

LEE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

COMMISSION MEETING

MONDAY FEBRUARY 27, 2012

MINUTES

The Lee County Parks and Recreation Commission met Monday, February 27, 2012, at 5:30 p.m. in the Commissioner's Room at the Lee County Government Center.

Members present were: Harry Stryffeler, Nicole Ingram, Poly Cohen, James Emerson, Ed Paschal, Butch Saunders, Chairman, and Ed Underwood.

Also present were: John Payne, Parks and Recreation Director, and Deborah Carroll, Secretary.

Absent board members were: Rhea Monti and Mark Kline

- I. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
Meeting called to order at 5:33pm by: Butch Saunders  
Motion approved by: Ed Underwood  
Seconded by: All

- II. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS  
None

- III. OLD BUSINESS
  - A. Buchanan Park Update  
Progress is being made at the park. Fifteen stumps have been removed from around the shelter and other areas have been worked and seeded. Mr. Payne is waiting on the General Services engineering tech to get a bid package together. He met with four Lowes employees and worked around areas where General Services didn't get finished through the week.  
The lighting contractor came out to work but ran into an issue where fencing installation may have damaged an underground wire. The fencing contractor will locate the wire and make repairs.  
The playground will be installed in about two weeks by the same group putting in playground equipment at San-Lee Park.  
Trees still need to be put in. The drive has been fixed. Some of the holes need to be filled and stone screen put down from all of the clean-up activity. Mr. Underwood

asked about stone screen versus ABC or crush and run stone. Mr. Payne explained how screen is better for maintenance purposes such as packing down and raking if it washes away. He said the same stone is used on the Kiwanis walking trails. Mr. Stryllefer questioned who owned the property on the backside of Buchanan Park. Mr. Payne said some was county property, but the cleanup expense from the tornado's damage would be very high. If cleanup was done, it would have to be done through volunteers having to hand-drag things out or getting heavy equipment in to get the damage out.

#### B. San-Lee Park Update

Playground equipment is going in, with a 16 foot slide being installed into the hillside. Mulch will be installed next and it will be ready for play. The swings are in and climber equipment is being installed. The area is taped off for security reasons and staff is keeping an eye out for anyone trying to pass through.

The boat dock order has been placed with NC Wildlife Resources Commission. Mr. Payne is unsure of arrival date. They are the same docks seen at Jordan Lake. The main dock is 8 feet wide and it will be more stable going out to the boats.

April 14<sup>th</sup> is the park festival. The playground will be ready and hope to have boat docks completed by then. Christian Provisions has been contacted to borrow some of their vans for shuttle runs every 10-15 minutes from CCCC.

Mr. Underwood inquired if the far end of upper pond brambles had been cleared.

Mr. Payne replied that some had, but needed permits and more money to go beyond 85 feet from the bank to finish the job. He said if a person was looking out from the dam area, they could see a deep channel had been dug on the right side of the point to clean out silt.

#### A. O.T. Sloan Park Update

The dive tank was replumbed and new pumps and returns put in. he said a very professional job was done. The company will come back to do a leak test on the swim tank because water continues to be lost. They will check the lines to be sure it is not in the plumbing, but in the seams. Mr. Payne said seams periodically have to be ground down and recaulked. Money will be budgeted for next year based on their recommendation for a leak. General Services will repair any leaks after the pool season.

Mr. Underwood questioned about the subsidized housing project going in beside the tennis courts, how the public will view Section 8 housing beside park property and if the property would be well maintained.

John Payne explained the county was given resources to purchase the land and the donor wanted the land used for recreation purposes. The builder of the project is using federally subsidized money for the building of 83 units of Section 8 housing for funding grants.

There was a discussion on Section 8 federally subsidized financing of the project.

Mr. Stryffeler explained that it is well maintained as a rule. He said after a 5 year period the property being close to the high school will be prime real estate. He used Hunter's Glen on Firetower Road as an example of well-maintained Section 8 financing that is now prime property.

Mr. Saunders said the first 5 years have strict rules on the property and it is federally inspected for 10 years. He said the only problem would be if it hindered our use of the county property.

Mr. Payne said when the athletic fields are built, our parking lot would butt up against the housing property.

Mr. Underwood wants specifications for usage put down on paper, such as access into the park, parking arrangements, field light usage, etc. Mr. Stryffeler said we could run into problems if the field light usage proposal is not put in for future plans, such as neighbors complaining of the lights' brightness.

John Payne said we have map showing where new fields, etc. are going. If they build there, homeowners would be well aware of what is in store. Butch Saunders stated that the map should be sufficient if property is built as it should contain our proposed plans within their building plans. Mr. Payne said he is putting money into the budget for a site master plan for Sloan. He wants a professional company to do it so they can research the project.

#### IV. NEW BUSINESS

##### A. Consider Fees and Charges

John Payne and Mark Kline met January 31<sup>st</sup> to go over fees and charges. John polled staff to talk with their workers and get feedback from them. He said some programs may have to be eliminated because of lack of participation and lack of funds for both Parks & Recreation and clients.

Ed Underwood said to examine the Red Cross chapter for efficiency if we are going to help them with people wanting to use the Kiwanis shelter to fund walks. Harry Stryffeler said clients needed to know that it costs the department to maintain parks for them to use for free.

Mr. Payne stated out of county program usage costs us when we give them discounted rates to the shelters. Mr. Stryffeler wants something in writing from General Services showing operating costs for parks being prepared for daily/weekly usage such as cutting grass, cleaning up and preparing for the next client. Mr. Payne said costs should show in the Munis system when work is done. He wants to gradually increase some fees in increments but doesn't want to go up too much because of client cost.

He talked of billing clients for time and materials for clean up if they left the park, shelter, etc. in a mess versus a non-refundable deposit if messed up.

Proposal is for out of county school groups to get shelter or room for \$25 at a reduced rate, and a \$3 increase on learn-to-swim program.

Mr. Stryffeler talked about the cost break effectiveness for parents that let their children participate in P&R sports versus private run sports. He talked of kids coming into high school that already knew the rules and how to be a good gymnast, wrestler or track participant.

John Payne said Steve Godfrey, San-Lee Park ranger, proposed that they increase the camping fees on the two extended stay RV sites. Many contractors come in to set up in the RV site during the off season, November through March, at a \$300 month rate, or \$10 per night. They don't have to have showers or rest rooms because campers are self-contained. Mr. Underwood questioned the electrical costs to the park for the RV units setting up for a couple of months at a time.

Harry Stryffeler wants a proposal of changes presented to the county manager and then presented to the Board of Commissioners. He made a motion for acceptance vote.

John Payne said fees increased \$5 for most programs across the board except for entry level ones. A few people and some volunteers can run the entry programs. Mr. Underwood said he didn't see where we had the data to substantiate the cost increase to the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Stryffeler withdrew the motion when no one would second it.

B. Consider Outside Group Facility Rental Policy

John Payne passed out a packet modeled after Wake Co. Parks & Recreation showing a \$25 non-refundable fee to book a facility with an example of Tramway Road Park fee.

Ed Underwood wanted to know if the fee covered the cost of electricity used?

Mr. Payne is trying to keep TRP neat and in good shape because of school usage and out of county groups wanting to run tournaments there.

If park fields are too wet, etc., we will refund money, but the client changing their minds when they want to play, no refund will be given.

He stated if we cancel, we will refund. If the client cancels, no refund.

Mr. Underwood said he went over Wake paper with written suggestions to clarify them. There was a general discussion with Harry Stryffeler, James Emerson, Butch Saunders, Nicole Ingram and John Payne on clarifying items.

Ed Underwood said to check liability issues with Dale Talbert or Mr. Hoyle, then gave his paperwork to Mrs. Carroll as he was leaving at 6:30pm.

C. Consider Code of Conduct Statement

John Payne showed a draft for parents/volunteers/coaches to sign as our expectations of conduct at schools when they sign up in any of our programs.

Mr. Stryffeler asked if the draft could be incorporated in the enrollment form along with waiver.

Mr. Payne wants to include it in pledge format along with the registration.

Harry Stryffeler made a motion to approve including the code of conduct as standard agreement with parent, coach and player pledge including it as part of the registration form.

Butch Saunders seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

C. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

None

D. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by: Harry Stryffeler

Seconded by: Nicole Ingram

Meeting adjourned at: 6:43pm



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Butch Saunders, Chairman  
Lee County Parks and Recreation Commission



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Deborah Carroll, Secretary