

**TOWN OF WEDDINGTON
SPECIAL PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 2011 – 6:00 P.M.
MINUTES**

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board of the Town of Weddington, North Carolina, met in a Special Session in the Town Hall Council Chambers, 1924 Weddington Road, Weddington, NC 28104 on Monday, August 29, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. with Chairman Stephanie Belcher presiding.

Present: Chairman Stephanie Belcher, Vice-Chairman Scott Buzzard, Barbara Harrison, Jeff Perryman and Town Administrator/Clerk Amy McCollum

Absent: Robert Gilmartin, Mike Lee and Sharon Sanders

Visitors: Jerry McKee, Walker Davidson and Pam Hadley

Item No. 1. Open the Meeting. Chairman Stephanie Belcher called the August 29, 2011 Special Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Item No. 2. Determination of Quorum. There was a quorum.

Item No. 3. Consideration of Approval of the June 6, 2011 Special Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes. Mr. Jeff Perryman moved to approve the June 6, 2011 Special Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting minutes. Ms. Barbara Harrison seconded the motion, with votes recorded as follows:

AYES: Perryman, Harrison and Vice-Chairman Buzzard
NAYS: None

Item No. 4. Review and Discussion of Town Hall Landscaping Plan/Community Pavilion and Stage. Councilmember Jerry McKee advised the Board that at the retreat the Council requested that the Town hire a landscape architect to come up with a plan for what to do with the back portion of the Town Hall property. Mr. McKee reviewed the following wish list for the facility and statistics for the area and then explained the plan in detail:

- Open area for large events
- Areas for small events
- Safety and privacy
- Park like atmosphere
- Town Hall needs
- Handicap accessibility
- Preserve existing drainage and berm

Statistics:

9,000 Sq. Feet Open Area/25 Square Feet = 360 People
9,000 Sq. Feet Open Area/16 Square Feet = 560 People
25 Additional Spaces Along Access Road
6 Additional Spaces at Pavilion
Pavilion = 1,200 square feet
Porch = 600 square feet

Stage = 22 ft. x 26 feet

Items discussed:

- The magnolia tree and garage would come down if plan is constructed.
- Landscaping plan calls for mature plantings.
- Street lights around perimeter of the access road are shown on the plan with low voltage lighting around garden area. It was advised that any lighting would have to conform to the Town's Lighting Ordinance.
- Chairman Belcher was concerned if there was enough lighting for a night event and that additional lighting may be needed on the Weddington-Matthews Road side of the property.
- Chairman Belcher questioned whether a new flag pole was included in the plan. Mr. McKee advised that it was not.
- Vice-Chairman Buzzard discussed the new "Events Park" opened by Indian Trail that sits on about one acre. Indian Trail is approximately three times larger in population. He advised that Indian Trail was able to partner with the local businesses in building their facility with very little cost to them.
- Matthews Stumptown Park is about 1 ½ acres.
- Chairman Belcher questioned whether the Town would allow some type of artwork to be displayed if an individual donated it. Mr. McKee advised that would be a Council decision.
- The proposed area could accommodate every event the Town currently holds except Weddstock.
- Members questioned if there was an estimate of the cost of the project. Mr. McKee advised that he is still working on getting estimates for the project.
- Members wanted the area to have speakers for amplification due to complaints in the past about not being able to hear at events.
- Possibly revisit applying for parks grant for this project.
- Individuals discussed that the possible open space near the proposed water tower may be an area to study in the future for a park opportunity.
- Downtown Core Committee approved the concept.

Board members felt that this area would be used by the public and would be a great addition.

Item No. 5. Christmas Tree Planting Update. Mr. McKee advised that two trees have been budgeted to be planted at the Town Hall. Chairman Belcher recommended having some type of lighting around the tree to avoid people tripping on the guide wires as they did at the last Tree Lighting event. Board members also discussed installing underground wiring to avoid the use of drop cords.

Item No. 6. Review of Weddstock Event held August 20, 2011. Chairman Belcher advised that it was estimated that 4,000 people attended Weddstock. The Weddstock Committee will be making a formal presentation to the Town Council at their meeting on September 12. There have been numerous positive comments regarding the event.

Item No. 7. Update on Meet and Greet with Local Schools, Churches and Other Organizations. Chairman Belcher advised that she has met with a couple of organizations since the last meeting and will forward her notes to the Board. The organizations want to be better connected to the Town and have expressed an interest in a community page on the Town's website.

Item No. 8. Discussion and Consideration of Farmers Market Concept – Vice-Chairman Scott Buzzard. Vice-Chairman Buzzard informed the Board that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Downtown Core Committee and Planning Board have all talked about the Farmers' Market concept. He stated, "There have been discussions that the Farmers' Market could possibly be located on the Town's property. My neighbor is a master gardener and could possibly share some advice on how to get started.

There are resources out there. Does Parks and Recreation want to handle this? Is the Town going to be the organizing facility and where would it be located?"

Ms. Harrison mentioned that a Farmers' Market is a commercial type of environment. Chairman Belcher advised that the Weddington Corners Shopping Center was interested in helping with this concept.

Mr. Perryman moved for the Parks Board to research this concept and to have presenters available at the next meeting to discuss different options so that the Board can pass on recommendations to the Town Council. Ms. Harrison seconded the motion, with votes recorded as follows:

AYES:	Perryman, Harrison and Vice-Chairman Buzzard
NAYS:	None

The Board asked that the following individuals be invited to the next meeting: Scott Buzzard's neighbor, Steve McLeod with the Weddington Corners Shopping Center and individuals from the Towns of Matthews and Waxhaw to discuss their Farmers' Markets. Ms. McCollum will also provide information from other government agencies that was given to the Planning Board at their meeting.

Committee members requested that the November Meeting be moved from November 28 to November 15.

Item No. 9. Review and Consideration of Developing Rules for Sponsoring Town Events. Ms. Harrison will have a draft available at the next meeting.

Item No. 10. Schedule Future Dates for Town Activities and Assign Committee Members to Those Projects. The Board decided upon the following dates for future activities:

- Fall Litter Sweep to be held October 1 and Ms. Harrison will organize this event along with staff.
- Tree Lighting to be held December 2 with December 3 as the rain date – Chairman Belcher will organize this event along with staff.
- Easter Egg Hunt will be held March 31, 2012.

Item No. 11. Discussion of Community Page on Town Website. Board members requested that a Community Page be developed on the Town's website announcing Town events such as football schedules, fundraisers, etc. Mr. Perryman advised that he would write articles to go on the community page if he was provided with bullet points for the items.

Item No. 12. Update on Event Planning Meeting Attended by Vice-Chairman Scott Buzzard. Vice-Chairman Buzzard gave an update from an event planning meeting he attended with other local municipalities in the area. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss each municipality's event calendars for the rest of the year to try to be proactive to make sure that events are not scheduled at the same time and to make sure that we are not competing against other events. He advised that a lot of towns stage their events to bring people into their businesses and downtown areas. He also mentioned that other towns partner with the local organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce and businesses to help defray some of the costs. Wesley Chapel and Weddington were the only towns present at the meeting that do not have a dedicated staff for events.

Members discussed setting dates for events earlier so that vendors have the ability to participate. Ms. Harrison will call and ask the Union County Chamber of Commerce to attend the next meeting to discuss Town events and how to work together.

Mr. Buzzard advised that the group plans to have bi-yearly meetings to discuss calendars and events with the local municipalities.

Item No. 13. Discussion of Public Relations for Town Events. Board members discussed how to increase public relations for Town events in the future. Chairman Belcher discussed her concern that the Enquirer-Journal did not cover Weddstock in their paper. Town Administrator McCollum advised that she will develop a contact list for the local papers and news stations to be able to be used for future events.

Item No. 14. Adjournment. Mr. Perryman moved to adjourn the August 29, 2011 Special Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting. Mr. Buzzard seconded the motion, with votes recorded as follows:

AYES: Perryman, Harrison and Vice-Chairman Buzzard
NAYS: None

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Stephanie Belcher, Chairman

Attest:

Amy S. McCollum, Town Clerk