

VILLAGE OF WESLEY CHAPEL  
PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES  
October 15, 2012 7 p.m.

**Members Present:** John Lepke, Julie Brown, Mike Como, Jerry Davis and Pat Utley.

**Council Liaison:** Kim Ormiston and Elaine Rosoff were present.

**Members Absent:** Marnie Holland was absent. Alternate members Gayla Adams and John Balles were absent.

**Staff:** Melody Graham

**Others Present:** Carol Mullis

### **WELCOME / DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

Mr. Lepke called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. A quorum was present.

### **ADDITIONS / DELETIONS / MOTION TO ADOPT AGENDA**

Mr. Lepke moved the *Discussion of Project Priorities for WC Friends of Parks & Rec* to the end of the agenda.

Mr. Lepke added *Discussion of Language of Signs* and *Discussion of House Renovation Quotes* to the agenda.

Ms. Brown moved to adopt the agenda as amended. Mr. Como seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Mullis asked if any decision has been made on the house at the park and whether it would be renovated or not. Mr. Lepke explained that no decision has been made as of yet and that the renovation quotes are to find out what would be necessary in order to make the house usable.

### **APPROVE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 17, 2012**

Mr. Davis moved to approve the minutes from the September 17, 2012 meeting as submitted. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **UPDATE ON MOVING PROPANE TANK AND INSTALLING NATURAL GAS LINE**

Mr. Lepke explained: The Village has received a contract from Piedmont Natural Gas on installing a gas line to service the house. The line will come from the neighborhood behind the house. It is approximately 411'. Appliances in the house will need to have some different equipment installed to switch from propane to natural gas. There are a few concerns with the contract. The Village will be assessed a fee of \$4000 if a set amount of gas isn't used within six months. The propane tank must be moved for construction. Another option, rather than switching to Natural gas, is to move the propane tank and continue using propane in order to winterize the house so pipes don't break.

Ms. Rosoff agreed to check with Piedmont Natural Gas to see if they can extend the time frame for the contract.

The Committee agreed that nothing will be done until the start date for construction is known. Once the start date is known, the contract can either be signed for the gas hookup or the tank can be moved.

### **DISCUSS GROUNDBREAKING AND RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONIES FOR PARK**

Mr. Lepke reported that the invitation list is complete. He added that the program and date must be decided.

The Committee agreed that January 18, 2013 is the tentative date for the groundbreaking and the program will consist of remarks from the Mayor, Mr. Lepke and a representative from Wirth.

## **DISCUSS PLANNING HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHY DOCUMENTATION OF PARK PROGRESS**

The Committee agreed that Ms. Brown and Mr. Como should approach both Weddington H.S. and Cuthbertson H.S. to see if they have a photography club that would be willing to document the construction of the park and the Town Hall. The Committee discussed the possibility of having a contest for the best photos. Ms. Ormiston suggested that Ms. Brown approach Bill Lee to see if he would like to become involved in the project as well.

## **UPDATE ON THINNING TREES / URBAN FORESTER**

Mr. Davis reported: He met with a NC Forester representative at the park to discuss thinning of trees along the border of the park and Highway 84. The forester representative recommended that the dead trees be removed first, then the Sweetgum trees should be thinned. He recommended that specimens that provide color and flowers be left alone, unless diseased or severely crowded. Pine trees are short lived and block smaller hardwoods. They should be thinned which will open the canopy and allow hardwoods to come in. The representative discussed safety and visibility and agreed that thinning the trees will open visibility at the park and will improve safety. He stressed that the best specimens should be preserved.

Mr. Lepke stated that the November workday should be devoted to thinning trees. The Committee agreed.

Mr. Lepke stated that he would send an email prior to the November workday asking volunteers to bring chainsaws. He will direct volunteers to focus on clearing dead trees first, then work on thinning the pine trees.

The Committee agreed that the tree clearing should be extended to the corner of Lester Davis Road and that a request be made to Council to approve that the Committee follow the foresters recommendation on clearing. Ms. Ormiston agreed to take the request to Council.

Ms. Brown requested that the large tree stumps be saved to place around the pond to be used for seating for people fishing.

Mr. Davis explained that the forester recommended that RoundUp be spread on sapling stumps so new tree growth doesn't occur.

## **DISCUSS SPONSORSHIP/NAMING RIGHTS POLICY**

The Committee agreed that the Council should come up with a policy on naming rights and give guidance to the Committee before moving forward on this.

## **UPDATE ON FISHING PIER CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE**

Mr. Lepke reported that Ms. Ormiston will attend a meeting with NC Wildlife and Wirth to finalize the construction plans on the pier. Ms. Ormiston added that this is a pre-construction meeting and that the plan is for NC Wildlife to be finished with construction of the pier before park construction begins.

## **REVIEW OF WELL CLOSURE BIDS AND RECOMMENDATION OF CONTRACTOR TO COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL**

Mr. Como reported: It has been determined that both wells should be abandoned and the Council has agreed to that. Neither well has the capacity to be sufficient for the park. He received bids from four companies on abandonment. The quotes ranged from \$7140 to \$3600.

Mr. Como moved to get approval from Council to accept the lowest bid of \$3600 by the Catoe company to abandon the two wells, tear the well house down and remove the debris. Once approved by Council the work can be scheduled. Mr. Lepke seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Lepke added that the funds for the well abandonment will come from the park construction line.

Mr. Como added that the lower well will be closed at grade and the tennis court well will be closed at 4' below grade to allow for the parking lot construction.

#### **REVIEW OF BUDGETED TOOL PURCHASE RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONSIDER FORWARDING TO COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL TO PURCHASE**

Mr. Como explained: The budget for tool purchase is set at \$2200. The Village will need a riding mower, trimmer and blower for basic upkeep. In speaking with a Lowe's Store representative, it has been recommended that the park will need a more industrial type mower, as a residential mower will not hold up to the demands of park maintenance. This mover is substantially more expensive.

Mr. Lepke recommended that professional lawn care be removed from the budgeted expenses, keeping the professional chemical applicator and moving those funds to capital purchase. He added: \$6000 has been budgeted for grounds maintenance. We could move \$2000 to capital/tools line to purchase equipment. This would increase the line from \$2200 to \$4200. We could then move \$500 from the professional line to the park work line.

The Committee agreed that this request be forwarded to Council for approval.

Mr. Como agreed to get competitive bids for a riding mower once the funds are approved by Council.

#### **REVIEW OF PRICING/RECOMMENDATION FOR BUDGETED TABLES/CHAIRS AND CONSIDER FORWARDING TO COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL TO PURCHASE**

The Committee discussed the need for tables, chairs and tents for the groundbreaking and for future use at park events. Mr. Lepke explained that we have \$650 budgeted for this but the actual cost is \$692. Ms. Ormiston stated that 201 Central has an event planning department and she will ask about a possible donation for the groundbreaking.

The Committee agreed that if the tables, chairs and tents are not received as a donation, then Council will be asked to approve the purchase of 4 tables, 16 chairs and 2 tents.

#### **DISCUSS LANGUAGE FOR SIGNAGE**

The Committee discussed park signage in depth and agreed on the attached language for the main park sign (*See Attached: This document is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes*). The Committee agreed that Ms. Ormiston will check with NC Wildlife on the fishing requirements and include the required text for the fishing requirements.

#### **DISCUSS HOUSE RENOVATION QUOTES**

Mr. Lepke stated: The Council will discuss this at the next meeting. It is important to get an idea on costs necessary to upfit the house to see if it should be renovated or demolished.

Ms. Rosoff asked about the required fire hydrant. Mr. Lepke stated: The park must have a fire hydrant. The Chairman of the Fire Department suggested a dry pump which would pump pond water for use. The Engineers investigated and determined that a dry pump will not work due to the grade of the land. It would be cost prohibitive.

**DISCUSS PROJECT PRIORITIES FOR WC FRIENDS OF PARKS & REC (WCFOPR)**

Ms. Brown reported: The organization is still in the planning stages. They are building the board and gathering volunteers. This will become the fundraising arm for the park and will schedule events. They are in the process of establishing priorities within the organization. They are building a good, diverse group.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Lepke stated: He has been approached by another Boy Scout group wanting to assist in the park construction. They are considering different volunteer options. They will contact him with a project proposal which he will bring to the Committee.

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Lepke moved to adjourn at 9:18 p.m. Ms. Utley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Melody A. Graham, Secretary

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John Lepke, Chair

*Adopted:*      November 19, 2012