



City of Boiling Spring Lakes

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

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes August 17, 2016 6:30 P.M.

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

ABSENT: Bruce Pennington (excused)

RESIGNED: Sandra Krasnow

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 6:31 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Bob Stanley requested that Old Business c. Alligator update be moved to a. as Chief Shirley and Office Hutt were in attendance to make a presentation.

A motion was made by Paige Garza and seconded by Carolyn Doshier to approve the change to the agenda

Vote: 5 - 0; Motion Carried

A motion was made by Paige Garza and seconded by Bon Cantrell to approve the agenda with the change noted above.

Vote: 5 – 0; Motion Carried

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Stilwell requested a correction to the minutes as she was not marked as absent.

A motion was made by Carolyn Doshier and seconded by Kay Talbott to approve the July 20, 2016 minutes with the correction noted above.

Vote: 5 - 0; Motion Carried

IV. Subcommittee Reports

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

Paige and Mary Green were not able to meet to discuss what City-owned properties were viable for a dog park; however, Paige looked through her Parks and Recreation book and found two parcels she thought were ideal for the dog park which she will discuss under Old Business.

Carolyn and Kay took a ride around the City to look at some of the parks. Their suggestion is signage on 50 Lakes for the smaller parks such as Seminole and Schneiders to draw people to these two really nice parks. Mary will look into this.

Bon Cantrell got information on pump tracks and bicycle playgrounds which he provided to the members and will discuss under Old Business.

V. Old Business

- a. Alligator update**

Chief Shirley and Officer John Hutt appeared at the meeting to discuss alligators. Officer Hutt advised that Chief Shirley had a presentation last Thursday night with Alligator Alliance whose mission it is to protect the alligators that reside in Brunswick County. They gave an informative presentation with a lot of facts and he thinks they are a good resource to work within our community because they focus on Brunswick County. Alligator Alliance identifies alligators, keeps track of them and wants to see them thrive.

Alligator Alliance had a nice PowerPoint presentation with how alligators behave, how they kill their prey and also some safety tips. Chief Shirley advised that the presentation was a little long but they can tailor it for the future. He answered some questions from the members such as have there been a lot of alligator complaints to which he replied there were a few complaints this year but some of the calls have been because someone hit an alligator crossing the road or a new resident who has moved from an area where there are no alligators that they see one swimming in the lake and want it removed. He has had calls about alligators at Frink Lake, the Big Lake and Lake Keziah. There is a very large alligator in Lake Keziah. He explained how residents

intentionally and unintentionally feed the alligators and the problems this causes. Chief Shirley also explained that alligators are naturally shy and will not approach unless it is used to being fed by humans or is protecting its young. He explained some information he has learned such as if an alligator is sitting with his mouth open, he is regulating his body temperature and if chases you, run straight, not in a zig zag – they do not run very far on land. He was also asked approximately how many alligators reside in the City to which he replied probably about one in each lake. Three years ago NC Wildlife did a spotlight study at night and had counted 2 alligators in the big lake, one by the canal and one by 87. This year the spotlight study showed only one which was by Banana Boat Landing on Rt. 87. Chief Shirley went on to say that it is important to educate the public about alligators and their habits and how to coexist with them. The Chief advised there is an information sheet from NC Wildlife Resource Commission which they bring to each alligator call that has excellent information. Commissioner Stilwell advised that this information sheet is now included in the Welcome Packages given to new residents by the Appearance Commission. Chief Shirley advised that Alligator Alliance was looking at adopting a highway here in Boiling Spring Lakes to bring awareness to their company and that the owner Lisa names each of the alligators they find and track. Chief Shirley said we are not educating our residents that live here now, we are not educating residents just moving here that come from an area that do not have alligators and realtors do not voluntarily share information that alligators live in the area. Mary Green asked Chief Shirley if together they can have a big presentation in the Spring on alligator awareness. Chief Shirley agreed it was a great idea and thought maybe they can get the Wildlife Commission involved as well and Alligator Adventure. Paige thought maybe we could have other animals such as snakes and spiders too.

b. Dog Park

Paige advised there are two properties she thought would be ideal for a dog park which are located on Spring Lake. She has already put together and is ready to get a campaign started to form a subcommittee. Paige also visited local dog parks and noticed that there is a big variation in each but determined the minimum that is needed is fencing and water along with some benches.

Mary Green explained that one of the properties Paige was looking at on Bass Road has wetlands on it so part of the property would not be usable. The property on Perch would be more suitable. Commissioner Stilwell explained to the members what the procedure is to request a public hearing before the Board of Commissioners: Paige will need to have a package put together to present to the BOC by next week for it to be presented at the September meeting. Commissioner Stilwell suggested that at the September 6th BOC meeting Paige appear and request a public hearing for the dog park discussing the package she will put together. The public hearing could take place at the October 4th BOC meeting and at that hearing Paige can make her presentation and request the BOC consider allowing them to have the City-owned parcel on Perch Road for the dog park and advise of the forming of a subcommittee to raise funds and determine amenities. Commissioner Stilwell urged the members to have all of the people who support having a dog park in BSL be at this public hearing to speak their support. Paige asked all Board members to appear and show support for this project on behalf of the Advisory Board at the public hearing. It will be important to have all of the people who want the dog park appear at the public hearing.

c. NC Connect Bond Program

This bond will enable the City to bring one of our parks up to ADA compliance with the goal to make it Universally compliant. Universal design is the highest standard and it accommodates everyone, not just the handicapped, and would allow for things such as wider pathways so someone could walk next to a person in a wheelchair instead of in front or behind. Mary plans to go for a grant of \$250,000 which requires a 20% match. Her goal is to use it at Spring Lake Park as that is the most widely used park. There is no handicap accessibility anywhere in the park which means someone in a wheelchair cannot get from the parking lot, to a picnic table and to the water. A universal design would allow a kayak/canoe launch that will not only be handicap accessible but can be used by non-handicapped people. The hard surface walkways and trails will be in the entire park from the community garden over to and around Spring Lake Park and straight to the water. This enables parents with strollers, seniors with walkers and canes as well as wheelchairs use this walkway. It benefits everyone.

Mary provided to the members by email a video of a conference she attended which was a fantastic lecture on universal design. Unfortunately, the City currently does not have a plan in place to bring the parks to compliance and it is overwhelming as to where to start. It is also very costly. The more this project is discussed with the BOC and the Advisory Board and is reflected in the minutes, the more points will be available for scoring to attain the grant.

Mary's plan is to provide the Advisory Board members with the grant package at the September meeting. She would like to go before the BOC at the October BOC meeting to request permission to write the grant. If permission is given, the grant is due in December so time is of the essence. Mary advised that this is a once in a lifetime opportunity since most grants require a 50% match.

d. Pump Track/Skate Park

Bon provided the members with information and pricing from PBR about pump tracks and from American Ramp Company for bicycle playgrounds. As discussed at last month's meeting, the members felt that this was an expensive project and that kids may get bored with the track after going around it a few times.

Paige suggested that the Advisory Board should concentrate on one project at a time so as to be more effective and get more accomplished. She also discussed setting a timeline for the projects. Mary Green explained that the Master Plan would actually create the timeline once it is updated and that the draft Land Use Plan is currently on the City's website which will in turn help the Master Plan. Kay asked the members to please remember the other side of the lake when considering location of amenities.

e. Muse Park upgrades

Mary Green advised the City Manager has received one quote which is under budget, one contractor declined to quote and the last quote should be received by Friday. She expects that the City Manager will be accepting a bid by the middle of next week.

f. Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Master Plan Update

Mary's goal is to have the RFP completed by Friday and to Jeff for approval. The vendors will have 4 weeks to submit proposals and her goal is to receive them all by October/November. Paige asked how long would it take to complete the Master Plan to which Mary replied three to four months. This would be the Master Plan for 2018 to 2023.

VI. Public Comment ~ none

VII. New Business

a. Ideas for Parks & Recreation Advisory Board's page on City website

Mary Green advised that the City is revamping its website and the new design is very user friendly with an earthy look to it. Mary asked the members what they would like to see on the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board page. The members asked for a group picture of the Board, an area where they can advise residents what projects they are working on. They also feel it would be very important to have a video highlighting all of the parks in the City.

Mary asked Paige if there were any resources at the High School that could produce a video. Paige advised there was not one at the High School but there is a broadcasting program at the alternative school and she knows the teacher and will inquire.

b. P & R Advisory Board Member attendance

Bob discussed with the Board the importance of the members' attendance at meetings, that they are a team and without everyone's attendance, they will not be able to accomplish what they set out to do. He reminded the members that with three consecutive unexcused absences you will be removed from the committee and with four absences in a 12-month period you will also be removed from the committee. Mary Green stated that missing four meetings in a year is unacceptable and that it might not be a good time in a person's life to be on the committee if they have missed that many meetings. Paige offered to send out an encouraging email with stats on who attended after each meeting and thanking the members for attending the meeting. Bob recommends that they hold to the rules of the committee with respect to absences.

VIII. Next Meeting Agenda Items

Dog Park
NC Connect Bond Program
Parks, Recreation, Trails & Open Space Master Plan Update
Muse Park upgrades
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Picture of Advisory Board
Jack Road – City-owned parcel

IX. Announcements

Mary Green announced there will be a free concert on Saturday night, August 20th at 6 PM at Spring Lake Park featuring Soul on the Beach.

X. Adjourn

A motion was made by Kay Talbott and seconded by Paige Garza to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 PM.

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Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Bellina
Administrative Assistant