

Village of Wesley Chapel  
Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Committee  
December 10, 2009

The Parks and Recreation Committee of the Village of Wesley Chapel, North Carolina, met at Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church.

**Committee Members Present:** Julie Brown, Mike Giaimo, Marnie Holland, John Lepke, and Pat Utley.

**Non-Committee Members Present:** Council Member Sondra Bradford, Future Council Member Howard Brotton, residents Carol Mullis and Bill Bennett, and Officer Bernie Young.

**PAGE PRICE PARK DESIGN PRESENTATION BY HADEN STANZIALE (7:00 PM)**

Mr. Hayden from Haden Stanziale presented three concepts for the Design of Page Price Park. Concept A design used only the existing donated land. It included a parking lot with 53 spaces, shelter with restrooms, playground, picnic area, nature trail, boardwalk, outdoor classroom, fishing pier, garden, bench and walking trail. Concept B included the purchase of 1.7 acres on the East side of the park. This concept included all the amenities in concept A. It also included an outdoor amphitheater that could seat 300-400 people, play meadow, overflow parking, and an interim town hall. Concept C just showed a second entrance to the park with additional parking. This additional parking could be added to Concept A or B.

**1. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, AND OR ADOPTION OF AGENDA (8:45 PM)**

- Added Item 4a, Carolina Thread Trail Update
- Officer Bernie Young will serve as a liaison to the Sheriff's Office to offer his perspective and recommendations on safety for Wesley Chapel's new parks and trails.
- Bill Bennett is joining the Parks and Recreation Committee.

**2. APPROVE MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 16, 2009 AND SEPTEMBER 24, 2009 INFORMATION SESSION**

The minutes from November's and September's meeting were not available prior to the meeting. The committee will approve them at the next meeting January 18, 2010.

**3. DISCUSS RESULTS OF PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION**

-Mr. Hayden will compile the comments made by citizens, council members and Parks and Recreation committee members from the Parks and Recreation Information session on December 10.

-Officer Bernie Young provided several recommendations on how Wesley Chapel can keep the park safe. These include the following:

-A second entrance (Concept C) will create unsafe conditions. It makes it easier for people to sneak into the park after dusk.

-Four wheelers and cars can easily fit on the 10 foot wide trails. May want to consider trail posts.

-May want to consider putting a fence or berm around the park.

-Lock restroom doors after dusk. John Lepke suggested locks that automatically

- lock by a timer.
- Suggested a park attendant to monitor the park, empty trash, and lock the park. One of the Parks and Rec members suggested hiring a retiree for this position.
  - Parking lot should be well lit and bushes on buildings should not be higher than 3 feet.
  - Concerned about traffic safety with Concept A since the entrance is on a curve and close to the intersection.
  - Classroom should not be in a remote area of the park. All amenities should be in close proximity to each other because officers will normally not get out of the car to patrol the park. The Parks and Rec members suggested moving the outdoor classroom to the East side of the park by the gardens in Concept A or the Amphitheater in Concept B.
  - From a safety perspective Office Bernie Young prefers Concept B.
  - A room in the house in Concept B could be used by the sheriff's department to as an office to do reports. This would ensure police presence and increase the safety of the park.
  - In the information session several of the people indicated in the comments section that they preferred Option C. At the next meeting, we will need to tell the public that Option C is no longer being considered due to safety concerns.
  - May want to install security cameras. These should be high enough where vandals cannot break them.
  - The parking lot should be well lit. Wesley Chapel may want to consider using Solar Power lights.
  - Parks in Mecklenburg County are dealing with gang problems. Wesley Chapel is trying to install safety measures such as the ones listed about to prevent gang activity in the new park.
  - There are several grants offered by the police to implement safety measures in rural areas. Policeone.com has a list of these grants.
  - The park should be closed with a gate after dusk.
  - Bernie recommended that members of the Wesley Chapel Parks and Rec committee attend a Lake Park meeting to hear the problems relating to parks encountered by Lake Park.
- Wesley Chapel would like to implement a fishing permit for Price pond. Wesley Chapel may want to consider offering a discount to Senior Citizens for a fishing permit.
- One way to monitor fishing permits is to have the sheriff issue a fine to people without a permit.
- In Concept B a secondary road may need to be added so private residents can access their house. This also makes it easier to lock the park at dusk.
- The Parks and Recreation committee voted unanimously to recommend Concept B to city council with the modification of moving the outdoor classroom to an area near the amphitheatre.

#### **4a) CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL MEETING UPDATE**

Marnie Holland gave an update. The Carolina Thread Trail is working with towns within Union County to create a trail that would connect Union County to other North Carolina

Counties. The first step of the committee is to pick one of the 13 recommended consulting firms to propose the location of the trail. The Carolina Thread trail provides a grant to pay for the consulting firm. Once the trail is agreed upon the towns that have the proposed trail going through their community can apply for additional grants with the Carolina Thread trail. Cities would be able to connect their trails to the Carolina thread trail. However, if this trail is not the proposed Carolina thread trail it would not be funded by a Carolina Thread Trail grant.

**5)REQUEST TWO REPRESENTATIVES FOR MEETING WITH THE SWIM CLUB ON DECEMBER 15**

Julie Brown and Bill Bennett will attend this meeting.

**6)DISCUSS PATH FORWARD**

Haden Stanziale will present their findings to city council on Monday, December 14. The next public information session will be on January 7, 2010.

**7)ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marnie F. S. Holland  
Acting Secretary for the Committee

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Sondra Bradford  
Village Council Member