

**VILLAGE OF WESLEY CHAPEL**  
**PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**JUNE 25, 2020 - 6:30 P.M.**  
6490 Weddington Road, Wesley Chapel, NC 28104

**Committee Members Present:** Chair John Lepke, Brad Horvath, Julie Thomas, Wayne Todd, Pat Utley, Alternates Pam King and Brian Martin

**Council Liaison:** Mike Como

**Committee Members Absent:** Julie Brown

**Administrative Assistant:** Amy Mumpower

**1) Call to Order/Determination of Quorum**

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm. A quorum was present.

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

Chair Lepke asked if any changes are needed to the agenda. He added a discussion on parliamentary procedure. Seeing none, he motioned to approve it. Mr. Horvath seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

**3) Parliamentary Procedure**

Chair Lepke stated and reiterated that only committee members can make and second motions. It was recorded in the May 28, 2020 meeting minutes that some motions were made that did not follow parliamentary procedure. There was not a recollection from any members of these motions, it was thought that perhaps a motion was suggested instead. Chair Lepke noted that the committee will be more careful of this moving forward.

**4) Approval of May 28, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes and Amended February 27, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes**

An amendment was necessary for the February 27, 2020 minutes. It was recorded that the Parks and Recreation committee had completed bidding for a landscaper and that the current landscaper bid was the lowest received but with a 30% increase in cost. Chair Lepke was actually referring to his HOA, who uses the same landscape company. He was requesting that the committee think about options regarding the landscaping contract in case the Village's landscape contract also increases.

Mr. Todd made the motion to accept the amendment to the February 27, 2020 minutes and to accept the May 28, 2020 minutes. Ms. Thomas seconded it.

The motion passed unanimously.

## **5) Preliminary Planning/Scope for Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 Events**

- a) Governor Cooper just announced that North Carolina will remain in Phase 2 of COVID protection for 3 more weeks and has mandated everyone wear masks in public spaces effective June 26<sup>th</sup>. Because of the uncertainty of the current situation, the committee has decided to postpone planning the Fall event until July's meeting. The committee will need about 6 weeks' time to plan if they decide to hold the event. It will be very important to have the help of every committee member given the short time frame for planning.
- b) Mr. Martin has reviewed information regarding hosting another 5K and decided that now is not a good time to hold this type of event because of the amount of work involved and the number of volunteers needed for it to be successful.
- c) Chair Lepke reminded the committee that Parks & Recreation events need to be as self-funding as possible for this coming fiscal year. The committee does heavily rely on Southbrook church to help with these events, however, the committee will need to consider the fact that because they are a church, they may not be able to help at the events being planned so far due to beer being sold. A suggestion was made to him recently that perhaps Southbrook would like to host and sponsor some of the events at the park themselves. This may be something for the committee to consider.

## **6) Parking Lot Update**

The paving of the parking lot at the park was due to begin this week but has been postponed due to rain. It is now scheduled to begin Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup> and finish on Wednesday, June 30<sup>th</sup>. Since this will coincide with the end of the fiscal year, the reserved funds will be reallocated to the next year. This has also affected the Bobcat rental that was previously approved for trail improvements.

## **7) Playground Update**

Playground equipment will be delivered the first week of July and installed the second week. Chair Lepke would like to hold a ribbon-cutting when it is completed. Possibly hold a small gathering for Council to cut the ribbon and then promote it to all local media to announce the opening. The event would not be open to the public, depending on COVID.

## **8) Park Beautification/Maintenance Update**

- a) The bandshell has been re-stained and the dam cleared out. Chair Lepke has been posting pictures and activities of the park on [www.mycarolinagarden.com](http://www.mycarolinagarden.com) and as a result, he has received many donations of plants. A Girl Scout has approached him with a project idea for her Gold Award. She would like to complete the butterfly garden or some type of conservation project. She is working on a project plan to present to the committee and then to Council if approved by the committee.
- b) Chair Lepke will give a presentation to Weddington Garden Club on October 13. He will give the group a tour of the park, talk about the history, events, beautification projects and future plans. He told them about the idea for a Memorial/Remembrance Walk, and they may be interested in assisting with that.

c) Liaison Como reported that the knee walls near the bandshell were pressure-washed this week. The trail going down to the pier was also pressure-washed, re-stained. Damaged wood on the pier was replaced and some picnic tables were repaired. A Boy Scout helped with these projects. Trail upgrades and Bobcat rental has been delayed due to rain.

d) Five Stones Church has offered their time and equipment for improvement projects. They have helped in the past and were a great help. Mr. Martin stated that Siler Presbyterian Church can possibly help with upcoming projects, too, and asked to keep him updated when there is a need. Liaison Como advised that the Village needs to be careful about accepting help from groups. It was agreed the best thing to do is to post announcements publicly (FB, etc....) when there is a need so that it is open to all citizens to volunteer.

e) Ms. King inquired about the fish in the pond. It may be time to restock as it does not seem a lot of people are catching anything. Chair Lepke said there are a lot of bass in it which eats a lot of the other fish. Last time it was restocked with catfish and blue gill. Also, complaints have been received that there are too many turtles. Chair Lepke will follow up with NC Wildlife to see what can be done to correct these issues.

f) Barley straw has been laid down and the algae problem cleared quickly.

## **9) Sponsorship Policy**

Ms. King has been reviewing the current policy and felt two revisions were needed regarding donations. The suggested changes were for Section II.1.B and II.1.C as described below:

### Section II.1.B

#### **Currently:**

B. Donations can be made to the Village in the form of services, funds, or gifts-in-kind, however there is no expectation or recognition or compensation, or restrictions on how this money or gift is to be used within the Village. Since donations can be used at the discretion of the Council, there is no policy for donations. Donors, however, may be recognized in accordance with the sponsorship guidelines and this decision is at the discretion of the Council.

#### **Suggested Revision:**

Donations may be made to the Village in the form of services, funds, or in-kind gifts; however, there is no expectation of any benefit or recognition to the donor. Donations with no restrictions on how the money or gift is to be used will be utilized at the discretion of the Council. Donors may be recognized at the discretion of the Council.

### Section II.1.C

#### **Currently:**

C. There is a \$500 threshold for purpose-specific donations. Donations of \$100-\$499 will be recognized via a standard letter. Donations of \$500 or more will receive a letter from the Mayor.

#### **Suggested Revision:**

Gifts donated for a specific purpose as requested by the donor are considered restricted. Again there is no expectation of any benefit or recognition to the donor. Purpose-specific (restricted) donations may be recognized by the Council

Ms. Thomas asked if there was anything in the policy regarding Council or committees denying a gift. Ms. King said she will double-check and agreed it may be a good idea to include if there is not. Definitions of terms were discussed, specifically the difference between restricted and non-restricted donations. These terms are not included in the definition list and need to be added. Restricted gifts are those that the donor requests go to a specific purpose. Non-restricted gifts are those that Council can decide how to utilize.

Chair Lepke stated he feels these suggested changes clarify the issues very well.

Mr. Todd made a motion to accept the suggested changes with the following revisions:

- 1) Section 11.1.C- change “Purpose-specific (restricted) donations will be recognized by a letter from the Village” to “Purpose-specific (restricted) donations may be recognized at the discretion of the Council.
  - 2) Add the terms “restricted” and “non-restricted” to the list of definitions.
  - 3) Remove the word “Sponsorship” from the title “Definition of Sponsorship Terms.”
- Chair Lepke 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Mumpower will make the revisions to the policy and distribute to the committee for a final review and discussion next month and then submit to council.

## **10) Other Updates**

COVID awareness signs have been posted all over the park informing visitors that they are there at their own risk, and that amenities (tables and such) are not being sanitized at this time. This is on advice of Attorney Sistrunk. However, these signs are being demolished and thrown away. Ms. King suggested we use the existing message board for such notifications since it is a locked glass cabinet

Liaison Como informed the committee that the new A/V equipment which was approved last month has arrived. He also mentioned that everyone should have received postcards in the mail from the planner, Dr. Byers, regarding a community survey. Response rate has been very good. Liaison Como asked everyone to be sure all members and their families complete it as there are a lot of questions relating to Parks and Recreation.

## **Adjournment**

Mr. Todd motioned for adjournment, and Ms. Utley seconded the motion. The meeting ended at 7:53 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

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John Lepke, Chairperson

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Prepared by Amy Mumpower  
Administrative Assistant