contact all of the Commissioners and ask them to

consider the transportation issue at the Community Center. Mary Green stated she will present purchasing two 15-passenger buses to the Board of Commissioners at the March meeting.

Bruce Pennington left the meeting at 7:42 PM.

Bon also asked Mary to provide numbers on how many children she believed she turned away last year for summer camp because of no transportation and how many she would have lost because she did not have the transportation so the members can present these figures to the Commissioners when they speak with them. Mary stated it would be a rough estimate but she will provide it. Sandra Krasnow asked if the \$60,000 was for two buses or one bus and Mary stated it was for two.

G. North Carolina Department of Environmental Protection & Natural Resources - Water Resources Development Grant (re: fishing pier and site amenities @ North Lake) ~

Mary Green advised that she and the City Engineer have not yet heard back from the grant people. She hoped to hear from them by the end of February, beginning of March. If they are awarded the grant, the City Engineer and Mary will go back to the BOC, ask permission to accept the grant and provide the reasoning for placing the pier at North Lake and not at Alton Lennon Park because it was not environmentally feasible to do so.

VI. New Business ~ None.

VII. Citizens Concerns ~ None.

VIII. Announcements ~

Bob Stanley announced that Hired Hands performs the fourth Thursday of every month at the Community Center. He discussed the possibility of changing the night to a Friday night because there had not been a lot of attendance.

IX. Next Meeting Agenda Items ~

Old Business ~

- Lighting tennis/basketball courts
- 4th of July Flotilla
- Survey Results
- Parks & Recreation Transportation
- North Carolina Department of Environmental Protection & Natural Resources - Water Resources Development Grant (re: fishing pier and site amenities @ North Lake)

X. Adjourn ~

A Motion was made by Sandra Krasnow and seconded by Suzanne Goffredo to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 PM.

Vote: 6 – 0; Motion Carried

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Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Bellina, Administrative Assistant