

VILLAGE OF WESLEY CHAPEL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
June 15, 2009

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

PRESENT: Sondra Bradford, Julie Brown, Marnie Holland, John Lepke, Greg Miller, Pat Utley

TIME CONVENED: Sondra Bradford called the meeting to order at 7:53 p.m. A quorum was present.

- **Additions, Deletions and/or Adoption of Agenda.** Two items were added to the agenda. Added Item 6a-Financial Model for Dogwood Park. Added Item 6b-The Parks and Recreation Budget. A motion to approve the Agenda as amended was adopted unanimously.
- **Approve Minutes from April 20, 2009 and May 18, 2009.** Modified the April 20, 2009 minutes. Changed the list price of Dogwood Acres to 1.8 million. A motion to approve the amended April 20 minutes and the May 18 minutes was adopted unanimously.
- **Discuss Splitting Village Into Different Park Zones.** Sondra Bradford created a map of Wesley Chapel showing the location of each subdivision and listing the number of parcels located in each subdivision. This document will be used to determine which areas(zones) to place parks in Wesley Chapel. The committee felt it would be beneficial for the map to also show land for sale, sewer easements and flood plains.
- **Survey Update.** John Lepke reported that his computer crashed. He had to get a new hard drive. As a result, all the data for 100 surveys was lost. Before the survey data is entered John must rebuild the survey in the software. Approximately 650 surveys were returned including the 150 Youth Surveys completed by Weddington High School students. John stated that it takes 8 minutes to enter the data for one survey so it will take 87 hours to enter all the survey data. The tentative completion date to enter, analyze and report the data is 2 months. John has an external drive that will allow other committee members to key the data.
- **Possible Joint Meeting With Downtown Committee, June 29.** Sondra feels it would be beneficial for the Parks and Recreation Committee and the Downtown Committee to meet so we can each share some of our ideas regarding the downtown vision. This meeting would be at Dogwood Acres so both committees can see the property. The owner Sharon Johnson would give a tour of the entire property. Both committees may need to first meet at the Wesley Chapel Town Hall before proceeding to Dogwood Acres. Sondra will send an e-mail regarding the meeting place.
- **Public Information Session Planning.** Sondra Bradford would like to present the results from our Survey in September 2009. The committee felt that this was feasible.

- Presentation by Claire Lyerly/Julie Brown on Youth “Green Box” Community Activity Projects.** Claire Lyerly is the Weddington High School Softball Coach. She helped Mr. Breedlove, the Principal of Weddington High School, distribute the Youth Surveys. After reading the survey, Claire felt a Youth Activity called the “Red Box” that she participated in as a youth through the Amherst Parks and Recreation Department in Buffalo, NY would be a great program for Wesley Chapel Parks and Recreation to implement. She explained this program in the meeting. The “Red Box” program is like a day camp for kids. Red Wooden Boxes containing sporting equipment and craft projects are located in various parks within the community. This program is free to residents. Parents drop their kids off at the red box and the kids are able to play games and do crafts from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. Each box has a supervisor and 2 high school/college leaders that oversee the activities with the children. There are also unpaid volunteers that assist with the activities. These volunteers are given a priority when hiring for positions for the “Red Box” program. The staff is paid minimum wage and the equipment for all the red boxes cost approximately \$5,000 a year. The staff at each red box is able to come up with activities and craft projects for the kids. Here is some additional information pertaining to the program:

 - Some of the sporting events include kickball, basketball, spray pool and tether ball. Some of the art projects include building bird houses, making pot holders, and story time.
 - The red boxes did not operate on rainy days.
 - Kids were divided by ages.
 - There was also a van that contained bigger crafts and activities that traveled to the different parks.
 - The program was free to residents.
 - The staff had a background check and was certified in life saving techniques.

The committee felt this would be an excellent program to implement in the community. Some of the concerns regarding the program were liability, background checks, and the cost of the program. The committee felt that it should first be introduced on a smaller scale. One idea was to introduce this concept to the community when the committee presented the Parks and Recreation Survey data. This could be part of a festival which introduced the Parks and Recreation vision of Wesley Chapel to the community. A possible location for the festival would be at the Keels property located at Price Mill. Also, the color of the box could be tied to the Wesley Chapel colors and logo which are still being developed. Julie Brown and Pat Utley will work on this initiative.

- Financial Model of Dogwood Park.** John Lepke prepared a financial model showing the long term costs of Dogwood Park to Wesley Chapel. Using the house as city hall was one of the assumptions for this model. Currently, there is money set aside for future projects for Wesley Chapel. This model built a compelling case for the acquisition of the property versus letting the money stay in the general fund. John made certain assumptions when building this model. He would like to refine these assumptions and do the following:

 - 1) Create another financial model for acquiring Dogwood Park with the refined assumptions.
 - 2) Create a financial model for letting the funds for future projects continue to sit in the general fund.
 - 3) Create a financial model for building city hall on the Target property.

These models could be used by the village to determine which option to choose. The owner of Dogwood acres would like to sell this property soon.

The committee is concerned that the grant process may hinder the process of acquiring the property in a timely fashion. The village cannot apply for grants after the property is acquired. However, the village could get a waiver stating the village had to buy the property because the owner was going to sell it. If the village acquired this waiver then the village could apply for grants. There may be other options available that would enable the village to acquire the property and apply for grants after the acquisition.

- **The money Allocated to Parks and Recreation in the Village of Wesley Chapel Budget for 2009/2010.** The budget includes \$86,000 for Parks and Recreation. This money will be used for Wesley Chapel Park and Recreation initiatives approved by city council.
- **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 p.m. by Sondra Bradford. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, June 29, 2009 at the Wesley Chapel Village Office on New Town Road.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Marnie F. S. Holland, Acting Secretary for the Committee

Approved by: _____

Sondra Bradford, Village Council Member