

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

**Committee Members Present:** Vice Chair Marnie Holland, Pat Utley, Jerry Davis, Julie Brown (arrived late), Alternate Gayla Adams (arrived late)  
**Committee Members Absent:** Chair John Lepke,  
**Others present:** Council Liaisons Mike Como and Elaine Rosoff, Clerk Cheryl Bennett, Chuck Adams, Mayor Brad Horvath for public comments

CALL TO ORDER / DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was present.

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, AND / OR ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Items for geo caching and approval of minutes were added to the agenda. Marnie Holland motioned to approve the agenda, Pat Utley seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Horvath thanked the Committee for their diligence, adding the turnout and comments at the park grand opening were fantastic.

APPROVE MINUTES FROM APRIL 21, 2014 AND MAY 19, 2014 MEETINGS

Marnie Holland motioned to approve the April 21, 2014 minutes; Pat Utley seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Jerry Davis motioned to approve the May 19, 2014 minutes; Julie Brown seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of lessons learned from first park event.

Marnie noted the park is being used well; she picked up the trash at the church parking lot after the event, and Council Member Rosoff sent the church a thank you note. There was a lot of momentum on the Facebook pages for volunteers, and feedback on what people want at the park. Mayor Pro Tem Como noted the deputies should have also been asked to direct vehicle traffic (besides crossing pedestrians), there was a traffic jam. We had two walkie talkies from the town and two of his own personal ones; we need at least that many next time. Marnie asked if we can use cell phones. We need to specify what volunteers should be where; he could have used help with the grill and food. A person is needed to run errands.

The parking lot at the Church was full, we may need more parking; perhaps churches with shuttle buses? Marnie Holland asked if we would want vendors to provide drinks and food in the future. Julie Brown suggested concessions with a percentage coming back to the town. Cheryl Bennett can check with the health department and on the finance perspective.

Discussion of improvement to process for capturing volunteer effort and contact information.

Marnie Holland noted in the past we had a sign in form and also a waiver; we had only waivers at the event. We need to start a log again, she keeps an excel spreadsheet which helps to log volunteer hours for potential grants.

Discussion of additional signage required for park operation.

Mayor Pro Tem Como said we need to put up a map of the park with mileage. Other groups are putting up flyers on the sign. We need to put up hours of the park (which may change seasonally) in a couple of places. The gate has a sensor that allows people to exit after hours. We can add a park closing sign to the gate, signs to mark the trails as walking or biking, what the fishing rules are (see if NC Wildlife has any signs). Pat Utley felt we need to focus on the health of the pond; perhaps a schedule of maintenance should be created. Julie Brown said McAlpine Park had signs about their community fishing program; she said CMC and FOPR are meeting regarding a “healthy living” initiative which could lead to fitness stations.

Discussion of process for opening and closing park prior to automatic gate being functional.

Mayor Pro Tem Como reported he expects Council to review the electrical bids; meanwhile he, Marnie and John have been going over to open and close. Pat Utley will open the next couple of mornings, and Jerry Davis will close the park tomorrow evening.

Discussion of priority of park projects requiring completion.

Mayor Pro Tem Como reported one ADA picnic table pad is not finished (have materials, need labor). Morlando will install the two creek crossing bridges if we purchase the materials. A drainpipe will be put in to eliminate the dip so you can drive in the sewer entrance to do utility work. The silt fencing is scheduled for take-down. Gravel needs to be added to make a ramp so there will be access for NC Wildlife to put fish in the lake. There is a Boy Scout proposal for a firepit where the house was, it is not yet approved. Julie Brown asked if we can charge to rent the firepit. We need at least one pet waste station.

Marnie Holland noted we need to mulch under the pier, fix and mark the biking trail, clean up the gravel trail, (there is a tree down on the unpaved trail), build the dog park, and do overall cleanup on downed trees and branches. We can use the bigger logs to line the unpaved trails. It appears a fire was started at fishing spot 14; we can add to the rules that no fires are allowed, and also not to put hot coals in the garbage.

First priority was the ADA table pads; 2<sup>nd</sup> the fish ramp, 3<sup>rd</sup> bridges to connect the trails, and 4<sup>th</sup> the pet waste stations. Also we need another bobcat rental.

The dog park was discussed; Julie Brown reported on conversations with Pet Smart. No more trees are coming down for the park, but a lot of labor is needed. Julie Brown suggested we might want contacts to dog rescue groups in case people abandon a pet at the dog park. Council Member Rosoff said it should be clear that you shouldn't enter if an unaccompanied dog is left in the dog park. Mayor Pro Tem Como said Mecklenburg County said they only had one dog left in the park in five years.

Marnie Holland will send out a spreadsheet of the projects.

Discussion of potential monthly dates for volunteer days.  
The next workdays will be August 2, 9 and 16 from 10 am to 2 pm. We can also post times for free mulch.

Discussion of next park events.  
This was tabled for now. Suggestions include a 5K, talent show, and symphony orchestra.

Geo-caching  
Pat Utley reported this is going well, there are eight caches; she entered the first latitude and longitude in a test base. There is a phone app that shows all caches in the area. Once the locations are submitted and approved, they will show up on the app.

Mayor Pro Tem Como reported Council wants a priority list; in the budget they put \$25,000 for a reserve for a gathering area behind the town hall, and \$18,000 for future park improvements. Council Member Rosoff noted until the roads comes in to the town hall area, we cannot do a gathering area there; this should all be under Parks and Rec. Marnie Holland was concerned about adding too much at Dogwood Park, there are other locations, and the natural quality is nice at Dogwood. Maybe the retail space would contribute to a playground. She also reminded that we still want connectivity; she is on the Union County Parks and Rec Steering Committee. Jerry Davis said he heard requests for playground equipment. Consensus was to have some time before making a recommendation. Mayor Pro Tem Como noted we can double our funds if we get a PARTF grant; there will also be fees in lieu money, and funds designated from the 2013-14 budget for a community center.  
Morlando Construction cannot honor their original price for the monument sign because they are no longer mobilized on site.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS - none

#### ADJOURNMENT

Marnie Holland motioned to adjourn; Pat Utley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.  
The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Cheryl Bennett, Clerk

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John Lepke, Chairman