



City of Boiling Spring Lakes

**9 East Boiling Spring Road
Boiling Spring Lakes, NC 28461**

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2015

6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE: Bob Stanley, Chairman, Bruce Pennington,
Bon Cantrell, Janet Wall, Carolyn Doshier

Absent: Paige Garza, Sandra Krasnow (excused)

Commissioner Liaison: Mary Stilwell

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order by Chairman Robert Stanley at 6:30 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Bon Cantrell and seconded by Bruce Pennington to approve the agenda as written.

Vote: 5 – 0 ~ Motion Carried

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~

A motion was made by Bruce Pennington and seconded by Bon Cantrell to approve the June 17, 2015 minutes as written.

Vote: 5 – 0 ~ Motion Carried

IV. Public Comment ~ none

V. Old Business

a. Public Beach & Coastal Access Grant

Mary Green advised that the City did not get invited to apply for the Public Beach & Coastal Access Grant. CAMA has \$800,000 to give in grants however they had \$4.8 million in requests. Mary did have good news. The Coastal Land Trust is still very interested in partnering with the City to acquire the boiling spring property. They have been granted permission by the landowner this week to have an appraisal done on the property which is another step closer to obtaining the boiling spring property, a step in the right direction. Mary anticipates the property being appraised late next week and once the appraisal is obtained, the City and Coastal Land Trust will discuss the findings with the landowner to inquire if he will sell the land to Coastal Land Trust, donate it to them or donate it to the City. Coastal Land Trust does not want the property but wants the City to preserve it.

b. Brunswick County Greenway/Blueway Master Plan

Mary Green advised that the BOC did approve the City partnering with Brunswick County and the other municipalities in the Greenway/Blueway Master Plan. Mary wants to encourage the City to do a little bit more than the smaller municipalities because we have such a large population center. The City will hold public input sessions for residents to advise what they would like to see in the Master Plan. Mary noted this project will not bring sidewalks to every street in BSL, but it will be able to plot out points of interest within the City, all of the parks and community buildings, hopefully the boiling spring property, provide safe routes for folks to circumvent and patch all of our parks together with some sort of approved walking paths and/or paved shoulder-type pathways. The City will look to the State of NC for anything to do with Route 87 and East Boiling Spring Road as they are State owned roads.

Mary further explained that the Master Plan will be a large 3 foot by 4 foot tear-resistant outdoor map with the county wide plan on one side and every municipality will have a share on the other side which will contain all of our points of interest within the City. It will be a great marketing tool but the biggest benefit will be potential DOT and grant funding to get concrete, asphalt or some sort of surface down for people to walk or bike on. Mary believes this process may take 12 to 18 months to produce the map.

c. Boiling Spring Lakes Comprehensive Land Use Plan

The Cape Fear Council of Governments made a presentation at the Planning Board meeting on Tuesday night and Mary provided the members with a copy of the time line provided by CFCOG. Phase 2, 3 and 4 will be the major public input phases. In early 2016, the COG representative will meet with the Advisory Board to get input as to what needs to happen land-use wise for P & R and what needs to be included in the plan. Mary cautioned this does not mean it will get done if it is in the plan; but if it is not in the plan, it will not get done. Mary advised this is our opportunity to say what we want the face of P & R to look like in 20 years.

Commissioner Stilwell suggested the board members visit the new City Hall/Police Department/Parks & Rec building in Leland. They have combined all the departments in one building and it is beautiful.

d. Community Center Playground & Disc Golf Course Expansion

Mary asked Pamela to place a Public Comment section on the Agenda for September, October, and November. This will allow formalized public comment on what residents want. The disc golf players are excited to share their thoughts as well as the before and afterschool program parents.

e. Memorial Park Benches

Mary advised she met with the Building and Grounds Superintendent and they have been looking at benches that are cost effective and will have longevity. There are two benches they are considering: one bench has a concrete base and the seating will be wood slats. The other benches being considered are the same benches and swings at the waterfront in Southport. Those are made by the former Southport Parks and Recreation Director Joe Medlin and are more cost effective than the concrete benches which will allow maintenance money to be built into the budget. The concrete benches will be more substantial, more expensive and longer lasting (approximately 20 years) and Joe Medlin's benches will last about 10 years but are less expensive allowing maintenance costs to be built into the budget. Mary will be meeting with Ernie Siriani, the Building & Grounds Superintendent, tomorrow and she will be able to provide more information at the next meeting.

VI. New Business

a. Welcome New Advisory Board Members

Bob Stanley welcomed the two new members to the Board. Paige Garza was unable to attend the meeting but did speak with Bob and Mary Green. Carolyn Doshier was welcomed and advised that she had recently retired from the middle school. Her interests are green space and fitness and she is excited to help make a difference in the City. Mary Green advised Carolyn that there are a lot of exciting things the Advisory Board is working on and without this Board they would never happen.

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Bob Stanley asked when the buses would be delivered. Mary advised she will take delivery on August 14<sup>th</sup> of the two 15-passenger mini vans. The time frame was to take delivery before summer camp but the seat manufacturer at Ford was behind and the 90-day delivery window turned into a 220-day window. Camp will be over but it will still allow trips in the Fall for seniors and Mary will now be able to expand the afterschool program: 28 kids in elementary, 14 in middle. She started registration on Monday and has only 3 spots left before school and two spots left in afterschool. The fleet has been increased to 4 vehicles – two 15-passenger vans, the mini bus and mini van. The old white car will be surplus. Parks and Recreation expenditures

actually bring a return on investment. The vans will pay for themselves in 4 years. The minibus is a 2005, just turned 60,000 miles and is doing great. For every dollar spent on Parks and Recreation, 40 cents comes back in some sort of revenue which is well over the State average.

**b. Elect chairperson and Vice Chairperson**

Bruce Pennington requested that the Board wait until all members are present to vote for a new Chair and Vice Chair and Commissioner Stilwell suggested the same.

A Motion was made by Bruce Pennington and seconded by Janet Wall to postpone the election of a Chair and Vice Chair until the entire board is present to vote.

**Vote: 4 – 1 ~ Motion Carried. (Bob Stanley opposed)**

**VII. Next Meeting Agenda Items**

Parks Inventory. Mary will be revising the old Parks Inventory book with new maps of the parks and properties owned by the City along with new spreadsheets. There is a misconception that the City owns all of the lakes and it does not. Commissioner Stilwell advised that there will be discussion about the City adopting two lakes and once she gathers more information, she will speak with the Advisory Board. An assessment inventory was prepared in 2007 and is something Mary would like to see this Board work on in 2016 by revisiting the parks and making new recommendations. Mary Green would like to take the Advisory Board around to visit all of the parks and properties to update the assessment inventory so new recommendations can be made. This would also be good information to give the land use planners.

Commissioner Stilwell inquired if the assessment inventory will include properties for sale next to the lakes or dormant properties around the lake for future acquisition. She feels the Advisory Board should look into these properties too.

**VIII. Announcements**

Mary Green announced Free Concert Friday is this Friday night from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM and CC Martin will be playing who is a local Southport artist. The Hired Hands will be playing for the August Free Concert Friday.

Bon Cantrell apologized for his absence at the last meeting but he had a family emergency.

Commissioner Stilwell will not be able to attend the August meeting but one of the other Commissioners will attend in her place.

Mary Green advised that there is a swimming advisory at Mirror Lake. The park is not currently closed and people can swim if they want but the advisory will stay in place. There will be new testing on July 25<sup>th</sup> with results anticipated about a week later. The lake was

closed over July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. Mary further advised that there a plans to speak with Aquatico to do some more detailed specs on Mirror Lake because it is a stagnant body of water so there are issues. Mary is looking into getting the water aerated. Mary further advised there may also be large algae blooms in the lakes this year because the water has been so warm.

Commissioner Stilwell asked if Mary had heard any complaints about alligators. Mary advised she had no complaints over the Spring Lake alligator but did have a lot of calls. She had no reports of the alligator moving toward the swimming area or threatening any swimmers. Fish and Wildlife had been to the lake to trap the alligator but with no success yet. Mary plans to start a very large campaign with Animal Control about direct or indirect feeding of alligators. Commissioner Stilwell advised that a large alligator was removed from behind the dam because he was being fed and would approach people and there are many people who fish down there. Indirect feeding is cleaning fish at the end of docks, food left out for pets, food scraps thrown into the lake. Mary stated that indirect feeding is mostly done by people who live on the lakes, not visitors to the lakes. Janet Wall inquired what can be done to get this campaign going as she had been at Spring Lake for a party and someone in their party reported seeing an alligator at the swimming area of the lake that day. She spoke with a friend who had been at the lake the next day and she had yelled for everyone to get out of the lake because she saw an alligator close. Janet suggested hanging flyers at the lake advising of the alligator and offered help in hanging them. Mary explained that flyers are underway. Commissioner Stilwell advised that the BOC discussed whether to close Spring Lake on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July but had decided against it because it would have caused more of an issue if closed. Residents would have been swimming anyway and they would have been cited. Mary Green said safety is the number one concern but education is important and asked that incidents be reported or they cannot take care of the problem.

## **IX. Adjourn**

A Motion was made by Bruce Pennington and seconded by Bon Cantrell to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 pm.

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Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Bellina  
Administrative Assistant