

2008.12.04 Park and Rec Minutes, approved 02.23.09

VILLAGE OF WESLEY CHAPEL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
December 4, 2008

The Parks and Recreation Committee of the Village of Wesley Chapel, North Carolina, met at the Village Office at 4107 New Town Road, Waxhaw, North Carolina.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Council Member Sondra Bradford, Julie Brown, Mike Giaimo, Marnie Holland and Melissa Mauro

MEMBERS ABSENT: Scott Ives, John Lepke, Tim Spilde

OTHERS PRESENT: Joshua Langen, Village Planning and Zoning Administrator

TIME CONVENED: Bradford called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. A quorum was present.

1. Additions, Deletions and/or Adoption of Agenda

Giaimo made a motion to approve the Agenda, Mauro seconded the motion, and a vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Approve Minutes from November 17, 2008

Bradford requested that a correction be made to Section VI (Potential Partners) of the Minutes of the Committee's meeting held on November 17, 2008 to reflect that a park is planned in the northeast corner of Union County, not the northwest corner as stated in the first sentence of Section VI of said Minutes. It was also discussed that a one-week timeframe for preparation of Minutes for future meetings might not allow enough time for some Committee members to process the draft paperwork due to their other commitments, and it was agreed that a longer period of time might be more reasonable under certain circumstances. Giaimo then made a motion to approve the Minutes of the November 17, 2008 meeting with the changes as noted. The motion was seconded by Mauro, voted upon and unanimously approved.

3. Results of Discussions with Homeowners Associations

Several members of the Committee reported on information they had gathered from conversations with various homeowners association representatives. Specifically, it was stated that the Hunters Pointe and Meadowmere neighborhoods had upcoming HOA meetings and/or elections and may be able to provide more feedback to the Committee at a later date. The Champion Forest neighborhood currently has no specific plans for its open space but could utilize its website to distribute information and receive comments from residents regarding parks and recreation issues; however, it is likely that residents will be hesitant about having trails within their community. Based on comments contained in an email report from Lepke, it was noted that the Silver Creek neighborhood has quite a bit of acreage and is actively engaged in developing some open space/amenities for residents' use. The Wesley Springs neighborhood has 23 acres of open space that includes a pond. It was noted that there are quite a few neighborhoods/representatives on the list compiled by Bradford that have yet to be formally contacted by Committee members. However, Langen suggested that the "approach" to doing so should include

language such that the HOA representatives and neighborhood residents feel confident that the Parks and Recreation Committee is trying to develop “partnerships” amongst neighboring property owners and is seeking to provide “connections” from open spaces to various destinations within the Village. Also, it was agreed that the Committee needs to begin compiling a list of amenities that already exist and those that are in the works in all areas of the Village.

4. Overview of Planning Process with Joshua Langen

Langen distributed to each Committee member a “Parks and Recreation Plan Outline,” as well as maps entitled “Community Recreation & Open Space Plan – Greenway & Open Spaces” and “Community Recreation & Open Space Plan – Greenway & Connecting Rd. Segments,” copies of which shall be filed with these Minutes for reference purposes. Considerable time was spent by the Committee members in dissecting and discussing various elements of the Outline/Maps and Langen’s recommendations therefor, including the methodology used to: (1) inventory and analyze open space (undeveloped parcels, developed parcels and public facilities); (2) assess recreation needs/potential and review recreation facility types; and (3) assess recreation resources and sources of funding. After almost an hour was spent working on this agenda item, the Committee determined that it would be best to defer its attention to Section IV.B. through Section V.F. until a future meeting so as not to be overwhelmed by information surrounding numerous tasks that must be completed in accordance with the Outline.

5. Update on Population Data Set

This agenda item was deferred to the next Committee meeting.

6. Two Potential Grant Opportunities – Safe Routes to School and NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund

Bradford gave a brief overview of the parameters of a potential Safe Routes to School grant, including the need to focus on how to identify geographic and cost factors along with Department of Transportation (DOT) issues. It was agreed that Langen would talk to a DOT representative to determine if the area around Wesley Chapel Elementary School may qualify for a sidewalk plan and that Holland would visit the school to perform a visual assessment of the area being discussed. The deadline for the Safe Routes to School grant is at the end of January 2009, which means that considerable paperwork would need to be processed and approved by the Village Council in a very short period of time. It was suggested that, in the meantime, Committee members should continue to research other potential grant opportunities that might be available for parks and recreation purposes in the future.

7. Data Collection Options to Consider

Bradford distributed copies of a packet that included various Parks and Recreation Trust Fund sample survey questions and definitions. She suggested that Committee members should begin to determine what they believe could be included in a survey of residents regarding long-term plans for the Village’s parks and recreation network. A discussion ensued about other options for soliciting residents’ feedback, including the use of telephone/automated systems (approximately \$400 for 3,000 houses) as well as setting up informational booths at local businesses.

8. Existing Area Amenities

Langen advised the Committee that before proceeding with a full-scale inventory and analysis of existing amenities within the Village, specific policies should be established regarding the identity of parcels and the status of appraisals associated therewith, as well as confidentiality, closed session and legal issues. It was agreed that Langen, Bradford and/or the Village Clerk would address these matters with the appropriate persons on behalf of the Committee so a determination can be made as to what legal effects they might have on the Committee's planning and decision-making processes.

9. Next Steps

The Committee members discussed the upcoming meeting schedules for all aspects of the Village government and agreed that, although a considerable amount of time would pass, the first available time that the Parks and Recreation Committee could meet again is on Monday, January 26, 2009.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie D. Brown
Acting Secretary for the Committee

Sondra Bradford
Village Council Member