

VILLAGE OF WESLEY CHAPEL PARKS & REC COMMITTEE MINUTES
April 21, 2014-7:00 PM
6490 Weddington Road, Wesley Chapel, NC 28104

Committee Members Present: Chair John Lepke, Julie Brown, Marnie Holland,
Alternate Gayla Adams

Committee Members Absent: Pat Utley, Jerry Davis

Others present: Council Liaisons Mike Como and Elaine Rosoff, Clerk Cheryl Bennett,
Safety Committee Chair Tessie Morris, Sondra Bradford

CALL TO ORDER / DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was present.

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, AND / OR ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A budget amendment and review of safety was added to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sondra Bradford from Friends of Parks presented two large hoses and a Pacific hydrostar clear water pump (\$322 value). Also there was a \$500 donation for a 2013 Jon boat which is at Concord Mills. Council Liaison Mike Como will propose adding two life vests and a paddle to the boat.

APPROVE MINUTES FROM MARCH 17, 2014 REGULAR MEETING

Marnie Holland motioned to approve the minutes; Gayla Adams seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Review construction progress
- b. Update on Park grand opening event
- c. Parks and Rec budget requests for 2014-15

Construction meetings are being held every week now. Grading is done. You can no longer pull in the driveway; asphalt will be laid next. Duke Energy is replacing wire along Highway 84 and clearing the fifteen foot easement. Estimated completion date is May 1.

Review of Safety – John Lepke noted safety has been in mind during the park planning process. A deputy came to two meetings, one raised lighting concerns and suggested amenities not be far from lighting. Another discussed rules for a dog park. Julie Brown came up with rules for the dog park, similar to the ones from the insurance. They looked at the road line of sight, and 25 feet is required, but we are going further. Outside groups were contacted for the best trail surfaces, and pit gravel, considered the safest, was used. We had a fire from a branch falling on an electric line, and now have a pump to extinguish a fire; also we requested Duke Energy remove trees by the lines. We had a problem with beavers leaving pointed stumps which we cut off, and addressed concerns regarding bites. Dead trees were removed. Where trails for bikes and pedestrians meet, we widened the trail. A trail was cut to the corner at Highway 84 so people don't have to walk down Lester Davis Road. Recently Mike Como and Elaine Rosoff met with the pastor at Southbrook to agree on using their parking. We budgeted deputies to cross people. Routes were designed with federal and state rules; we added curbs and handrails, and a gate to prevent ATV's from coming in.

Tessie Morris said she was aware of all of this; two council members had concerns. John Lepke suggested to Tessie that a screening procedure be looked at for Redbox volunteers. Tessie also said Cheryl Bennett responded with someone who can do that. John Lepke suggested all volunteers could be provided CPR training. A defibrillator in the park was discussed; it would require a location and training in its use. Tessie Morris noted the fire vehicles also have them. (Julie Brown arrived at this point.) The dog park was discussed; it would have a rules sign and peer enforcement. Julie will find money to post signs at the dog park. John Lepke noted we don't have a dog ordinance in Wesley Chapel; Tessie said the Safety Committee preferred an ordinance due to stray dog problems. Lighting in the park was approved through the CUP process; perimeter lighting is not planned, it is extremely expensive. Call boxes are not in the plan; there is nowhere to put a phone line. We planned Wi fi to the house, but since the house is gone, we would need a building for it. Access is controlled by a gate, and the park open dawn to dusk. The village passed an ordinance prohibiting sex offenders from the park. John Lepke met with our previous deputy, and he said he would put the park on regular patrol. Lepke contacted a design engineer regarding automatic gates, but the price was estimated at \$20,000, so we decided to have a one hour per day person to open and close. Mike Como suggested posting a sign like at Cane Creek Park, that there is a \$40 fee for opening the gate after closing. Tessie reported on the gate at Wesley Oaks, which she said Aston maintains and repairs.

John Lepke said there was a list of park rules in the park specs at Section 11500 along with the design of the sign. When the budget was amended, we talked to WC Friends of Parks about sign funding. For a temporary basis we can have poster type signs. Fishing rules were reviewed by Frank Jennings and reviewed by NC Wildlife. ADA signs are in our contract. Cheryl Bennett will check with the attorney to see if we need an ordinance to put teeth in the rules.

The fire marshal was involved also; if we have a new building we need a fire hydrant and the closest one is ten yards from the gate. The park design is suitable for turning around fire trucks. There are two areas with non-flammables for fire pits / barbecues. Jeannine Kenary asked for a walk through regarding erosion control; we have preliminary and final erosion control plans, also they met with Fish and Wildlife, who designed the pier. John Lepke said a poster on nasty critters and plants will be posted. Tessie suggested there may be NC posters also. Julie Brown asked if Safety Committee would do fundraisers. Tessie said their only budget is NNO which they get donations for.

John Lepke said there are two potential issues – first a lack of potable water on site (can't rinse scrapes or use for food preparation). There is a meter at the gate, and possibly we could do a pipe and standpipe; cost is unknown. Gayla Adams commented that with a passive park you bring water in with you.

The second issue is a deer or kid running out of the park into the street and causing an accident. To extend the split rail fence to Lester Davis would cost \$14,000, and to fence the rest of the park is \$40,000 or more. Marnie asked about pedestrian safety in general in the town. Tessie said widening roads and sidewalks has been brought up multiple times; the challenge is NC DOT.

The grand opening planning can't move forward until we get a date. Mike Como suggested a soft opening, and a later grand opening; Gayla Adams concurred. John Lepke's understanding was that we just have to complete the park, not have a grand opening for the grant.

The budget amendment was discussed next; it moves unspent funds to areas they do need such as moving mulch, screening around the portajon and trashcans, redbox materials, a sign, and installing shrubs behind the wall that doesn't require a handrail.

Marnie Holland motioned to recommend approving the budget amendment to Council; Julie Brown seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mike Como will take it to Council tomorrow.

John Lepke said we would like to get some tools before the volunteer day; both Mike and John have been using their personal tools. We have one weed wacker, and need a power head with attachments, hedge trimmer and pole saw, posthole digger, wheelbarrows, and six forks to move mulch; a drill and circular saw.

The 2014-15 budget request was discussed. Operations request was \$34,000; porta john lease was increased from \$9600 to \$12000, and event supplies changed from \$1600 to \$1200. Maintenance expenses were \$87,300. Capital items were \$39,380; before increasing the lawn tractor amount from \$7500 to \$12,000 , the tiller at \$1500 was removed, garbage cans at \$4500 were added, as were concrete pads for ADA tables at \$7,00 0 and pet waste stations (3 at \$500). Capital items were prioritized; wants separated from needs. Cheryl Bennett will get a list of waste companies to John Lepke for quotes on trash service; she also noted we need to budget for detention pond inspection and maintenance.

NEW BUSINESS

April 26, 2014 volunteer day planning

Julie and John will be present; the first volunteer will be set at the driveway and / or caution tape put across it. On May 5, 2014 Julie's sons and friends will move the fence posts.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS - NONE

ADJOURNMENT

Marnie Holland motioned to adjourn; Julie Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Bennett, Clerk

John Lepke, Chairman