



## ***City of Boiling Spring Lakes***

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

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### **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes August 19, 2015 6:30 P.M.**

**ATTENDANCE:** Bob Stanley, Chairman, Bon Cantrell, Janet Wall,  
Paige Garza, Carolyn Doshier

**Absent:** Sandra Krasnow, Bruce Pennington (both excused)

**Commissioner Liaison:** Mary Stilwell (absent); David Putnam (attended)

**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 6:29 p.m.

#### **II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**Vote: 5 – 0; Motion Carried**

#### **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~**

A motion was made by Bon Cantrell and seconded by Carolyn Doshier to approve the July 15, 2015 minutes as written.

**Vote: 5 – 0; Motion Carried**

#### **IV. Public Comment ~ none**

## **V. Old Business**

### **a. Vote for Chair and Vice Chair**

The Advisory Board members nominated Robert Stanley to continue as Chairman of the Advisory Board which he accepted.

A Motion was made by Bon Cantrell and seconded by Carolyn Doshier to re-elect Robert Stanley as Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

**Vote: 5 – 0; Motion Carried**

Bon Cantrell offered to be Vice Chairman and the Advisory Board accepted his offer as Vice Chairman of the Advisory Board.

A Motion was made by Carolyn Doshier and seconded by Janet Wall to nominate Bon Cantrell as Vice Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

**Vote: 5 – 0; Motion Carried**

### **b. Memorial Benches**

Mary Green asked to table the matter until the September meeting as she is currently overwhelmed because of a staff member's resignation. She has asked for help from the Advisory Board to research the style of bench they would like along with pricing and forward the information to Mary or bring it to next meeting. With the pricing information, it can then be determined how much it will be for a person/persons to memorialize a bench.

A Motion was made by Bon Cantrell and seconded by Janet Wall to table the Memorial Benches topic to the September meeting.

**Vote: 5 – 0; Motion Carried**

### **c. Brunswick County Greenway & Blueway Plan Timeline**

Mary provided the members with a copy of the Brunswick County Greenway & Blueway Plan Timeline and advised that the Board of Commissioners did approve participation in the Greenway & Blueway Plan. Mary thought based on the timeline there should be a good plan in place by this time next year. There will be a physical map to hand out and this project will provide the City with a leg-up when it moves forward with any pedestrian or bicycle pathways, safe routes to school as well as with the DOT not looking at bike paths unless they are in a plan as they will now be. Once a pathway is in the plan, the next time East Boiling Spring Road is paved, there certainly is good potential that a bike path could be added. There will be public meetings around the County in October through January and public input will be needed.

- d. Community Center Playground/Disc Golf Course**
- e. Public Comment for Playground/Disc Golf Course**

Mary is still waiting for the State of North Carolina to pass a budget because without a budget there are no grants. Typically with a grant cycle, the application is due just before Christmas but because of the budget delay, it will not be due until May. Mary's budget expires June 30<sup>th</sup> and she has been contemplating whether to have no playground for the remainder of this year and go back to Board of Commissioners to request that the playground funds be moved to next year's budget and take chance they say yes or no or does she look at what funds she does have in the budget to determine what she can purchase with it. The BOC gave Mary \$38,000 in her budget for the playground and she also has \$6,000 in a savings account. Mary explained there are some playground companies that do offer grants but they are not a 100% match which would not allow other projects. Mary is weighing whether Parks and Recreation can last another year without a playground or some sort of structure at the Community Center with so many kids in the after school program or hold off and take the chance the PARTF grant will be funded by the State.

Janet Wall asked how much it would cost to install a playground, and Mary advised the Muse Park playground and installation was \$27,000 but all of the surfacing and borders were already in place. The Community Center would have to start from scratch. Mary explained the price plus shipping and installation costs along with surfacing products. Mary thinks she could scrape by with an introductory unit but with the PARTF grant, she would be able to get a unit similar in size to the one at Muse Park. With the funding she has now, she could only get a unit about half of the size. The minimum size she would want would accommodate 28 children but should really consider a unit that accommodates 35 – 40 children. The units at Town Creek and Fish Factory Road handle 75 kids but those units were \$125,000 plus 1/3 for installation and borders. It is a very expensive situation.

Paige Garza inquired if the playground could be purchased in segments which Mary replied it could. Paige then suggested preparing the foundations and purchase a segment of the playground and then Mary could keep the bigger plan in perspective and allow for some breathing room. Mary has started researching playground company grants and since it is such a large expenditure, she will get three quotes and keep the Advisory Board informed. Mary felt this installation should be unique and not similar to the Muse Park and Schneider Park installations.

Bon inquired about the Disc Golf Course which Mary advised was completely linked to the PARTF grant and at this point would be dead in the water unless they waited and went with the PARTF grant. Paige asked how much to expand the course and Mary advised approximately \$25,000. Paige suggested the schools do quite a bit of fundraising through tee-times and suggested partnering with booster clubs, the schools and the PTA as a facility for fundraising.

Mary mentioned the idea of relocating the Community Center is fading because no one is talking about it. Bon thought the Land Use plan was going to be able to find another location for the Community Center. Commissioner Putnam reminded the Board that the Community Center has outgrown itself because the demographics have changed since it was built. What was mostly

a senior community then is now a family community and the Community Center when it was built was geared toward seniors but he thinks now they have to do what they can for the children.

Paige Garza inquired what new components would be needed for this new Community Center that the original center does not already have. Mary would like for it to be a recreation center with a gym, individual programming spaces, the ability to separate rooms, developing a space for current needs and look to where the City is going to be in 20 years. The Community Center was a well planned space when it was built, however there was no looking at the future. Mary wished that the board members would continue to discuss this issue and not let it die.

Paige discussed how much property values would increase with the proper recreation center and that there should be a clear and defined plan for a lobbying campaign which needs to be very organized for it to be successful. Mary discussed whether there should be a referendum vote to fix the parks and recreation issues but there is a lot of work that needs to be put in to getting a referendum vote. Mary advised the Community Center sits on a little over 50 acres, but over half of the acreage is 404 wetlands which are very hard to delineate. The Core of Engineers often do not let you do much with them. There are small areas that can be developed but those areas are hamstrung by wetlands and at this point Mary does not want to ask to disturb the wetlands.

## **VI. New Business**

### **a. Parks Inventory**

Mary provided the Advisory Board members with a Park Inventory book which lists all properties and lakes owned by the City of Boiling Spring Lakes. She asked the board members to look through the book because she would like to update it in 2016. The inventory was done back in 2007 so it is time to visit the parks and properties again and Mary suggested doing so in the Spring. Mary will reference this book at every meeting and asked that everyone bring the book to each meeting.

Commissioner Putnam advised the City is looking into acquiring some of the orphan lakes in the City. They will be working on acquiring the lakes that the City owns parcels where there is access to the lakes. Jeff Repp will be getting in touch with Reeves Telecom about acquiring those lakes. Mary inquired about posting signs on the properties owned by the City for personal liability reasons but Commissioner Putnam stated he did not see personal liability on the part of the City but is definitely something that needs to be discussed.

### **b. Property Acquisition**

Mary discussed when a property next to one of the parks becomes available, it should be acquired by the City for future expansion of the park. She provided the members with a real estate listing for the property located next to Alton Lennon Park. Alton Lennon Park is the only access the City has to the big lake; therefore purchasing the land would be the only way the park could be expanded. It is an exceptionally busy lake with multiple user groups in a very small area of less than a quarter of an acre. There is also land available next to Spring Lake Park and

on the left side of Mirror Lake. Mary requested the Advisory Board members input if acquisition of this property should be something to recommend to the Board of Commissioners. Paige felt acquisition of this property is of the essence because that park is the only access to the big lake. Bob Stanley agreed but thought the price needs to be lowered. Carolyn Doshier understands the need to acquire the property but wanted to know what is the priority, a new community center or acquiring land. Mary stated it is her duty to plan not only for today but for 5 years, 10 years or 20 years from now in multiple areas whether it be to build park facilities or land acquisition and she could not place one item over another in importance. Bon suggested selling some of the individual lots the City owns to acquire the Alton Lennon property. Acquiring the land, expanding the park by adding more pavilions which can be rented will bring more money to Parks & Recreation. Commissioner Putnam stated this was a good idea but a plan is needed before the idea is brought to the Board of Commissioners. His personal opinion, not speaking on behalf of the Board, would be to sell off some land and purchase the Alton Lennon property. He feels there is a need to start catering to the children of the City. Mary asked if they should bring a plan for property acquisition or property acquisition and park development. Commissioner Putnam suggested bringing both.

## **VII. Next Meeting Agenda Items**

Memorial Benches  
Alton Lennon Park Expansion  
Cape Fear Council of Governments Land Use Plan

**Discussion:** Bon Cantrell asked if they should add a 5 year plan or something similar to the Agenda and Mary Green stated there is a Parks & Recreation Master plan that expired this year and will need to be updated. She reminded the members that the Cape Fear Council of Governments will be working on the City's land use plan. Commissioner Putnam advised to figure out what is needed and wanted for Parks and Recreation in preparation of the meeting with the Cape Fear Council of Governments.

Mary will send out the proposal that states what the City wants to get out of the land use plan.

## **VIII. Announcements**

Bob Stanley asked Mary when the buses arrive. Mary advised the buses are supposed to be delivered on Friday (August 21) and she must then title and register them on Monday morning because afterschool care starts Monday afternoon. Mary ordered the buses the second Wednesday in March and she is still waiting on them. This delay has caused a lot of headaches and a lot of problems.

Bob Stanley announced The Hired Hands will be at the Friday night concert from 6 PM to 8 PM.

Commissioner Putnam announced that on September 19, from 9 to 1, The Warrior Ride organization and the Boiling Spring Lakes Police and Fire Departments will be sponsoring a

Safety Fun Day Bicycle Clinic for the children of Boiling Spring Lakes. Bicycles will be inspected and fixed if needed and the first 100 children to bring their bicycle for inspection will receive a free helmet. There will be a rodeo course for the children to ride through and there will also be baby car seat inspections. The Police and Fire Departments will be speaking to the children about road safety and the VFW will be providing food. They will also be awarding approximately 12 bicycles sizes 16" to 20".

Bon wanted to acknowledge Anita's departure from Parks and Recreation and extend his best wishes to her as both a board member and a parent. Janet stated Anita was wonderful with her son and will miss her. Mary Green stated Anita had been with Parks and Recreation for 5 ½ years and was so blessed to have her. Unfortunately, working in this field there is a burn-out factor and Mary was proud that Anita was able to admit the position was no longer working for her. It is hard to see her go and Mary hopes she secures the position she has decided on which will be working with special needs children. The Community Center will be closed to the public until Saturday for renovation but to stop by to say goodbye as they will be there on site during the renovation.

#### **IX. Adjourn**

A Motion was made by Bon Cantrell and seconded by Carolyn Doshier to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 PM.

**Vote: 5 – 0; Motion Carried**

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Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Bellina  
Administrative Assistant