



## ***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 September 21, 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

**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 6:33 p.m.

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

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

**Vote: 6 - 0; Motion Carried**

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

Bruce Pennington noted a typo on page 4, subheading d. Pump Truck should be Pump Track.

A motion was made by Bon Cantrell and seconded by Carolyn Doshier to approve the August 17, 2016 minutes with the correction noted above.

**Vote: 6 - 0; Motion Carried**

#### **IV. Subcommittee Reports**

##### **a. Communications Subcommittee**

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

Paige advised she was contacted by a reporter from *Star News* requesting information about the dog park. She will speak to the newspaper reporter after the meeting.

Mary Green asked the Communications subcommittee to provide printable results from the dog park survey. Paige advised there could be. She had purchased a trial subscription to a survey provider so she will have to purchase the subscription to gain access to the results again. Paige did share the results with the BOC about how many people were engaged in the survey versus how many people took the survey and what the percentage was in favor. Paige also advised that the email she provided previously had those numbers and she can transfer them onto an excel spreadsheet. An annual subscription could cost approximately \$225 for a minimum 1-year subscription. Mary thought the information was definitely needed for the workshop.

Bon remarked that the Muse Park upgrades were currently taking place. He took pictures and put them on Facebook and the refurbishment looks really nice. Mary stated there was an issue with the fencing corner posts not matching up with the gates but all in all it will look good. The top bars were corroded and replaced. There is a pine tree in a neighbor's yard posing problems but Mary is hopeful they can work with the neighbor to have it removed.

Bob Stanley mentioned he had tried to visit the parks but with all of the rain, there has been some flooding. He will visit them again once all the rain stops.

## **V. Old Business**

### **a. Dog Park ~ BOC Workshop September 29, 2016**

Paige shared with the Board of Commissioners at their September 6<sup>th</sup> meeting the information discussed at the Advisory Board's prior meeting: that the Advisory Board started a discussion about a dog park after they heard community input about wanting a dog park, the committee engaged public opinion and conducted a community survey on Facebook to which 6, 246 people engaged in some way with the survey. 88.4% of the people who took the survey said yes to the dog park and, in an effort to support public interest, the Advisory Board collaborated to determine the best method to move forward would be to start a dog park subcommittee comprised of Advisory Board members and outside community members who would be interested in fundraising and spearheading the movement. Paige explained the members were looking at the designation of a parcel of city-owned land zoned for parks and recreation for the dog park. The Advisory Board's goal, if that subcommittee was successfully created, would help the subcommittee with fundraising specifically for the dog park with community members spearheading this project. Paige went on to report that the BOC decided the best way to move forward would be a workshop with more details. The date September 29<sup>th</sup> was determined at the BOC meeting but Paige is unsure she would be able to attend the workshop and asked for help from the Advisory Board members to help put something together for the workshop.

Commissioner Stilwell reminded the members that a spokesperson will be needed for the workshop and the goal for the evening should be to bring to the BOC the question of what kind of a Motion is wanted for the October meeting, whether it be the piece of property you want, or the subcommittee or both. Paige said what the Advisory Board members were initially asking for was really basic: moving forward with a subcommittee before moving ahead with a Motion. It is not about the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, it is about the community and what they want.

Mary Green suggested the Advisory Board members need to bring to the workshop an idea on who wants the dog park, how many people within the City took the survey and to discount anyone who lives outside the City. The members need an overview of the site, what it could possibly look like, what the liability may be, what maintenance will consist of, and a basic idea of some rules.

Commissioner Stilwell reminded the members that the City Manager said they could form a subcommittee for this project and those people need to be at the workshop. Paige thinks it makes more sense to have more community input. Carolyn thought the subcommittee should have been formed first before the meeting with the BOC. Paige suggested for the workshop they put all facts on the table, ask for time to build up a subcommittee so there will be time to call into action those people who want the dog park and see what those numbers are.

Commissioner Stilwell reminded that Thursday night will determine if the BOC will let you move forward. The Board wants to know how many people want a dog park and is it worthwhile to make it go forward.

**b. NC Connect Bond Program**

Mary has spoken with the Advisory Board over the last few months with regard to the NC Connect Bond Program. In speaking with the City Manager, Recreation Resources, who is our ally in this program, as well as the North Carolina Recreation and Parks Association, Mary came to the realization it was not the correct time to apply for this specific grant because there has not been a lot of public comment. The public comment section of this grant, as well as PARTF grant, counts for about 30% of all the points. In speaking with our consultant, Recreation Resources, who are the people who score the grants, Mary was advised the grantees that scored in the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile and above will go off to PARTF Authority for selection on who will get funded. Our consultant advised we did not have enough public input or preplanning; therefore, we would score very low. The time it takes to put together this type of grant would not be worth it since we would score so low. Mary explained this is a one-time only grant, it was state wide with only \$3,000,000 available and with 100 counties plus all the municipalities within the counties applying for this grant, only the elite programs will get the grant. They are the people that have had handicapped accessibility on their minds and that of the public for many years as opposed to only having handicapped accessibility on our minds for the past five months. Mary chose not to apply for the grant at this time and advised there were ways to go about it with PARTF or trails grants, but the NC Connect Grant was not the correct time for the City.

**c. Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan Update**

Mary advised the plan update is in the works. The City Manager has approved Mary's request for proposals which will go out to consultant agencies over the course of the next week and they will have until the third Friday in October to respond to the RFP. Mary knows of two consultants who are interested in submitting proposals, one of which was the original consultant for the plan. There are also several organizations toward the Greenville area who are possibly interested. The Advisory Board will certainly be included with helping to select the consultant.

**d. Muse Park upgrades**

Mary advised the Muse Park upgrades are in process and should be done by Tuesday of next week.

**VI. Public Comment**

John Thomas, Woodcrest Road ~ wants to get more involved with the City. He sees the community on a day to day basis, some good, some bad. With reference to the dog park issue, the only dog park is North Lake Park where people bring their dogs to swim but unfortunately, they get tangled in the lily pads and the owner has to go in and get them untangled. There is nowhere in the City to throw a Frisbee or a ball for a dog. A dog park could be kept as simple as a field to let dogs run. He would like to see the entire area by North Lake turned into a dog park but understands some of the land is not owned by the City. Commissioner Stilwell asked John Thomas to advise the Board what his occupation is to which he advised he is a Corporal with the Boiling Spring Lakes Police Department and grew up right here in Boiling Spring Lakes. He noted that the parks have not changed much over the years and inquired who maintains the parks. He explained when he first gets on duty, he checks the parks to make sure there is no trash laying around to keep them neat in appearance. Mary explained that the Buildings & Grounds Department may in the future come under the Parks & Recreation Department which would ease the communication between the two departments and the maintenance of the parks. Corporal Thomas then asked if North Lake Park could have street lights. Part of his job is to cruise the parks at night and he advised there is a lot of illegal activity in North Lake Park at night with teenagers and young adults. He also asked if North Lake Park's hour could be extended to allow fishing at night. He advised a lot of residents like to fish a night. Mary explained adding two street lights to North lake Park would be inexpensive as opposed to professional lighting of tennis/basketball courts which would be very expensive. The Advisory Board members agreed to add to their agenda next month: North Lake Park lighting and hours.

Veronica Combopiano, Forest Lane ~ has lived here for over 13 years and her comment was to the dog park. She does not want a dog park but she does not mind if there was one. She did not understand how the Advisory Board got 6200 people to comment about a dog park when there are not 6200 people who live here. Also, she did not feel the Advisory Board had enough time to get enough people in favor of the dog park together for the workshop. Ms. Combopiano plans to go door-to-door with a petition about the UDO because she is not in agreement with it. She has seven people ready to start going door-to-door and asked if the Advisory Board might want to piggyback off of her petition with something for the dog park.

Paige explained they had 6200 people engaged in the Facebook poll which is different than the amount of people who took the survey which she expressed at the BOC meeting. The point of the initial survey was to get more public interest and to see how much interest there was. Mary Green explained that the idea behind the movement was to get more community support which is what this board is trying to do.

Barbara Glidden, North Shore Drive ~ advised in her opinion that the problem may have been because the committee asked for a public hearing. Ms. Glidden did not think the members were ready for a public hearing. She suggested just having a workshop with the board to pinpoint who in the City was interested in having the dog park and that asking for a public hearing was premature. Commissioner Stilwell stated it was her understanding that the committee was ready to go forward and ask for property which is why she suggested they ask for a public hearing. Ms. Glidden's second point was to approach the Board of Commissioners, who are looking out for the interest of citizens, stating the Advisory Board's interest in a particular parcel of property but there were other parcels they would consider.

Kay suggested explaining at the workshop what is involved in a dog park, who would use a dog park, what the rules would be. Mary Green suggested asking for permission to keep going forward, to keep garnering public support with getting a subcommittee together who want to look at the feasibility of putting in a dog park. Can it be done, what are the costs, who will do fundraising, will there be any cost to the City, that the Advisory Board was not in a position to make those decisions that the subcommittee will make the recommendations to the Advisory Board who will make the recommendations to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Stilwell said to ask the BOC what it is they will support. Paige thought when she made her presentation, the goal was to start a subcommittee and outline the goals but she may have given too many details and they were misconstrued.

## **VII. New Business**

### **a. Picture of Advisory Board**

Individual pictures of the committee members will be taken and used on the Advisory Board page of the new City website instead of a group picture. Pictures to be submitted.

### **b. Jack Road ~ City Owned Property**

Kay would like to see a park in the area where she lives just off Fifty Lakes Road. The children play in the street which is very dangerous. There is a parcel of property at the end of Jack Road on Middleton Lake which could easily be a nice little pocket park. Mary said the quadrant Kay lives in is a recreational desert. As Mary moves along with the Master Plan, that quadrant will be identified as lacking in facilities. That property is already owned by the City and there is no liability putting a park bench there but a management plan and a maintenance plan will be needed. Mary will be able to provide more information on this once she knows whether Buildings & Grounds will be merged into Parks & Recreation.

## **VIII. Next Meeting Agenda Items**

### **North Lake Park ~ Lighting and Hours**

Kay asked how much would it cost to clean out the lily pads in North Lake Park. Mary explained the lake has already been treated but, in light of the discussion earlier, feels putting two non-compatible user groups into one small space is not a good idea. Do we want to put dogs in with fisherman? As she moves forward with the master plan and the long term plan, separating the user groups would be the plan.

## **IX. Announcements**

Mary advised the Pancake Breakfast is on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> and she would like to see everyone on the Advisory Board at the breakfast.

## **X. Adjourn**

A Motion was made by Bon Cantrell and seconded by Kay Talbott to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 PM.

**Vote: 6 – 0**

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Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Bellina  
Administrative Assistant