



**Parks and Greenways Board  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
August 13, 2024 – 9:30 a.m.**

Vice Chair Judy Lyons called to order the Regular Parks and Greenways Board Meeting at 9:32 a.m. on August 13, 2024.

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

- Vice Chair Judy Lyons
- Secretary Terry Pierce
- John McGregor
- Denise Layfield
- Joseph Robustelli
- Commissioner George Banta - Council Representative
- Zoning Administrator Cara Reeves
- Parks Operation Coordinator Bryan Hensley

The following were absent:

- Gary Anderson
- Todd Plessel

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Vice Chair Lyons asked if there were any public comments; there were none.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda was unanimously approved on motion by Ms. Layfield and seconded by Secretary Pierce. Vice Chair Lyons asked for discussion. Mr. Mike Erwin, FOLP was added to the agenda under New Business.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Vice Chair Lyons asked for discussion on July 9, 2024, Minutes. Mr. Robustelli pointed out three typos. Under Old Business 2024-2025 Goals list, second line on page 3, change *my* to *by*. Under New Business, Wetlands History...fourth line change *grog* to *frog*. Under Park Technician's Report, second line on page 4, change *tree* to *three*. Mr. Robustelli made a motion to approve the minutes and seconded by Ms. Layfield. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

## **BUDGET REPORT**

Receipt for +/- \$92.00 for two banners was previously submitted to Town Hall by Bee Committee Member Pat LaSalle. This expense is to come out of Bee Committee funds FY24.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Adopt a Garden Updated List**

This was tabled due to Chair Anderson's absence. Discussion on status of volunteers and question about ownership of the Rowland and Sunny Ridge Pocket Park.

### **2024-2025 Goals List**

Vice Chair Lyons stated the goals had been reviewed at the past three meetings. She added the goals appear reasonable with some unappropriated funds available for possible needs.

Ms. Layfield suggested we add the following to Goal #3:

Future consideration of the restoration of the low area (rather than "Wetlands") in Rhododendron Lake Park. Commissioner Banta pointed out it is not officially a "wetland".

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Bird Sanctuary Sign**

Mr. Erwin asked the Board to endorse the idea of posting two signs recognizing LP as a "Bird Sanctuary". After some discussion the proposal was amended. Motion by Ms. Layfield to approve the proposal; seconded by Secretary Pierce. Unanimously approved as the following:

#### ***Proposal for Bird Sanctuary Signs for Laurel Park***

*The Parks and Greenways Committee endorses the idea of posting two new signs announcing that Laurel Park is recognized as a "Bird Sanctuary." A number of decades ago, there was such a sign at the entrance to the community, according to Lutrelle O'Cain. The Committee suggests that two signs be ordered, size and locations to be determined. Bird Sanctuary designation only specifies that residents do not shoot, capture, or harm birds, and do not possess any bird parts without a federal permit.*

*The Committee suggests the script state "Laurel Park is a Bird Sanctuary" in bold font and that adding a small image of a blue bird or cardinal would be effective. The Wild Birds Unlimited retail store has already offered to handle the design and order of such signs subject to the approval of the Parks and Greenways Board and the Town Council.*

Mr. Erwin will present this proposal to the Town Council on August 20, 2024. Mr. Erwin left the meeting at 10:02 am.

**b. “No riding of bikes in park’ sign.**

Tabled until the completion of the Laurel Park section of the Ecusta Trail. Parks Operation Coordinator Hensley added there are many bike riders in Rhododendron Lake Park as well.

**c. Preliminary Site Plan Review – 273 Ransier Drive -no concerns**

**d. Minor Subdivision 1 lot into 2 – 2519 Davis Mountain Road – no concerns**

**e. Minor Subdivision 2 lots into 4 – Prior Preserve- no documentation to review**

**PARKS OPERATIONS COORDINATOR REPORT**

Mr. Hensley is working on the grass and walking path in RLP. Much clean-up after the recent rains. No evident algae in the lake/pond. He is copious amounts of time putting the sand back into the LG play tower as children are removing the sand. The sand will build up along the grass and prevent water from exiting as planned. Ms. Layfield said she would work on the problem.

**INVASIVES SPECIES COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. McGregor reported that the committee is working on a priority plan for future needs/urgency and to give direction to those removing invasive species. They continue to look for a person to assist Todd. Mr. McGregor noted there is an invasive species of plant (Naked Stem Dewflower) growing in the LG stream bank. He asked to check the official plant list to determine if this was purposely planted or a volunteer. This plant needs to be monitored.

**CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE REPORT**

No report

**BOARD AND COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Mr. Banta reported that 2.5 miles of the Ecusta Trail are paved. All bridges are in place. Predicts six miles will be paved by the end of 2024.

Mr. Hensley repeated his concern about the Ecusta construction silt fence not being maintained and poor-quality black material/soil washing into the stream in July. This resulted in the rocks and creek floor being covered in a black substance. Mr. Hensley took photos and a video of the damage. It was noted that Henderson County is responsible for monitoring construction silt fences. The black sediment remains in the grassy areas.

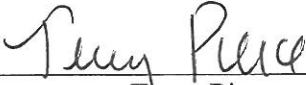
Ms. Layfield asked about the large drainage culvert dumping into the stream at LG. Gravel and soil are falling from around the culvert into the stream when it rains. Commissioner Banta will bring up both concerns at the August 15, 2024, Council Work Session.

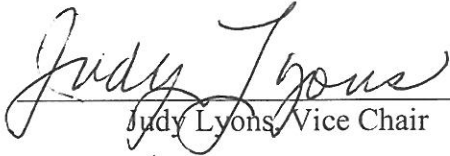
**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Robustelli motioned to cancel the Site Meeting on August 22, seconded by Secretary Pierce Vice Chair Lyons asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

There being no further business, Vice Chair Lyons adjourned the meeting at 10:33 a.m. on motion by Ms. Layfield and seconded by Secretary Pierce. Vice Chair Lyons asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Terry Pierce  
Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Judy Lyons, Vice Chair  
9/10/24  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date