

VILLAGE OF WESLEY CHAPEL PARKS & REC MINUTES
April 19, 2010-7:00 PM
Wesley Chapel Town Hall
4107New Town Road, Wesley Chapel, NC 28173

Committee Members Present: Bill Bennett, Julie Brown, Mike Giaimo, Greg Miller, Marnie Holland, Pat Utley, John Lepke and Alternate Member Elaine Rossof

Committee Members Absent: None

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

Sondra Bradford called the session to order at 7:15 PM.

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

Agenda was adopted with addition of 5a Wesley Chapel Fall Festival.

2. APPROVE MINUTES FROM MARCH 15, 2010

Minutes of March 15 2010 were adopted with revision of location to Town Hall.

3. UPDATES ON PAGE PRICE PARK, SWIM CLUB, DOGWOOD, AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Sondra Bradford advised that DENR and several Engineers visited the Page Price Park property to inspect the dam and discuss what work is needed. Council member Todd Hess (also attending) will prepare a scope of work to include: Core sample, visual inspection, suggestions for spillway repairs/upgrade and disaster simulation should the dam fail etc. The estimates to perform this work will allow P&R to refine dam remediation cost estimates.

PARTF grant application decision is scheduled for May 7th. P&R should be notified approx 1 week later. Informal communications suggest our application is looking favorable.

Wildlife commission grant (pier cost sharing) – Analysis of pond will be conducted on 4/21 to prepare recommendations.

Following Council approval several other grant opportunities are being explored/pursued:

Lowe's (Playground and landscaping), Home Depot, Water Resource development (2/3 dam cost), Water recreation (path around pond), Union County Community Foundation (may be required to link education or hunger).

Sondra Bradford will prepare a timetable for all grant activities.

SWIM Club – 4/19 discussion with the swim club revealed: Club will not open this season due to insufficient membership (50% of break even) to fund cash flow. Bank has denied cash flow financing. Club uncertain about future viability.

Sondra provided a brief update on outcome of Capital Improvement work session held 4/1. Key information relative to P&R is decision around 2 options. 1. New Town Hall building on 6.5 acre Target site or 2. Purchase Dogwood and up-fit current house to satisfy Village government needs. Both options will result in tax increase of approx 2 cents. This will be topic of May 3 council meeting and all P&R members were encouraged to attend

Carol Mullis reminded everyone that the original master plan survey showed strong support for a Town Hall at the target site. However, it was noted at the time of this survey there wasn't an option for Dogwood as an alternate. It was also noted that the more recent P&R survey showed interest in public meeting rooms to be an extremely low priority.

John Lepke suggested that if a referendum were held asking if residents would rather pay \$50 more tax for Town Hall or a Park with building suitable for town offices he thought majority would vote for the later.

Sondra Bradford advised that an appraisal of the Dogwood property had been scheduled for 4/19 and a building inspection for 4/20. The sellers also reduced the asking price for the village to \$1.5 million.

4. REVIEW PROGRESS UPDATE FOR COUNCIL WORKSESSION APRIL 20

Sondra Bradford volunteered to provide progress update to Council and suggested the current spreadsheet be amended to include line items for 'Other Grants' and 'Festival'.

5. DISCUSS POSSIBLE HOUSTON HOUSE RESTORATION EFFORTS AND ASSOCIATED FUNDING SOURCES

Sondra advised that if the Village has a local Historic society/commission in place for 1 year that this might open up opportunities for grants. P & R should identify potential members with an interest in local history. Mr. Ray Davis was identified as someone with an interest in Wesley Chapel history.

The Houston House may qualify for registration as a National Historic landmark.

Julie Brown provided all present with documentation of her efforts so far for review. Julie has been keeping the Council advised regularly. The owners have agreed not to schedule the house for burning before December 31st 2010. This should allow P&R to establish if Page Price Park will go ahead and then it can be considered as a site to relocate the house for restoration

5a. FESTIVAL

Sondra Bradford advised that a preliminary budget of \$2000 is being proposed for festival activities. This was based on the 10th anniversary expense. Possible activities for the festival were then discussed. Sondra advised that October 2nd has been established as the tentative date.

Suggested activities:

Houston House information session/initiate fund raising to relocate/restore the house.
P&R presentation – Introduction of 'buy-a-brick' or other fund raising, introduction of 'RedBox program.

Participation of Waxhaw Museum

Heritage Festival – Future Farmers of America, local farmers, tractors in parade, farm animal pens etc.

Gold Mining – ‘Gold Rush’ event for kids.

Boy Scout participation – They already have festival games prepared.

Community tree planting – possibly sell saplings/plants for fund raising.

Pet parade

Performing Arts – School Bands, Cheer, Dance groups.

Participation of Regional Mustang Club in Parade.

Sondra Requested that any additional ideas be e-mailed to Diana Bowler. Sondra will provide contact information to P&R members.

6. DISCUSS BUDGET FOR 2010-2011 FISCAL YEAR

The following were identified as major budget headings for the 2010-2011 budget:

Fall Festival activities

Page Price Park maintenance and operating budget

Dogwood acquisition – Depends on outcome of May 3rd Capital spending meeting.

Red Box program (for at least 2 locations)

Communication/public education (Park and Greenway).

7. DISCUSS POSSIBLE PEDESTRIAN CONNECTIVITY CORRIDORS

A map of potential greenways prepared by the Town planner was distributed and reviewed by all. Consensus of the P&R committee was to focus on the corridor that runs approx North South and bisects the village. The priority should be to start from the village center and radiate North to connect with Indian Trail greenway corridors and South along this central corridor to New Town Road.

East West connectivity will be addressed when Weddington Road (84) is upgraded to include sidewalks.

It is anticipated that there will be considerable ‘not in my back yard’ resistance to greenway development close to existing home sites. A plan needs to be developed to address concerns residents may have.

John Lepke suggested initially any land acquisition efforts should focus on large undeveloped parcels that border the priority corridor. An information package should be prepared that highlights the benefits (i.e. impact of Tax deduction for donation) to the landowners.

8. DISCUSS POTENTIAL ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS TO RESEARCH

John Lepke volunteered to research tree preservation ordinance.

Marnie Holland volunteered to research greenway/preservation ordinances.

9. DISCUSS BIDDING PROCESS AND PROCEDURES

Due to time constraints this agenda topic was held over to the next meeting

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 pm