

**TOWN OF MINT HILL
PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
January 13, 2015**

The Park and Recreation Committee of the Town of Mint Hill met in regular session on January 13, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. at the Mint Hill Town Hall.

ATTENDANCE

Chairman: Ron Freeman

Members: Sandy Barnett, Roger Bowden, Ray Thompson, and Michelle McDonald

Absent: Eddie Mobley and Bryan Burns

Town Manager: Brian Welch

Deputy Manager: Lee Bailey

Planning Director: John Hoard

Public Works Employees: Garrett Trussell

Program Support Assistant: Candice Everhart

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Freeman at 8:00 a.m., who declared a quorum and asked everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance and observe a moment of silence.

Approval of Minutes of May 13, 2014: Mrs. McDonald made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Barnett and unanimously agreed, to approve the minutes of October 14, 2014 as presented.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

- A. Update on PARTF Land Purchase, Annexation and Rezoning:** Mr. Bailey reported to the committee that the land was purchased in November 2014. The annexation was completed January 8, 2015, and the zoning for that property would be scheduled for public hearing. This was not an action item for the committee but more or less an update. The property is across from the MHAA.

What was the acreage of the property? Mr. Bailey responded approximately 28 acres.

Mr. Freeman asked, once the zoning is in place, how much involvement will this board have? Mr. Bailey explained, quite a bit. Decisions such as, how active the park would be, what type of fields it would have, etc., the committee would be involved in. Mr. Welch stated, we had set a date for a retreat where the Board of Commissioners would begin discussing which direction they would want to go with design and architectural services. Those decisions would be made sometime around May. It would be sometime in the summer before they would be coming to this committee with that information.

Mr. Freeman asked, is there a timeframe that it had to be built within? Mr. Welch stated that it said you had two-three years to finish your project. The town's project was just to purchase the land. Therefore, we had fulfilled that.

Were we going to be asking for funds to develop it? Mr. Welch said that it's not too late to ask in general, but it was for this year. We have to know what we are planning to do before we present it for a grant.

B. Update on Mecklenburg County Land Purchase and Town Text Amendment: Mr. Bailey said this piece of land is four total parcels. The largest of that being the area between Brief Road and Fairview Road. The text amendment for the town is a zoning text amendment that you may have heard about because it was related to the parks. The amendment stated to allow town parks as a byright use in residential. What that means is when the town decides to build a park it's unnecessary for us to go through the town to ask itself for a rezoning. We are going to have public input, public meetings, and workshops for parks that the town will be doing. There was discussion about county parks being byright in residential, but there wasn't enough of a comfort level with that. Any county or private parks would have to come through a conditional rezoning. The bottom line of that is Town parks are byright, and any other parks would still have to go through conditional rezoning according to the text amendment.

Mr. Freeman asked, how many acres are there? Mr. Hoard stated 140 acres.

Mrs. McDonald stated as long as there would be public input that she thinks that would be fine.

Mr. Hoard stated they are purchasing three whole properties on Thompson Road. This is part of Steven's Creek and they would like to eventually build a nature preserve. That would all come to the committee if and when that happens.

C. Update on Recreation Inventory for the four town economic development Alliance: Mr. Bailey presented what the Economic Development Alliance was. He stated that Matthews, Mint Hill, Stalling, and Indian Trail were a part of this. In 2012 there was an investigative committee that discovered whether these four towns would even want to work together on economic development. We won some consulting time, \$25,000 in a grant for free economic development consulting. We had that firm come in and work with these four towns and we created a non-profit corporation. We are incorporated. We have bylaws, directors, and a board. We are official now with the four towns. We've met as a board about three or four times. Right now we were coming up with several different ideas. One of those was implementing a joint planning committee. We've come up with an inventory list of sights and buildings that would be for business recruitment. We were looking to bring in industrial jobs and taking the tax burden off of residential tax payers and put on industrial tax payers. One of the big things to come from this was to have the four towns coordinate our recreation assets and to have recreation tourism and tournaments to bring in families and give an economic boost.

Mrs. Barnett asked, when is the next meeting and are they open? There is not another one scheduled yet, Mr. Bailey responded. The meetings are not open per open meeting laws, but if someone wanted to sit in I'm sure they could. It's just staff members and not any elected officials conducting the meetings. The idea of this group was to come up with some concrete plans and ideas. Between this past November and upcoming March was really going to be a make or break for this group because some people are very understanding of economic development and others are not.

LA Do you think money will be a dilemma? Mr. Bailey said with us using existing staff from the four towns we aren't spending money by bringing other people in. This year we only contributed \$4,000 from each town for an economic development budget.

D. Schedule February 10, 2015 as a Planning Session: Mr. Bailey reported that he wanted opinions whether we should have a planning session. This planning session would last roughly two hours where they could discuss long term goals and topics. As a group do you want to pursue something like that?

Mr. Freeman stated that he thought that would be beneficial.

Mr. Bailey suggested using the time that we are already gathered as a committee to extend the meeting from 8:00 am until 10:00 am.

Mr. Freeman made the decision of extending the February regular scheduled meeting from 8:00am until 10:00am for this planning period.

E. Submit & Approve items for Planning Session from Committee Members: Mr. Bailey decided he would send out a topic list through email to the committee members. The email would consist of categories that the committee members could respond to in order to come up with an agenda for the planning session.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Bowden made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. McDonald and the Committee unanimously agreed, Chairman Freeman adjourned the meeting at 8:24 a.m.

Candice Everhart
Program Support Assistant