



**Parks and Greenways Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2024 – 9:30 a.m.**

Chair Gary Anderson called to order the Regular Parks and Greenways Board Meeting at 9:32 a.m. on March 12, 2024.

The following attended in person at Town Hall, 441 White Pine Drive, Laurel Park NC 28739:

- Chair Gary Anderson
- Vice Chair Judy Lyons
- Secretary Terry Pierce
- Denise Layfield
- John McGregor
- Todd Plessel
- Joseph Robustelli
- Commissioner George Banta - Council Representative
- Town Manager Alex Carmichael
- Town Clerk Tamara Amin
- Parks Operation Coordinator Bryan Hensley
- Commissioner Paul Hansen

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Anderson asked if there were any public comments; there were none.

Mr. Todd Plessel joined the meeting at 9:32 a.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Anderson asked to add Historical Markers and Discussion of Bird Sanctuary Sign to the agenda under new business. As well as Discussion of Laurel Green and Bee Sign under old business. The amended agenda was unanimously approved on motion by Ms. Layfield and seconded by Vice Chair Lyons. Chair Anderson asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Anderson said in the February 13, 2024, minutes he would like to clarify that he was in agreement with some but not all of the points that were made during a resident meeting and would like the sentence removed. The February 13, 2024, amended minutes were unanimously approved on motion by Mr. Robustelli and seconded by Ms. Layfield. Chair Anderson asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

The February 22, 2024, minutes were unanimously approved on motion by Mr. Robustelli and seconded by Secretary Pierce. Chair Anderson asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

BUDGET REPORT

Town Manager Carmichael said the budget report was tentative because the paver project has not been paid out. The Board currently has \$4,419.09 left. The Board spent \$14,880.91. Commissioner Banta said Council has on their agenda to approve moving money from the Public Works Department to the Parks Department to cover the cost of the whole paver project.

The Board approved up to \$3,000 to pay for the project which will also be used. Town Manager Carmichael said the contract has been approved tentatively and they will start this week. After that project is completed, cleanup is the last piece before opening the park.

OLD BUSINESS

LAUREL GREEN

Ms. Layfield said Mr. Gaylord has completed his work but will continue to monitor the playground. The catch basin just needs to be installed after the pavers are in and sand. The Stucco has fallen off and is not a structural issue and Mr. Gaylord will get a cost for that. Ms. Layfield says this work should last another 25 to 30 years.

BEE SIGN

Mr. Robustelli said the Bee Committee had concerns about the signs being too small and being visible from the road. The Committee was considering putting them in the park. Ms. Layfield said she would like the bee signs to be more educational if they were going to be in the park. Ms. Layfield said all the signs in Town need to be consistent and the Town needs to figure out the best size.

Chair Anderson said the 12x12 size looks good but would like it to be bolder. Co-Chair Lyons agreed that the sign was not too small. Secretary Pierce agreed that the City of Hendersonville signs could be considered cluttered.

The Board recommended trying one sign at Town Hall of the appropriate size.

Town Clerk Amin reminded the Board that the Council would like the Tree City signs reduced as well.

Mr. Robustelli said the "Queen of Sun," will be shown on April 18 at 6:30 at Flat Rock Cinema and have about 32 people signed up.

Town Manager Carmichael said the two signs for Laurel Green are ready to be installed.

NEW BUSINESS

HISTORICAL MARKERS

Commissioner Hansen said markers 20 and 21 are complete. There are 3 more left for next year. Commissioner Hansen presented the 2 historical markers.

- a. Pavilion Marker - The aforesaid marker is attached to, and made part of, these minutes as Appendix 1.
- b. Davis Station Marker - The aforesaid marker is attached to, and made part of, these minutes as Appendix 2.

Commissioner Hansen said Summit Marketing has a better picture for the Pavilion Marker. This marker would be placed where the parking is down at Lake Drive.

The Davis Station Marker will be placed in the parking lot of the wine market.

The Board agreed that both markers looked great.

Commissioner Hansen would like to wait to install the markers until after the Ecusta Trail is finished. He said he will come back to the board to approve the next three markers. He would also like to go back to the original smaller signs.

Ms. Layfield motioned to approve the two markers apart from the picture change, seconded by Vice Chair Lyons. Chair Anderson asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

ARBOR DAY/EARTH DAY

Vice Chair Lyons said she recommends screening the lot at Canal Park to delineate the Towns property with Robin Red Hollies. They are about \$115-\$185 at Raymonds. Her next recommendation is getting American Arborvitae which are about \$150. She also recommended mixing different breeds for variety and form. The budget is \$500.

Ms. Layfield said she would contact Ms. Trisha King to find them cheaper.

Parks Operation Coordinator Bryan Hensley recommended moving the bush at Lakemoor to Canal Park and buying something else to put in Laurel Green. Vice Chair Lyons suggested providing and buying for Canal Park and moving things later if they can add to what the Board buys. Vice Chair Lyons said Arbor Day is April 26 and she would like to do an Arbor Day Celebration on April 27 at 10 a.m.

Ms. Layfield said she will talk to Mr. Carol Beddingfield to see if he has any plants. Ms. Layfield motioned to give Vice Chair Lyons the authority to purchase up to \$500 in plants for the Arbor Day Celebration seconded by Mr. Robustelli. Chair Anderson asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

JUMP OFF ROCK HIKING TRAILS

Chair Anderson said the red, blue, and yellow trails at Jump Off Rock need some maintenance. The red trail needs the entire staircase to be replaced and this needs to be addressed quickly. The Board thinks staff and board members can get this done. Chair Anderson asked Mr. Plessel to see what materials are needed and to bring the list to the next meeting.

PARK TECHNICIAN'S REPORT

Mr. Hensley said the Leader from the Park Institute, Mr. Michael Moore, and the Park Superintendent of Chimney Rock, Mr. James Ledgerwood, will have 20- 30 volunteers helping on March 27 from 9 to lunchtime. They will help plant wildflower seeds in Laurel Green and help build a bridge through Canal Park.

Mr. Hensley asked the Board to figure out what to do with the two Dwarf Spruces by the Town Hall Sign. The Board thinks they should be removed since they are already dead.

Mr. Robustelli presented the Board with the Earth Day Clean Up signs. The Board recommended adding the word roadside to the sign. He will ask the Bee City Committee for support and possibly a Boy Scout Troop.

BOARD AND COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Banta said Council is in the budget process and so far, there are no problems with the Parks and Greenways budget requested for FY24/25.

BIRD SANCTUARY SIGN

Chair Anderson said at the Centennial Committee meeting Ms. Lutrelle O'Cain mentioned years ago a sign that said Laurel Park was a Bird Sanctuary. She would like to reinstate that sign. Chair Anderson said he will contact Mr. Mike Erwin and the Audubon Society.

Commissioner Hansen recommended clustering all these signs in one place rather than spreading them all over Town because it won't have the same effect of entering a Greenspace.


The Board asked Commissioners to find out about 12x18 and 18x18 signs from Council.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Anderson said the March Site Meeting will be on March 28. Vice Chair Lyons moved to cancel the Site Meeting, seconded by Secretary Pierce. Chair Anderson asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

There being no further business, Chair Anderson adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m. on motion by Mr. Robustelli and seconded by Secretary Pierce. Chair Anderson asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

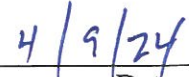
ATTEST:



Tamara Amin, CMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk

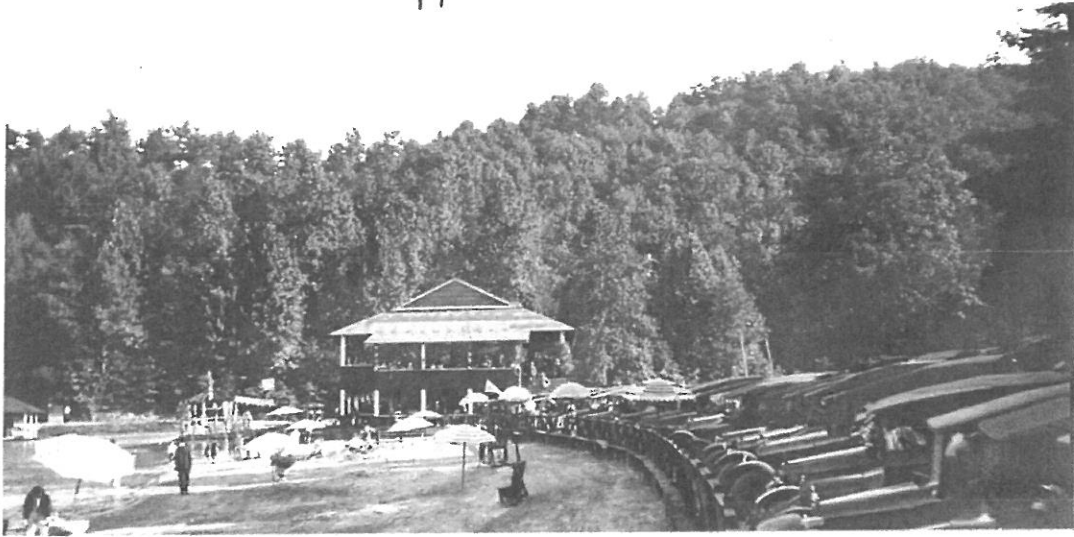


Gary Anderson, Chair



Date

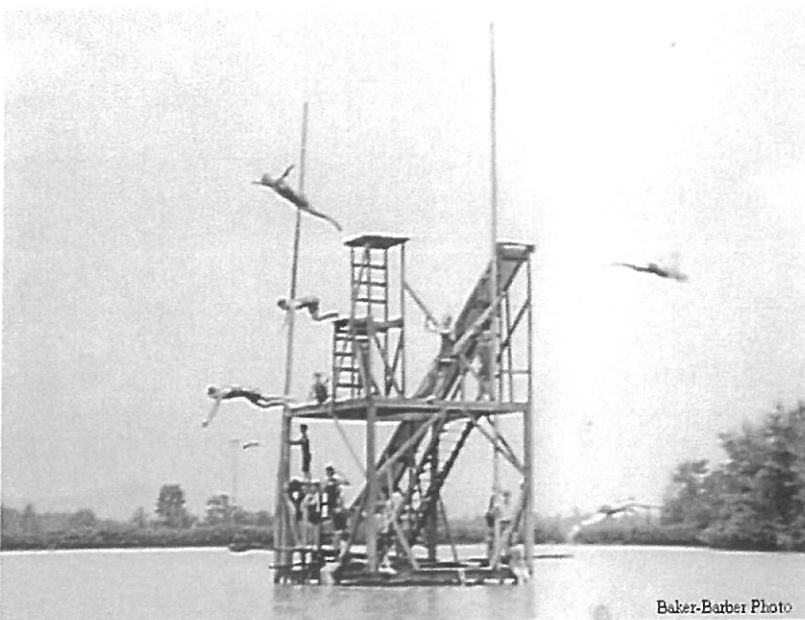
Appendix I



The Pavilion at Rhododendron Lake
(Casino II)

In 1921, soon after the fire that destroyed the Casino at Rainbow Lake, W.A. Smith built a two story entertainment facility on the shores of the 10-acre Rhododendron Lake.

The ground floor consisted of the “Tea Room” and “dressing rooms for bathing purposes”. The second floor was a 5,500 sq.ft. dance floor which was reportedly “the second largest of its kind in the South.” Throughout the summer months, large groups of visitors and local residents danced to J.L. Livingston’s Orchestra and other renowned big bands.



Rhododendron Lake had a 20 foot tall slide and diving platform that heightened the enjoyment of a summer swim. Canoes were also available for excursions to the distant shores.

(115 Words)



Davis Station
W.A. Drake's Store

In 1897, The Brevard Railroad and Telegraph Company obtained a right of way to lay tracks from Hendersonville to Toxaway. A platform and stop called "Davis Station" stood at this site serving Laurel Park until automobiles negated its need. In 1926, W.A. Drake purchased a lot at the corner of Guice Street and Shaws Creek Road (now Daniel Drive and Highway 64). He operated a country store offering dry and canned goods, meats, local produce and Standard Oil of New Jersey gasoline. A pot-bellied stove and chairs at the rear of the store provided a warm, welcome social space. In 1971, the store was sold and converted to sell antiques and again was sold in 1994 and replaced by an Energy Mart Convenience store. Rail operations ceased in 2000, converting to the Ecusta Trail in 2024.

(136 Words)