

**VILLAGE OF WESLEY CHAPEL**  
**PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
May 28, 2020 - 6:30 P.M.  
6490 Weddington Road, Wesley Chapel, NC 28104

**Committee Members Present:** Chair John Lepke, Brad Horvath, Brian Martin, Patricia Utley  
**Council Liaison:** Mike Como  
**Committee Members Absent:** Julie Brown, Pam King, Wayne Todd, Julie Thomas  
**Administrative Assistant:** Amy Mumpower

**Call to Order/Determination of Quorum**

The meeting was called to order at 6:46 pm. A quorum was present.

**Additions, Deletions and/or Adoption of Agenda**

Chair Lepke asked if any changes to the agenda needed to be made. Liaison Como requested adding a discussion regarding speakers and microphones and a general update on repairs. Speaker and microphone discussion were added to the agenda to follow Bandshell Improvements, and general repair updates was added into the Other Items discussion.

Motion was made by Liaison Como to accept the agenda as amended. Ms. Utley seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of February 27, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Liaison Como motioned to approve the February 27, 2020 minutes. Mr. Martin seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

**May 19, 2020 Council Meeting Update**

A Special Council meeting was held on May 19, 2020 to plan the Village's proposed 2020-2021 budget. Council is anticipating that income from shared revenues will be decreased for the fiscal year, therefore expenses will need to be decreased. This means that proposed capital expenditures for Parks and Recreation have been removed, and operational expenses have been reduced. Council will be open to revisit throughout the coming year as the need arises. The playground and parking lot resurfacing are included on the current fiscal year budget, so they will not be affected. Chair Lepke has been in discussion with the paving contractor regarding when work can begin and how long the park will need to be closed for.

Due to the average cost of holding an event at Dogwood Park (\$5,000), Council decided that Parks and Recreation should hold three community events in 2020-2021 instead of the five that were proposed.

Council will vote on the budget at the next regular meeting to be held June 8, 2020.

### **Park Maintenance**

There are areas of the park that are eroding and need to be improved. Specifically, the path leading from the parking lot downhill to the pond; near the front gate; and the top of the parking lot. Several boards in the fishing pier need to be replaced, too. Pit Gravel, lumber, riprap and a Bobcat are needed to make the necessary improvements. Currently, there is about \$2000 in the park maintenance that can be spent.

Mr. Martin motioned to recommend that remaining park maintenance funds be used to purchase pit gravel, lumber riprap and rent a Bobcat. Ms. Utley seconded it.

The motion passed unanimously.

### **Bandshell Improvements**

There are timbers in the bandshell that are splitting. Chair Lepke met with the bandshell architect and contractor and both agreed that the bandshell should be re-stained. It is not a structural issue, just cosmetic. About 5 gallons of stain will be needed and will cost approximately \$350. All committee members were in agreement to re-stain.

### **Speakers and Microphones**

There is \$3,350 in the current budget designated for the sound system. So far, only \$357 has been used. The equipment they have has been used twice so far, and both times there were some sound issues for the performers. They cannot hear themselves when they are onstage in the bandshell. Also, sound quality needs improvement, especially when there are a group of singers performing. This can be corrected by the addition of two monitors. It was decided that Chair Lepke will make the recommendation to Council to use the remaining funds in the sound system budget to purchase the necessary equipment.

### **Parks and Recreation Events**

The three events that Council has approved for the proposed 2020-2021 budget are:

- 1) Fall Event with an Arts and Crafts show/sale, food trucks, beer and live music
- 2) Easter event (joint event with Southbrook Church)
- 3) Spring Event- a fundraiser-type event combined with a car show, food trucks, and live music

The goal is to plan for these events to be self-supporting so that larger events can be planned with the money already budgeted for these events.

**Fall 2020 Event-** this event will combine the Bonfire, Brews and Boogie event with the Fall/Halloween events that were held in the past. There will be an Arts/Crafts show, food trucks, beer, and live music. Money will be collected from vendor show rentals, food truck reservations, beer sales and sponsorships.

This event will be held in September or October and Chair Lepke asked the committee to think about the best date to hold it. It needs to be a date that is not competing with other local community events that are held in neighboring towns. A lot of annual events in other towns have already been cancelled due to COVID-19, which may provide more options for us.

The Rotary Club will be asked to handle beer sales, and proceeds earned will be shared with the village. The Rotary Club's earnings will be used to support their high school scholarship fund.

Chair Lepke stated that ideas, thoughts and help with the planning process are needed from all committee members to make this event as successful as possible. If attendance can be increased, more income can be generated which will help with the vision and maintenance of the park.

Mr. Martin asked about the possibility of hosting a 5K race, either included as one of the planned events, or as its own event if it can be self-funded. We have held one twice in the past. Administrative Assistant Mumpower will obtain information from Clerk Bennett about the previous events for Mr. Martin and he will research.

Chair Lepke emphasized that attendance is the key to making these events self-funded. New methods of promoting the event are needed. Flyers in mailboxes and on community bulletin boards are not effective, especially with the expenses they incur. Social media is the best way, and on-line community news sources.

## **Other Items**

### **General Update on Repairs**

- Liaison Como reported that he replaced several boards at the pier which were splitting. Other minor repairs need to be made as soon as weather permits.
- Excessive algae is growing in the pond. The application of barley straw was delayed this year due to the pandemic and the amount of rain there has been. There is a pond maintenance contract with the landscaper, and he needs to know the volume of the pond (unknown at this time) so that the correct amount of algaecide can be used. Applying too little of it is ineffective and too much of it can kill the fish.
- Picnic tables are being repaired.
- There are several downed trees due to recent storms.
- Chair Lepke has been busy with park beautification. He has planted about 20 rosebushes and several lilies. The lilies were donated through members of the Weddington Garden Club, and the rosebushes were donated by a lady Chair Lepke had a chance meeting with at Lowe's. Amaryllis flowers were planted by a Girl Scout troop.
- Council has approved for the handrails of the trail leading down to the pier to be pressure washed and re-stained by a Boy Scout for his Eagle Scout project.
- Liaison Como asked for the committee's consensus regarding the addition of a portable handwashing sink for the parks. This has become necessary since bathrooms are closed due to COVID-19 restrictions. The committee agreed and Liaison Council will discuss with Council.

### **Playground Update**

Chair Lepke brought up the idea of having a ground breaking or grand opening ceremony for the playground. It was decided a grand opening may be a great idea, but it should wait until things settle down from the pandemic.

### **Draft Survey**

Dr. Byers is completing a draft of a survey to be sent out to the community regarding their thoughts and vision for the Village. There is a section of the survey regarding Parks and Recreation. Some of the questions on it are regarding citizen's thoughts on a community center and the functions it should have.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Martin made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Liaison Como seconded it.

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM.

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John Lepke, Chairperson

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Amy Mumpower  
Administrative Assistant