

**VILLAGE OF WESLEY CHAPEL
PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 16, 2016 – 7:00 P.M.
6490 Weddington Road, Wesley Chapel, N.C. 28104**

Committee Members Present: Chair; Pat Utley, Julie Brown (arrived at 7:10 p.m.), Jerry Davis, and Pam King

Staff: Administrative Assistant; Lynell Hillhouse

CALL TO ORDER/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

The meeting was called to order. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Council Member Como was present to request the committee add the following items to the agenda;

- Landscape contract
- Revised Parks and Recreation budget
- Split rail fence

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, AND / OR ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Ms. King motioned to adopt the agenda with the following additions to Unfinished Business;

- h. Split rail fence
- i. Oak tree location

and to New Business;

- a. Revised Parks and Recreation 2016/17 FY budget

Mr. Davis seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVE MINUTES FROM 02/29/2016 JOINT MEETING AND 04/18/2016 REGULAR MEETING

Ms. Brown made a motion to approve the February 29th, 2016 minutes as written and to alter a sentence on page 30 book 12A from the 4/18/2016 regular meeting to read as follows; *Ms. Brown spoke to the park architect on this, she commented that for some elements you use engineers and we had to have the park open some time to vet things.* Ms. King seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

CURRENT YEAR BUDGET REVIEW

The committee reviewed the current year budget noting currently 57% of funds were remaining but there will be expenses relating to the Pig in the Park event and the monument sign permitting costs that will be reflected.

Ms. Brown made mention it has been stated that the Parks and Recreation Committee have been spending frivolously and the amount that is being spent is adding up to where work can be performed by professionals vs volunteers.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PIG IN THE PARK UPDATE

Ms. Brown stayed at the park the evening before the event assisting vendors. She stated it was a great event that was well organized, and ran efficiently with a lot of potential for the community.

Council Member Como notified the committee that the benches and picnic tables that were moved by Mayor Kapfhammer and Council Member Rodriguez needed to be returned to their original locations.

AMPHITHEATER UPDATE

Chair Utley explained to the committee she attended a one on one meeting with the Mayor and the amphitheater is the last amenity in phase one (1) of the park master plan. The mayor stated to Chair Utley the project will move forward and money has been designated in the 2016/17 FY budget specifically.

Ms. Brown voiced her confusion if the council was moving forward with the entire structure or purchasing a prefabricated shell as indicated by Council Member Rodriguez at the last council meeting. Ms. Brown wanted her concern known she feels some council members come to meetings with decisions already made without taking historical background information into account.

Chair Utley encouraged the committee to focus on items they do well such as seeking grants and programming.

TRAIL EROSION UPDATE, ADA COMPLIANCE- DOG PARK, RIP RAP

Chair Utley informed the committee no action could be taken on the above three items until a decision was made regarding the widening of Hwy 84.

POND MAINTENANCE

The committee requested to view the components of the awarded bid which Administrative Assistant Hillhouse will check the status on and email to the committee.

The committee questioned why it was not put out to bid per council policy.

PARK MAINTENANCE CONTRACT WITH LUCAS LANDSCAPING AND FOSTER LAKE AND POND MANAGEMENT

Again, the committee would like to know why this was not put out to bid per council policy and would like to see the amended contract.

Chair Utley questioned who was monitoring applications performed at the park due to an email she had received from resident, John Lepke.

FENCE

The committee reviewed the completed survey done to the fence along the back of the property line.

Council Member Como informed the committee that the council was considering tearing down the current fence and replacing it with turkey wire and natural trees located exactly along the property line.

The council would like a recommendation from the the Parks and Recreation Committee as to what they would prefer for fencing.

Ms. Brown took the opportunity to inform the committee on a problem relating to fencing at the park she discovered whilst attending the Pig in the Park event. An abutting property to the park is installing a pool and the fencing company was adding heavy duty wiring to the already installed wooden fence on park property to be used as part of the pool property fencing. Discussion regarding legal documentation, sealed survey's took place between the committee with the consensus being reached the committee could not take into account this information when making their recommendation to the council on the fencing subject.

Chair Utley made a motion to recommend to council to leave the existing sections of the split rail fence which is the committee's preferred aesthetic, as well as the two added sections and continue on as originally planned with materials in place with the assistance of Eagle Scout projects; Ms. King seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

OAK TREE LOCATION

Results of the survey indicated the oak tree is located on park property but the issue was not discussed at the last council meeting. Ms. King stated someone from council or staff needed to contact Ms. Krueger to keep her updated on the issue.

NEW BUSINESS

REVISED BUDGET

The committee had received a revised proposed 2016-17 FY budget for Parks and Recreation from Council Member Rodriguez that would be presented at the 5/19/2016 budget meeting at 7 p.m.

Council Member Como questioned the committee if they had any specific requests they would like for him to speak up on their behalf due to no one from Parks and Recreation attending the budget meeting. The committee agreed their desires have been conveyed and would also like to await results on the recent resident survey before making requests to the council.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Chair Utley went into further detail with the committee on her meeting with Mayor Kapfhammer and his vision for the committee to focus on items such as grants, thread trail connectivity, and programming. He stated to Chair Utley he was baffled by the negativity he was sensing between the committee and the council.

Ms. Brown stated to the committee she is now the only original committee member serving and feels the council is offending and alienating good hearted people with a lot of knowledge and the people in the community understand what is going on.

Chair Utley responded to this, confirming the mayor knows the committee members are very bright and well skilled and that efforts should not be spent fighting about issues such as dog waste bags and trash pickup.

Council Member Como at this point of the meeting notified the committee he had spoken to Chair Dale of the Safety Committee who relayed he had three safety committee members resign due to the exact same reasons the parks and recreation were experiencing. Administrative Assistant Hillhouse corrected that statement to the committee down from three (3) to one (1). Three people had left the safety committee but one was due to being removed, one moved out of state and the other was due to disharmony with the council.

Chair Utley told the committee she explained the frustrations of the committee not being heard by the council to the mayor. Ms. King expressed her concern that the survey was not done in the manner that would award any PARTF grant funds to the village. All committee members voiced their concern on this issue and Ms. King questioned what happened from the point of turning in questions to the time the survey went out. Council Member Como confirmed to the committee the mayor made the final revision to the survey, adding he had a discussion with the mayor about the years of service already put into the survey compared to the weeks of experience the mayor had with his job at this point in time. Adding you cannot be an expert on everything but has jumped on the Jeannine wagon and realizes he is an expert on everything because he is a politician without knowing the history of the park.

The revision of the Dogwood Park rental policy that was approved on the consent agenda at the 5/9/2016 meeting was made mention by Chair Utley. No committee members or staff were aware of suggested changes which once again brought up the issue to the committee of open communication between the committee and the council. Ms. King stated at the February joint meeting the committee was promised improved communication which has yet to happen and asked the committee to think about the idea of recommending the role of a liaison back to the council. Ms. Brown brought up an issue about there being a discrepancy with the deputy request for the Pig in the Park event and felt our own administration was letting us down. Ms. King added she was not sure where the miscommunication occurred regarding this matter.

Council Member Como discussed with the committee an email he received from Administrator/Clerk Bennett regarding her request to have agenda items received the Thursday before the agenda item deadline for the next council meeting due to the upcoming holiday, stating it bugged him she arbitrarily added five (5) days. Chair Utley stated the rules of conduct that are posted on the website are not being adhered to which she felt was an issue.

Ms. Brown asked Council Member Como as to what Council Member Kaperonis commits to at a council level to which Council Member Como replied he reluctantly took on the MUMPO delegate role and tried to pass it off onto Council Member Como. Ms. Brown then directly questioned if there was a specific representative for the widening of 84 at the council level. Administrative Assistant Hillhouse replied she will research this question tomorrow and email her result to the committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Utley motioned to adjourn the meeting; Ms. King seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

s/ Lynell Hillhouse
Lynell Hillhouse, Administrative Assistant

s/ Pat Utley
Pat Utley, Chair

Approved: July 18th, 2016.