



**Parks and Greenways Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2024 – 9:30 a.m.**

Chair Gary Anderson called to order the Regular Parks and Greenways Board Meeting at 9:30 a.m. on May 14, 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
- Joseph Robustelli
- Denise Layfield
- John McGregor
- Todd Plessel
- Town Manager Alex Carmichael
- Town Clerk Tamara Amin
- Parks Operation Coordinator Bryan Hensley
- Zoning Administrator Cara Reeves
- Commissioner Paul Hansen
- Applicant Chris Nevel

The following attended via ZOOM platform:

- Interim Zoning Administrator Kaitland Finkle

Absent:

- Commissioner George Banta - Council Representative

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Town Clerk Amin added Historical Markers to the agenda under Old Business Item A. Chair Anderson added Goals Overview to the agenda. The amended agenda was unanimously approved on motion by Vice Chair Lyons and seconded by Mr. Robustelli. Chair Anderson asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The April 9, 2024 minutes were unanimously approved on motion by Secretary Pierce and seconded by Ms. Layfield. The April 25, 2024, minutes were unanimously approved on motion by Mr. Robustelli and seconded by Mr. McGregor. Chair Anderson asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

BUDGET REPORT

Town Manager Carmichael introduced Ms. Cara Reeves as the Zoning Administrator and Assistant to the Town Manager.

Town Manager Carmichael said there is no physical report but the money in the Parks and Greenways budget has all been spent but there was an item that needed to be fixed. Once the budget item is fixed Mr. Carmichael will send out an updated budget.

Mr. Plessel joined the meeting at 9:33 a.m.

Chair Anderson asked Staff if the budget for the Parks and Greenways in the new fiscal year was approved. Town Manager Carmichael said he will get approval in June from Council.

OLD BUSINESS

HISTORICAL MARKERS

Commissioner Hansen presented the Board with the new historical markers.

- a. Historical Markers - The aforesaid historical markers are attached to, and made part of, these minutes as Appendix 1.

Commissioner Hansen said he needs to work on the picture in the pavilion marker, removing the umbrellas in the pavilion picture out of the lake and having a less modern building in the picture.

Secretary Pierce said to remove the space before Rhododendron in the last paragraph.

Mr. Nevel joined the meeting at 9:37 a.m.

The Board discussed the last paragraph and asked to find a picture of the diving platform.

The Board then discussed the Davis Station marker. Chair Anderson recommended adding a railroad track in the background.

Chair Anderson said he was working on a scavenger hunt for the Centennial and asked how many total historical markers there would be by then. Commissioner Hansen said there should be twenty-four in total by the Centennial.

ADOPT a GARDEN

Chair Anderson said Mr. Ed Mattern would like the Board to update the Adopt a Garden list. Mr. Anderson said he would update it and present it to the board next month.

Chair Anderson asked about replacing the Laurel Park Welcome sign. Commissioner Hansen said he would discuss this with Council on Thursday.

Chair Anderson said he would like to add the adopt a garden program to their goals list for next year.

Mr. Hensley joined the meeting at 9:53 a.m.

Chair Anderson would like to add the two triangles for the two parks and assign two couples to maintain them.

Mr. McGregor suggested replacing current plants with self-maintained plants.

Chair Anderson asked Town Clerk Amin to send out goals list to everyone for the next meeting.

LITTLE LAUREL GREEN

Town Clerk Amin reminded the board of the re-opening of Laurel Green celebration on Monday, May 20 at 10:30 a.m.

Town Manager Carmichael said Mr. Philip Ellis will lead a tour. Mr. Carmichael said there will be five trees that will be replaced plus buckeyes in August.

The Board asked about a sewer update. Town Manager Carmichael said Lakemoor is heading that. The City of Hendersonville has approved it but they are waiting on State permits.

The Board asked about the maintenance of the park. Town Manager Carmichael said there is a maintenance and operation plan that is twenty pages long.

EARTH DAY UPDATE

Mr. Robustelli said there were eight volunteers that were mostly Bee City members that helped with the cleanup. Mr. Robustelli recommended having a yearly cleanup on Earth Day.

NEW BUSINESS

SITE PLAN REVIEW- 91 RANISER DRIVE

Zoning Administrator Cara Reves said Mr. Chris Nevel (owner) is proposing to build a single-family detached dwelling located at 91 Ransier Drive. The parcel is identified on the Henderson

County Geographic Information System (GIS) as property identification number (PIN 9558857732). This property is in the R-20 zoning district. The estimated acreage is .78 acre, and the slope of the property is estimated at 17% which is considered a steep slope.

The Laurel Park Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) section 2.6.3: Dimensional Standards for the R-20 zone indicates that lots with steep slopes (15% to 25%) require a minimum street setback of 35 feet. The side setback is 25 feet, and the rear setback is also 25 feet.

The applicant has consulted with Tricia King (TTK Design) and ALPHA Environmental Engineering Services who conducted a predevelopment investigation. The predevelopment investigation suggests that the site is suitable for development and that dispersal of stormwater runoff is viable for this lot. This report has been reviewed and approved by the Town Engineer.

The Parks and Greenways Map suggests a concept trail along Panorama Drive.

The existing Land Use Map designates this area as vacant land.

Secretary Pierce asked about what a concept trail was. Town Manager Carmichael said it was land that hasn't been acquired.

Mr. Todd Plessel left the meeting unexcused at 10:26 a.m.

Mr. Nevel said there are five trees noted to be removed. They have cleared some except the driveway.

Ms. Layfield asked about the list they asked for from Kaitland that resembled the Hendersonville Tree Board PDF on recommended plantings. She said Kaitland started updating it to make sure all the plantings worked with Laurel Park topography. Zoning Administrator Reeves said she will look into it.

PARK TECHNICIAN'S REPORT

Mr. Hensley said he is working on Laurel Green and Jump Off Rock. He is getting help from Public Works to finish up Laurel Green before the celebration. Mr. Hensley asked the Board for help with the plants around the gazebo. He was not sure what stays and what goes. Board members said they will look at them before Monday.

Mr. Hensley asked if there were recommendations for plants to put by the Laurel Green sign near the children's park.

INVASIVES SPECIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. McGregor said there were 8 people that attended the May 11th Workday. Mr. McGregor said the Mr. Todd Gizzi has started his work around Town but there is still one position open to take the place of Mr. Coffee.

BOARD AND COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

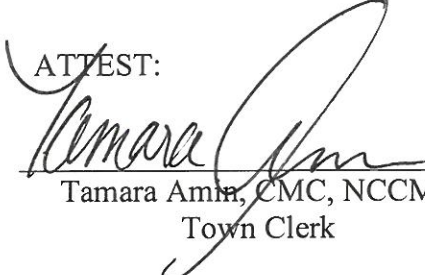
Commissioner Hansen asked the Board to put the Rhododendron wetlands area on their goals list and try to restore it from the sawdust after a neighbor cut down trees.

Town Manager Carmichael said there will be a Stormwater presentation at the Town Council's Work Session meeting on Thursday at 9:30 a.m. if anyone would like to attend.


ADJOURNMENT

Chair Anderson said the May Site Meeting will be on May 23, 2024. Chair Anderson said he will not be able to attend the Site meeting or the July and August Meetings. Vice Chair Lyons moved to meet at Rhododendron Lake Nature Park to look at the wetlands area and adopt a garden areas, seconded by Chair Anderson. Chair Anderson asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

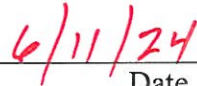
There being no further business, Chair Anderson adjourned the meeting at 10:49 a.m. on motion by Secretary Pierce and seconded by Ms. Denise Layfield. Chair Anderson asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

ATTEST:


Tamara Amin, CMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk

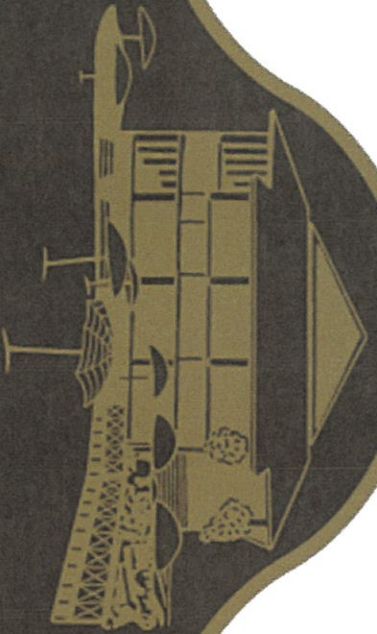


Gary Anderson, Chair



Date

Space



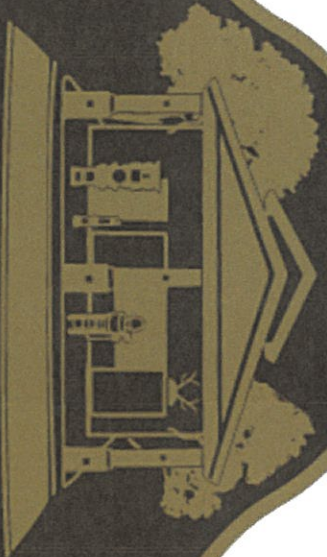
THE PAVILION AT RHODODENDRON LAKE

In 1921, soon after a fire that destroyed the Casino at Rainbow Lake, Laurel Park Estates started building a new 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" with direct access to the lake beach. The second floor was a 5,500 sq.ft. dance floor which was reportedly the second largest of its kind in the South. Large groups of visitors and local residents danced to J.L. Livingston's Orchestra and other renowned big bands throughout the summer months.

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

of the era



DAVIS STATION W.A. DRAKE'S STORE

In 1897, The Brevard Railroad and Telegraph Company obtained a right of way to lay tracks from Hendersoville 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 was again sold in 1994 and replaced by an Energy Mart convenience store. Rail operations ceased in 2000, converting to the Ecusta Trail in 2024.