



## ***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  
May 15, 2019  
6:00 P.M.  
City Hall**

**Attendance:** Tom Guzulaitis, Chairman, Bruce Pennington, Philip Casper, Sheryl Johnson

**Absent:** Dory Manz, Jodi Moon (both excused)

**Commissioner Liaison:** Dana Witt (excused)

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

**Also in Attendance:** Greg Jordan - Chief of Police

### **I. Call to Order**

Chairman Tom Guzulaitis called the monthly meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to order at 5:58 PM.

### **II. Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made by Sheryl Johnson with a second by Phil Casper to approve the agenda as written.

**Vote: 4 - 0**

### **III. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Sheryl Johnson with a second by Phil Caper to approve the April 17, 2019 minutes as written.

**Vote: 4 - 0**

#### **IV. Old Business**

##### **a. Seminole Lake**

Tom introduced Police Chief Greg Jordan and asked if he would give an overview as to protocol for Seminole Lake as well as all the other lakes along with a sense of what you do, how you do it and when you do it and what the challenges are that you face that we may not be aware of. Chief Jordan advised he spoke with Mary Green about the complaints heard at the last meeting with respect to Seminole Lake. Chief Jordan looked back at all the reports from January 2018 until May 5 of this year. There were 34 calls about the various parks, Seminole Lake had about 47% of the calls which equals 16 calls. That does not say there is not more activity going on out there but that is how many times we have been called there. Not quite as bad as it sounds. There was basically the same amount of calls from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM as there were for 6:00 PM to 6:00 AM. As far as events, 60% have to do with suspicious vehicles and suspicious people. In speaking with his sergeants, most of the suspicious vehicles were people who do not understand that the parks are closed after dark. Of note, out of the 34 calls, there was only one drug call which is pretty good.

Chief Jordan further noted that he, Mary and Hugo Bryant (Senior Maintenance Technician for Buildings & Grounds) visited Seminole Park to look it over and discuss what is to be done. Chief Jordan has asked his officers during their shift to visit each park at least twice. Seminole Park is not a big issue because they can see it clearly from the street. They found a lot more activity at Mirror Lake (Schneider) Park because the officers make a point to go by there more often because the park is offset. Alton Lennon Park does not have a lot of activity because the water is gone, but they do see people walking out on the lake bed. North Lake you cannot get into. Spring Lake they do not have many issues.

Chief Jordan explained that he has purchased signs for the parks that state This Property is Protected by Hidden Electronic Surveillance and the other sign says Property Under Surveillance.

Tom inquired if the playgrounds are also checked in addition to the lakes. Chief Jordan has not addressed the playground parks with the officers other than Schneider Park because that park is offset. He feels sure they are being checked. Muse Park is close to the Police Department and is visible from there. Bruce asked if Sunny Point could put up a gate at the end of Seminole Road. Chief Jordan said it would have to go through the Army and he is not sure if they would or not. The Police Department has to notify Sunny Point when there are trespassers and it would be great if they could convince them to put up a gate.

John Muldowney, Seminole Lane, asked Chief Jordan how many officers he currently had. Chief Jordan noted when fully staffed, he would have 13 officers however they are currently short staffed. He further noted that when he is fully staffed, there would be five officers per shift checking the parks at least twice per shift. Mr. Muldowney inquired which land is owned by the

Army and which is owned by the City. Chief Jordan noted that where visitors are parking at the lake is City owned but the road getting to the park and everything to the right (railroad tracks) is Army. Laura Muldowney inquired who owns the area just past the lake. Mary was not sure and Chief Jordan believed it was federal.

Jim Roberts, Eden Road, was under the impression the City owned from the cable to the lake and does not own the parking area. Mary explained the City has a right-of-way there and there is a utility right of way but she was unsure how many feet the right of way is and will research it. Jim Roberts suggested finding out who does own it and see if the City can get it so it can be maintained. Laura Muldowney suggested it be paved.

Jim Roberts advised the Chief of a call on Friday, May 10 reporting an incident with aggressive dogs in Seminole Park that were off leash, running around in the water. When the officers arrived, the dogs lunged at the officers and the owner could barely control the dogs. Jim Roberts also noted that dogs should not be allowed to swim in Seminole Lake. Laura Muldowney suggested fining people who bring dogs into the park since it is clearly marked no pets allowed.

Tom noted he has been visiting the parks more often and Sheryl noted she has been also. Mary reiterated that she met with Chief Jordan and Hugo Bryant and discussed a plan of action moving forward with the parks. She believes the nicer they make the parks/lakes look, it will attract better visitors. Hugo is very proactive in cleaning up the parks and making them look better.

Tom noted the parking area is rough and asked Mary if it can be determined whose responsibility it is to maintain the road/parking area. Tom thanked Chief Jordan for participating in their meeting.

#### **b. North Lake Property Acquisition**

At the May BOC meeting, Tom reminded the BOC of the importance of acquiring the property at North Lake Park. Phil advised that a letter was sent to Commissioner Witt recommending the BOC support the acquisition of the property in Mary's budget. Mary explained there is a budget hearing in June and she has not heard anything more.

#### **c. Pets in the Parks**

Phil noted that surrounding towns did not have ordinances that barred pets from the parks. Bruce advised the reason pets have been barred from the parks was because no one wants kids in the water with dogs. North Lake was designated as the dog park. Tom inquired if an alternate park can be designated as a dog park since North Lake is currently closed with no access to the park. Sheryl feels there are too many irresponsible dog owners to allow pets in the parks. Laura Muldowney noted that people bring their dogs to Seminole Lake and then tie them to the tree and leave them there.

The Parks & Recreation Director suggested Phil look into the ordinances of similar areas such as White Lake, Lake Waccamaw and Rocky Mount and their ordinances as they pertain to pets in the parks such as hours allowed, etc. Mary noted that although these areas are larger than Boiling Spring Lakes, they do have county parks with lakes which would be similar. This matter has been tabled to June pending further research by Phil.

**d. Crystal Lake Treatment for Vegetation**

Tom corresponded with City Manager Jeff Repp who advised Crystal Lake is the only lake on his agenda for treatment. Tom will speak with him further about other lakes choked with vegetation. This matter will be continued to the June meeting.

**e. Kiwanis / Landscape Structures LLC Playground Grant**

The Parks & Recreation Director noted that timing was not right for this grant. Between her schedule, Michael Kirchner's schedule, when the Kiwanis, the BOC and the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board would meet next, it just did not work out. The Parks & Recreation Director hopes to be considered for application again should it be available next year.

**f. 2019/2020 Budget**

The Parks & Recreation Director advised she did not have an update. Draft two went to the BOC at their May meeting. There is not another workshop scheduled. There should be more discussion at the June meeting and then there will be a vote on the budget. Mary noted she was able to get an increase in salary for the summer camp counselors but it came at a cost of having to use funds from her programming budget so she will have to scale back a program or two.

**g. Report at BOC Meeting (review and remind)**

Phil will cover the June BOC meeting and tentatively for July. Bruce will cover August.

**VI. Public Comment**

Jim Robert, Eden Road, requested the Police Department share with Mary and the Advisory Board the police reports pertaining to the playgrounds and lakes so you will know what is going on in the parks. After the incident last week, he will be monitoring the park closer for dog activity and will be calling the Police Department more often when he sees that type of activity with aggressive dogs.

John Muldowney, Seminole Road, suggested considering allowing pets in the parks on a seasonal basis. He also noted there was information on the internet which was recommendations MOTSU should make with respect to the railroad corridor. The

recommendation basically states MOTSU should enhance the public notice/no trespassing signage along the railroad corridor. Tom believed he may have contact information for MOTSU's liaison to make an inquiry. John Muldowney spoke with the Police Chief who handles the property acquisition and management for the government and he gave a vague answer as to who owns that property.

## **VII. New Business**

### **a. Boat Launch Regulations**

The Parks and Recreation Director to go over the park ordinances with the Advisory Board as the parks start to become busier. The lake regulations regarding the launching of watercraft, Section 10—82 under boating and waterskiing number four. With the reduction of Alton Lennon and North Lake parks, the Parks & Recreation Department is preparing for a busier season at the remaining lakes. Mary asked the members to first familiarize themselves with the ordinances and secondly to potentially do some interpretation and make a recommendation to BOC with any changes. Currently, the only parks that have designated launch areas are Spring Lake, the Big Lake and North Lake. Mary queried what constitutes a launch facility? Can it just be a sandy area? Tom suggested launch areas will keep the shoreline from eroding but are kayaks allowed in all lakes. Tom asked what constitutes watercraft? Jim Roberts noted there is no designated area to launch boats at Seminole Lake but it does not stop people from launching boats and he does not feel they should be allowed to launch unless there is a designated area. Bruce asked if there was signage at Seminole not to launch watercraft. Mary said there was no signage and asked if the Advisory Board wanted to make a recommendation that there should be signage that watercraft are not allowed or signage of where watercraft can be launched.

With respect to swimming areas: swimming areas open to public are restricted to the designated areas of Boiling Spring Lakes, Seminole Lake, Spring Lake, Tate Lake and Mirror Lake. The City-owned shoreline of the noted lakes are designated swimming areas. Tom and Bruce did not feel they should ban boats as it would lessen the quality of life for our residents. Bruce inquired about signage to designate areas to allow the launch of watercraft. Mary asked if there was a recommendation to put in a designated canoe/kayak launch area at all of our lake facilities. Her suggestion is if you do it at one, you need to do it at all. If you are going to say that kayaks/canoes can be launched in a designated area and you want to say all of our lakes should be designated for kayak/canoes, then you should have a designated area for kayaks/canoes. Tom feels the trick is in the correct verbiage. Bruce thought it is unnecessary to designate launch areas. Mary will get prices for signage, gravel and wood to designate the area and will discuss it with the Advisory Board at the next meeting.

### **b. Subcommittee Reports and Goals**

- Facilities; Communications; and Department Subcommittees

Facilities – Bruce and Tom will start visiting each park together to make suggestions and notations on maintenance.

Communications – Phil will look at the ordinances of similar areas that have lakes/parks.

Department - Dory was not present to give her report.

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

2019/2020 Budget  
North Lake Property Acquisition  
Boat Launch Regulations  
Pets in the Parks  
Crystal Lake Vegetation Treatment

#### **IX. Announcements**

The Parks & Recreation Director noted that the summer concert series has started for May and will start up again in September. Each Sunday in May and September there will be a free concert at Spring Lake Park from 4 to 6 PM.

Mary also noted there was a grant opportunity in cooperation with the Brunswick Wellness Coalition call the Yes Initiative. Specifically, the grant is for after school and summer activities for middle school children. The Parks & Recreation Director is looking to form a Lacrosse feeder program and hopes to use the grant funds for that. The grant ceiling is \$400,000 and the grant floor is \$325,000 which is a significant amount of money that the Wellness Coalition will help us get and incorporate other municipalities within the South Brunswick Middle School District and work together for programs and wellness initiatives for middle school youths. It closes May 30 and the grant writers with the Wellness Coalition are leading the charge on this grant.

NCDOT Bike/Pedestrian Planning Grant – NCDOT has changed how they are doing things this year. We were awarded the pedestrian planning grant and this year the DOT will select the firm that prepares our plan. We should know who that firm is by mid-June and Mary hopes by August will be on our way with the 12 to 16-month process of pedestrian planning for BSL. That was a \$50,000 grant.

Teagan Hall left the employ of the City of Boiling Spring Lakes to pursue an opportunity in Bald Head. The Parks & Recreation Director opened the application process about two weeks ago and had well over 80 applicants for the position. Mary is interviewing 6 candidates next week and hopes to have our new Recreation Program Supervisor by June.

**X. Adjourn**

A Motion was made by Phil Casper with a second by Sheryl Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 PM.

**Vote: 4 - 0**

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Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Bellina  
Administrative Assistant