LEE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, May 29, 2012

MINUTES

The Lee County Parks and Recreation Commission met Tuesday, May 29, 2012, at 5:30 p.m. in the Commissioner's Room at the Lee County Government Center.

Members present were: Ed Underwood, Councilman Poly Cohen, Chairman Butch Saunders, Nicole Ingram, James Emerson and Harry Stryffeler

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Also present were John Payne, Parks and Recreation Director and Deborah Carroll, Secretary

Absent members were: Commissioner Ed Paschal, Jamie Norton and Rhea Monti

I. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm and motion for approval by:
Butch Saunders
Seconded by: Harry Stryffeler
All in favor

II. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Talbert, Lee County's attorney, was to be at this meeting but had another meeting in Raleigh.
Mr. Paschal's wife has been returned to the hospital after heart surgery. He communicated with John Payne relaying his absence for tonight's meeting.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Buchanan Park

The contractor was not at Buchanan today because of Tropical Storm Beryl passing over North Carolina during the daytime and nighttime hours. He was to dig holes for the footings and did not want them filling up with water with the predicted heavy rains.

Since the last meeting 16 trees have been planted by a volunteer and Mr. Payne with irrigation bags for the trees called "Tree Gators" purchased to keep the trees moist. The bags need to be refilled once a week and hold about 20 gallons of water each. Once the trees are established, the bags can be unzipped and reused for another project.
The rest room building still needs to be put in, and a new Park Open sign put up with old Closed sign taken down. When this is near completion, John plans to have a ribbon cutting or dedication ceremony with Lowes representatives and volunteers there to be recognized for all of their help. A recent article and picture about Buchanan was in the Sanford Herald and helped relay that the park was nearing a completion date.
The team locker room facility at Southern Lee that will be built and was approved by the LCPRC board last June has been put on the Lee Co. Board of Commissioners agenda for their review. The original plan was for a two story building to be built but that called for an elevator so it was changed to reduce cost to an 1800 square foot one story that will be built on Park property. Mr. Payne said it may have to go before the State Board of Education because it would not actually be on school property. We would have access to the equipment and storage area but will not need the locker rooms or laundry. Mr. Payne explained to Mr. Stryffeler that the current lockers were 500 yards away and the lockers that will be built will be closer to the field. He also explained to Mr. Emerson that the Board of Education would address the issue of ongoing maintenance and that the locker building would be paid for by private donations or through the Booster Club with utilities paid by Parks and Recreation. Board members talked about the plan drawings that Coach Miller sent to Mr. Payne that will go before the Board of Commissioners next Monday.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Payne passed out papers concerning an ordinance to be addressed concerning concealed carry of guns within the Lee County parks. He said Mr. Talbert, county attorney, had been in contact with the State Attorney General's office and the UNC School of Government about other counties changing of their ordinances. Mr. Payne said the Lee County ordinance reads there will be no guns on Park property but with passage of concealed carry, it negates that. Open carry still is not permitted unless you are a sworn law officer or certain people within the military following the line of duty. The State ordinance reads guns are not permitted on ballfields, at swimming pools, playgrounds or athletic facilities. County buildings are already covered under state law that concealed weapons are not allowed inside the building. A person can still bring guns to ballfields, pools and playgrounds but they must be locked inside of a glove compartment or trunk of the car. Adoptions need to be made to the county ordinance to have specific wording that guns are not allowed in these places, concealed or open carry. Mark Kline spoke about the

signage needing to be placed once the ordinance is in place that can be posted at the various park facilities banning guns. James Emerson spoke of joint use of school facilities and parks and Mr. Payne explained, using the example of Tramway Road Park, it falls under the school's jurisdiction. Mr. Kline had concerns of state laws and laws at the county level not being consistent. John Payne said as it stands right now, staff have been told not to approach anyone with the concealed or open gun on them. They are told to call the Sanford Police Dept. or Lee Co. Sheriff's Office and the person with the gun should have a permit on them at all times to show to the officers. Mr. Payne said it should only cost a couple of thousand dollars for the signs that need to be posted at all of the park facilities. Mr. Emerson said they should be posted clearly at the front of the parks and within. Mr. Stryffeler said it would give the authority to a police officer or deputy to confiscate a weapon if needed. Poly Cohen, Butch Saunders and John Payne talked about the front part of the Kiwanis Family Park having playground equipment and they can post a sign there, but the greenway part which is in the back section and crosses over at Carbonton Road would still allow guns.

Harry Stryffeler made a motion to take action for the pricing of the signs pending action from the Board of Commissioners.

Mark Kline seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

Mr. Stryffeler said it should also be presented to the City Council as it would affect the Sanford Police Dept. Favor was unanimous.

Mr. Payne said he wanted an atmosphere created within the parks that was safe for all.

Mr. Payne reported on Learn to Swim registration going on now at O.T. Sloan Pool. He said the staff brought in $13,000 Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday last week with 312 sign-ups on Monday. The pool opened up this past Saturday with two rescue reports over the weekend. Mr.Emerson asked about the staff working at the pool this year. John Payne said many of them were returning staff and 21 new ones got certifications. The leadership team is in place along with returning pool managers and coordinator.

Mr. Saunders asked about the gymnastics registrations. Mr. Payne replied that the gym was packed during one of the mini Olympic events that was held there recently. He said that registrations will probably be up this year as it is a year the Olympic contests will be held.

Mr. Payne said the summer camps at San-Lee Park were going steady. There were 182 signed up last year and 115 this year, so far. He expected more before the closing date on registration.

He spoke of the ongoing parking problems at San-Lee. He said folks will tell Ranger Steve Godfrey or himself they enjoy the park with all of the new features but there is nowhere for them to park. A recent reservation had about 200 people in it and the Lee County Sheriff's Dept. helped with control of the parking as by the time the group got there for their reservation the park was full. He said the only options would be finding more parking space or having

large groups treated as a company picnic where they had to reserve the entire park area and pay the same prices company picnics do. Company picnic dates are set up for twice a month and not to be on consecutive weekends. He said it would possibly eliminate the mountain bike groups, the fishermen and the paddle boat groups from going out on the day the group reserved the park. Mr. Payne explained that most of the staff at the park have to deal with general questions about the area and sometimes upset people because they cannot get into the park because of the parking issue unless they come early. The Sheriffs' Dept. comes out two or three times a day on the weekends to help monitor the situation. Mr. Payne said the Sanford Police Dept. also helps with the other parks located within the city limits as the curfew for parks are dawn to dusk. The Carbonton Rd. area of the Kiwanis Park is monitored closely as a lot of people try to come in after dark.

Mr. Saunders asked for any more information concerning the Deep River Camelback Bridge park area. Mr. Payne said a barbeque chicken dinner fundraiser was set up for this weekend on the bridge at $7.00 a plate with homemade ice cream.

Mr. Stryffeler asked if it was time to revisit the interpretation on the usage agreement with Lee County School Board. Mr. Payne said it had been changed some in the last few months as some gym renters were using the elementary schools to run tournaments, charging entry fees to their games, having concessions and selling other goods. Our department was locked in renting to them at an hourly rate. They now have to go through the school board to rent the gyms at the higher price of $60.00 per hour and we only rent out the school gyms to our regular weekly customers with 20 or less people in the group. The interpretation in the school agreement states it is for community use, and community use is considered as local residents.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 6:04pm: Butch Saunders
Seconded: James Emerson
All in favor

Butch Saunders, Chairman
Lee County Parks & Recreation Commission

Debbie Carroll, Secretary