

VILLAGE OF WESLEY CHAPEL  
February 15, 2010-7:00 PM PARKS & REC MINUTES  
Wesley Chapel Town hall  
4107 New Town Road, Wesley Chapel, NC 28173  
www.wesleychapelnc.com

**Committee Members Present:** Bill Bennett, Julie Brown, Mike Giaimo, Greg Miller, Marnie Holland, and John Lepke

**Committee Members Absent:** Pat Utley and Alternate member Elaine Rossof

**Non-Committee Members Present:** Council Member Sondra Bradford and Resident Carol Mullis

**Guest Present** Todd Blanblett

**Sondra Bradford called the session to order at 7:10 PM.**

**1. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, AND / OR ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Introduction to Guest Todd Blanblett added to agenda as **item 2**

**2. INTRODUCTION TO TODD BLANBLETT**

- Todd Blanblett introduced himself as a leader of the Waxhaw Hiking Trail Group. Todd gave the committee a description of typical hiking activities for his group of 410 hikers
- Sondra Bradford reviewed “PAGE PRICE PARK” Project and invited Todd to comment and provide recommendations from a seasoned hiker perspective. Todd obliged and suggested that the Park (as planned) would in fact be attractive to hikers that have interest in short hikes with opportunities to stop for appreciation of a central feature (i.e. the lake or a flower garden). Todd also reiterated the importance to have restroom facilities available
- John Lepke suggested the idea of placing “GEO CASHE” in the Park to attract hikers. Todd Blanblett agreed that it would be a likely attraction
- Sondra asked Todd if his group would have an interest to participate in the development of trails for the Park. Todd confirmed that they in fact would be very interested and asked permission to inquire with his group ASAP. The committee agreed to allow Todd to discuss the idea with his group

**3. APPROVE MINUTES FROM JANUARY 18, 2010**

- Minutes from January meeting were reviewed and approved.

**4. ANNOUNCE RESIGNATION OF KAREN COHEN.**

- Noted that P&R Committee member Karen Cohen resigned due to scheduling conflicts

**5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE ON LEADERSHIP POSITIONS WITHIN COMMITTEE.**

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- Sondra Bradford proposed delegation of committee members which would allow a balanced work flow to each member and a designated speaker and/or liaison to the council and potentially the media. After further discussion all committee members agreed that this committee seems to be effective with current structure and established protocols as a result a unanimous vote of the committee to keep “Status Quo.”

## **6. PARTF GRANT UPDATE AND OTHER GRANTS**

- Sondra Bradford showed the committee a copy of the PARTF Grant Application completed by Haden. John Lepke noted that the application included pages that were placed upside down. The committee agreed that this is not acceptable and need to be corrected and re-sent ASAP. Sondra will advise Hayden to do so immediately with a fresh copy to be provided to the committee.
- Sondra mentioned that Haden will have the Dam project officially examined on March 18<sup>th</sup>. Julie Brown reminded the committee that it took over two (2) months just for the appointment and the delay jeopardizes the project.
- John Lepke suggested that “local” contractors should be preferred for any Wesley Chapel project to keep revenues in the community. The committee agreed unanimously given a “defined” criteria for consideration.
- Sondra introduced three (3) additional Grants that may be available to WC:
  1. Adopt-a-Trail-\$5,000
  2. Recreational Trail Program (RTP)-\$75,000
  3. Lowes Playground-(undefined amount)

Sondra also advised that the grants have similar award dates with the exception of Lowes which should be postponed anyhow until the appropriate phase to build the playground (dependent on actual funding amounts of priority items).

- Sondra announced that The Wild Life Commission offers a program to pay 75% of costs of building fishing piers, stocking ponds, etc.
- Optimist Club is scheduled to meet on Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> 2010. Julie Brown reminded the committee that the Optimist Club would donate as much as \$10,000 towards and Amphitheatre noting that this commitment was given while considering the location of the 6 Acres that was donated to WC. Hence reengagement would be necessary

## **7. DISCUSS RESPONSES TO COUNCIL REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE UPDATE**

The committee reviewed and approved the template without changes.

## **8. DISCUSS POSSIBLE HOUSTON HOUSE RESTORATION EFFORTS**

- Sondra Bradford announced that the church agreed to give WC until March 31<sup>st</sup> to decide whether the house should be kept and restored. Should the decision be “YES” then the house would have to be moved off the property by May 31<sup>st</sup>

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- Sondra Bradford and Julie Brown inquired with three (3) mobile movers about the cost to move the house from the existing location to PAGE PRICE PARK. The estimates ranged from \$20,000 and up depending on the need to move utilities or section the house for clearance while transporting. Further discussion ensued about the possibilities of sectioning the house prior to engaging the movers to reduce the cost. This would require volunteers and equipment.
- Sondra will propose the cost of moving the house to be approved by the council for an investment towards a “prestigious” status for WC given a confirmation (pending) that the home would be recognized on the National Registry. Further notes to the council should include the fact that the value of the house “as scrap” could exceed \$50,000 ; thus poses a low risk for investment return.

#### **9. UPDATE FROM SWIM CLUB BOARD MEETING**

- SWIM CLUB BOARD offered WC to purchase 7 Acres of the property (excluding the pool area) for \$264,000. The committee agreed unanimously that the amount was excessive especially given the financial circumstance of the club which would potentially result in the repossession of the property and the subsequent sale of the property under foreclosure. Sondra will relay the committee’s decision to pass on offer and the plea to reconsider the sale price.
- Marnie Holland and Julie Brown suggested that the SWIM CLUB could also serve as a potential site for the Houston House to be temporarily stored. Mike Giaimo suggested that the storage location should be the Park to avoid incurring additional cost and potential damage while moving the house. John Lepke suggested that storing the house at the Park may be an eye sore and diminish the appreciation of the Park. Greg Miller suggested a camouflage tarp and a posting sign of the upcoming renovation to create excitement and acceptance.

#### **10. PATH FORWARD**

- Sondra Bradford asked the committee about the anticipated priorities post “PAGE PRICE PARK.” Mike Giaimo suggested “connectivity with an understanding that the Park itself would have to be completed at a level of satisfaction to the public in accordance to the survey prior to prioritizing anything else. Marnie Holland suggested “Dogwood” and “Connectivity” simultaneously as the projects complement each other due to location and need. Julie Brown suggested the “SWIM CLUB” to be a fabulous opportunity that cannot be passed up. John Lepke suggested we stay consistent with the survey priorities for direction once the Park is complete. All members agreed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45pm