

Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting
November 15, 2023

Location: Parks & Recreation Office – 964 East St. Suite 100, Pittsboro, NC 27312

Attendees: Tracy Burnett, J. Stamey, Caitlin Murphy, Tammy Phillips, Anne Geer, Guadalupe Perez, Joy Hewett, Megan Lynch, James Fogleman, Will Sparrow, Andrew George

Welcome

- Tracy welcomes everyone.

Approve Minutes

- Megan called the meeting to order and asked everyone to look over the minutes.
- Anne motioned to approve minutes.
- Joy seconded the motion.

Parker's Ridge Park Update

- Tracy discussed the Parker's Ridge Park status, working on TIA and SUP.
- Modifications were made to the plans, therefore the cost of park has been reduced to about half of the original proposal.
- Changes to the roads have been made.
- Phase 1 includes an inclusive playground, pump track, maintenance shed, trail around the pond area, open lawn, temporary dog park if there is room.
- There is a plan for a second entrance.
- Breaking ground should start in late 2024.
- Community wanted open space for events, this park will have open space.
- Inclusive playground is one of the highlights of this park, it will be the first built by Chatham County Parks and Recreation.

CIP Request

- James went in front of the BOC and presented the Recreation Advisory committee accomplishments for the year.
- James and Joy talked about how priority of the BOC is conserving land in Chatham County.
- Joy talked about the loss of the agricultural lands on the Reeves Farm across from the Ag Center because developers purchased it. It was an example of the need to put aside money to protect natural resources and farm lands.
- Guadalupe talked about Wolfsped's involvement in Siler City schools.
- J. said we put in for 9 CIP improvement projects. 8 of them are future projects.
- Restrooms at access points have been approved.
- Ben has been working hard on laying the groundwork, so we have the proper steps to go through for implementing the projects.

- All these projects are going on simultaneously.
- 15-501 Access Point restroom is to serve the Lower Haw River area.
- Anne would like to have a bond for Chatham County Parks & Recreation.
 - Guadalupe agrees.
- Town and Cities are a lot different than Counties.
- James believes with all the growth coming, Chatham County is going to change a lot.

Haw River Feasibility Study Update

- On November 20th Ben will present the final report of the Haw River Feasibility Study at the BOC work session.

Trails and Open Space Updates

- Easement acquisition subcommittee that is looking for ways to reach out to landowners.
- The Haw River Safety Collaboration is to get some signage for bridges over the river. Working with NCDOT to get quotes for these signs.
- Deep River State Trails: Working with TLC on canoe launch. Getting more land to make this access point more beneficial to the community. Ben applied for a grant, but we did not receive the grant for this.
- Chatham County Trails: Northeast Park and BC Park, working on design for a trail within both parks. Haw River Assembly is funding the trail at Northeast Park.
 - This trail will be back in the woods behind the soccer field.
 - A new disc golf course at Northeast Park is being implemented by a group of volunteers.
 - Andrew talked a lot about disc golf courses and the process for that and Geoge Pauly's passion for disc golf.
- Tracy talked about the volunteer work group for Trail Crew Leaders. They will go through training to help build many of the trails we are working on.

NC Connect Bynum Mill Project Update

- Heard from the state and they said the bids will be going out between December and January.
- Canoe launch and restroom will be built here.
- The road connector that we have been fighting for was not included in the final plans.
 - Open to discussion in the future.
- Joy is interested in permeable parking.
 - Anne explained this is a state park project. The county does not have any control over these plans.

Grants to Organization Timeframe and Matrix

- There could be an opportunity to up the process by a month. Possibly get the process started in February instead of March.
- Franklin talked about increasing the line that we give out funds to.

- It was discussed that historically the matrix score system has been used as data points to determine award amounts.
- Historically the process has funded some degree of the needed applicants.
- Joy would like the questions on the matrix to match the input from the groups.
 - We will investigate this and see what can be done to fix this (Fondant).
- Anne suggested we get more non-profits to apply, especially if we get more funds allocated.

Others

- Tracy would like to thank Andrew George for all their volunteer work they are doing with the disc golf course at Northeast Park.
- J. is very grateful they do such a good job and clean up after themselves.
- James said the presentation to the BOC went well.
- We have a new arts position and park tech position that are starting in January.
- James says we need more money for Parks & Rec.
- Megan and Anne would like us to start talking about a recreation bond.
- Can we utilize companies like Wolfsped to get funds?

Adjourn

- Megan motioned to adjourn the meeting.
- James seconded the motion.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:09pm.