



City of Boiling Spring Lakes

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

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes October 19, 2016 6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE: Bob Stanley, Chairman, L. Paige Garza, Co-Chair, Bruce Pennington, Bon Cantrell, Carolyn Doshier, Kay Talbott

Commissioner Liaison: Mary Stilwell (absent)

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

Mary Green added to the agenda: New Business, b. Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Update and then move Dog Park ~ BOC workshop update to c.

A motion was made by Kay Talbott and seconded by Carolyn Doshier to approve the agenda as amended.

Vote: 6 - 0; Motion Carried

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Bon Cantrell and seconded by Paige Garza to approve the September 21, 2016 minutes as written.

Vote: 6-0; Motion Carried

IV. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Communications Subcommittee**
- b. Facilities Subcommittee**
- c. Department Subcommittee**

Paige said she will give her report under Dog Park ~ BOC workshop update. Bob will give a report under North Lake Park ~ Lighting and Hours and Bon said he will give a report under Muse Park.

V. Old Business

- a. Muse Park upgrades ~ final update**

Mary advised the park is open; however, there was a slight hiccup with some vandalism which happened within 24 hours of the new refurbishment but Mary had a temporary fix put on the basketball goal and will have a more permanent fix by welding the goals so they cannot go any lower than 8 feet. Mary advised the improvements to the park have brought more people using it which she thinks makes it a great upgrade. Bon asked about the benches that were in the basketball court which Mary advised they will be replaced outside of the fencing. The tennis court will have a bench inside the fencing. Bon also asked about trimming the pine trees by the courts and Mary said she is working on it and would like to have the tall pine tree removed. Bon thought the refurbishment was money well spent.

- b. Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Update**

Mary provided the board members with a copy of the proposal submitted by Dr. Jim Herstine who is the Program Coordinator and Professor of the Recreation, Sport Leadership and Tourism Department at UNCW. Dr. Herstine wrote the initial Master Plan for the Parks & Recreation Department and has submitted a bid to update the Master Plan. The RFP is open until next Wednesday. The bids will go before the Board of Commissioners for the November meeting for selection. If the Advisory Board would like to have input on the firm to choose, there would not be sufficient time to get any other bids to the Advisory Board unless Mary waits until December to submit them to the BOC. Dr. Herstine responded to all of the RFP questions/requirements for the update and the bid came in just \$75 over what Mary has in her budget for the update. Paige asked if the Advisory Board can help facilitate Dr. Herstine with distribution of the survey which Mary replied she would definitely appreciate their help. Mary advised that the public is the key component to the Master Plan update as it is what the residents of Boiling Spring Lakes wants the Parks & Recreation Department do and to set a plan in action for them to happen. She reminded the members that the Master Plan is a plan, it is not a timeline so it is not to say everything in the plan will happen. If Mary gets more bids, she will bring them to the November meeting for discussion.

c. Dog Park ~ BOC workshop update

Carolyn advised there was a nice turnout at the Workshop and the outcome was that they need to establish a subcommittee. The Board of Commissioners wants to see the public's interest on paper. Carolyn suggested setting up a booth on election day to get a petition going to determine the resident's interest and to garner their support. Carolyn did speak with the Board of Elections who advised they just need to say 50 feet away from the voting area. Mary advised she has each of the questions asked by the Board of Commissioners which she will provide to the members so they can ensure they will have answers. Carolyn advised the residents in attendance at the meeting there was a sign-up sheet if they were interested in serving on the subcommittee. Kay invited them to help on voting day with the petition. Mary asked if the Advisory Board or the Subcommittee will be handling the petition. Carolyn said they will need to form the subcommittee first. Bon thanked Carolyn and Kay for taking the lead at the workshop and commended them on a job well done. Mary also said they did a great job. Kay thought a better effort needs to be made to represent everyone who lives in BSL as this City has a lot of nice facilities but there are some people that do not use any of them who may use a dog park. Mary advised what will keep this moving forward will be tax free dollars to build a special facility.

Before public comment started, Bob thanked the residents for attending the meeting and speaking about the dog park.

VI. Public Comment

John Hohmann, Bridges Road ~ feels that a dog park is a great thing and thinks that it could be modeled after the Salty Paws dog park which he helped build. There are strict rules to be followed at Salty Paws and all dogs have to be up to date on vaccinations. All of the money for fencing and benches were raised. There is a myriad of ways to raise money to keep the dog park going such as advertising by local veterinarians and pet food supply stores; fundraising dinners, raffles. Dog parks are generally policed by the people who use them. Commissioner Putnam was concerned about people and dogs getting rough but Mr. Hohmann felt responsible dog owners will use the park. It would also be a place of social gathering for residents and seniors especially. Dogs that do not get along tend to get evicted by people who use the park. Mr. Hohmann also said with respect to the leash law comment at the workshop, that it would not be a violation because it says dog must be under control at all times and leashed when in areas off the property. There are a lot of people from BSL using Salty Paws and the dogs behave well and the people pick up after their dogs which is one of the rules. He suggested putting a couple of mailboxes at the park and people can bring their extra Food Lion or Walmart bags to the mailboxes for use when picking up after their dog. The people who did the fencing at Salty Paws gave a great price and he would not mind putting some money toward the dog park. There are a number of ways to make it self-sufficient so as to not cost the town much but then again if it costs the town a little bit, people that live here and own dogs pay taxes too.

Jo-Anne Madsen, South Shore Drive ~ agrees with everything John said and she is another person in the community who would like to have a dog park. Jo-Anne feels that we have a great park system and a dog park would enhance it more.

John Thomas, Woodcrest Road ~ with respect to raising money for the dog park, John suggested selling fence posts and putting the person's name on the post. With respect to the basketball court, John suggested putting some fence meshing so as to block the bad language from the older children playing basketball from the younger children on the playground. It should help prevent the language from carrying so easily.

Dallas Baldwin, Crystal Road ~ came tonight to say he will do anything he can to help make the dog park happen. He has a dog and would really like a place to bring her. Mr. Baldwin also commented that the Muse Park upgrades were awesome and that his son has been out there playing at the new basketball court.

Bernadette Balderston, Crystal Road ~ said there was a lot of money put into upgrading Muse Park and although she does not have children, she does have dogs. There are a lot of taxpayers in BSL who do not have kids therefore do not use the parks; but some residents do have dogs and would use a dog park. She is in favor of having a dog park. With respect to the environmental issues brought up at the workshop, there would be no issues as dogs do not defecate in the water like the geese do on Mirror Lake. She placed flyers around town at the local businesses about attending the meeting tonight and suggested in the future for the committee to put notice on Facebook. Mary explained there is a link on the Parks & Recreation webpage to fill out a form to be on the subcommittee. Paige also explained that she did put a notice on Facebook today but in the future she can set up notifications to go out on a scheduled basis. Ms. Balderston thought Mary could have put aside money in the budget for a dog park. Mary advised it takes the public voicing their opinion to the BOC that it is important to have a facility such as a dog park which then makes it easier for her to ask for money in her budget for such a facility. Bon remarked it is important to get the Board of Commissioners on board but they need to hear from the public and the key is getting a subcommittee formed.

Karen Kreitzbender, Robin Road ~ is in favor of a dog park and feels there is a need for one. She dog sits, works with a dog trainer, her son has dogs and she helps Bernadette with her dogs so she is willing to help with the project and be on the subcommittee.

Carolyn said the next step is to have a meeting with the people interested in becoming part of the subcommittee. The Advisory Board members agreed to hold a meeting on October 26 at 6:00 PM at the Community Center to help form the subcommittee and asked the residents at the meeting to please attend. If they cannot attend this meeting, then please attend the next meeting.

The members discussed the city-owned parcels that could be used as a dog park. Mary reminded the members that although North Lake is not ideal at present, it could be in the future if the City can gain three lots on that road. Mary had previously spoken to one owner but they would not consider donating the property to the City. Mary suggested that maybe the pot can be sweetened with a trade offer or maybe a potential purchase. Mary also advised that two of the lots do not perk but one does. Bon suggested getting the information together on three city-owned parcels that could be considered for the dog park for the meeting on October 26.

VII. New Business

a. North Lake Park ~ Lighting and Hours

Bob Stanley had visited North Lake Park several times since the last meeting and noticed some suspicious activity. He feels lighting is necessary at the pier and at the curve in the road. Mary suggested the key is to get the Police Department support and for the Advisory Board to make recommendations as to what they would like to see for the park as to lighting and include extending the park hours. Bon will put together information for the next meeting. Mary suggested he meet with Chief Shirley to see what he thinks. There is no direct way for the police to shine a light into that park and maybe permission from the lot owners to bush hog the property should be considered. The members discussed how many lights would be needed, the placement of the lights, a safety and security aspect for the park as well as what other parks may need lighting. Corporal Thomas suggested lighting the parking lot and the port-a-john area and that extending the hours for the park would be good for the people who want to fish at night as he often has to ask fishermen to leave the parks at night. Bruce Pennington asked if the area at the end of the road could be blocked but Mary said it is a public road and it cannot; however, if the City owned the property at the end of the road, then it could be blocked. Bruce then asked if cameras could be mounted in the park and Corporal Thomas advised they do have field cameras that could be used.

b. Subcommittee Goals

1. Communications Subcommittee

Paige will advertise the proposed Dog Park subcommittee formation meeting every day until October 26th and then continue and expand the modes of communications. She will also get information out about the November 8th petition signing at the Community Center.

2. Facilities Subcommittee

Bon will work on the lighting at North Lake Park and see what other parks may need lighting. Paige asked Bon if he would look at some of the city-owned locations in the book so recommendations could be made to the subcommittee at the meeting on October 26th. Kay offered to look at the properties with Carolyn.

Bon will also look into information for a skate park and present it at the next meeting. Bon suggested the skate park start out as something small and portable, see if there are any grants available and maybe funding from the City with the idea to make it permanent in the future. Mary advised the members that Atlantic Beach opened an awesome facility that has a skate park, mini golf and a splash pad. The skate park has a big concrete bowl with numerous rails and ramps and is big and sprawling. The project cost \$1.35 million of which \$550,000 was the cost of the skate park. She suggested a field trip in the future to see the facility. Paige's concern was that if they do go forward with a skate park, go big, go for the concrete bowl and the portable aspect can then be used at a permanent facility. Corporal John Thomas suggested property on 50 Lakes which floods easily could be made into basketball courts with a Frisbee field and a skate park. Frisbee would attract adults which would help curtail the bad language from the teens plus with its location

on a main road, trouble will not stay in the park. Bon said without the Master Plan, nothing can be done. Mary said the infrastructure is not ideal for the amount of residents that live in the City. She thinks it would not be a bad idea to consider a Parks and Recreation bond referendum. Mary advised the Master Plan will take about a year to complete. Paige said it would be ineffective to go for a bond referendum without a Master Plan. She also thinks a good thing to add to their long term goal would be a 2019 Parks and Recreation bond referendum.

3. Department Subcommittee

Bob will continue monitoring the parks.

VIII. Next Meeting Agenda Items

Subcommittee Reports

Proposed Dog Park

North Lake Park ~ Lighting and Hours

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Update

Skate Park facilities

IX. Announcements

Mary reminded the members to please participate and register their cars for Trunk or Treat and give out candy. Trunk or Treat is Monday, October 31st at Spring Lake Park starting at 5:30 PM.

Bob announced the Hired Hands will be playing at Willoughby's in Leland on October 20th and on Friday, October 21 at the Senior Center in Shallotte.

X. Adjourn

A Motion was made by Paige Garza and seconded by Bruce Pennington to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 PM.

Vote: 6 – 0

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Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Bellina

Administrative Assistant