

**MINUTES  
VILLAGE OF LAKE PARK  
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING  
3801 LAKE PARK ROAD, LAKE PARK, NC  
AUGUST 24, 2015**

**Commission Members Present:** David Cleveland, Fabian Szarko, Ashley Dance, Wayne Daniels and Wil Ortiz

**Clerk:** Cheri Clark

**Call to Order:** Mayor David Cleveland called the August 24, 2015 Parks and Recreation meeting to order.

**Public Comments:** Mark Phillips – 6117 Trevor Simpson – shared that on July 31, 2015 prior to the fish kill in Veterans Pond, Ricky Broome observed Lucas Landscaping pumping something in the pond. Mr. Broome was unable to attend the meeting this evening.

**Approval of Minutes:** Ashley Dance requested a change to the July Regular Session minutes. Under Events add “Ashley Dance shared that” at the beginning of the paragraph. Fabian Szarko made the motion to adopt the July 27, 2015 Regular Session minutes as amended. Wil Ortiz seconded the motion. Vote – Unanimous. Ashley Dance requested a change to the August 15, 2015 Special Called Meeting, Under Miscellaneous add “Chvrchill entrance shrubs need to be removed.” Fabian Szarko made the motion to adopt the August 15, 2015 minutes as amended. Wayne Daniels seconded the motion. Vote – Unanimous.

**Changes to the Agenda:** Add under 9. Community Center, b. Central Academy Tennis Courts. Ashley Dance made the motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Wayne Daniels seconded the motion. Vote – Unanimous.

**Council Actions:** Council approved the repair and painting of the castle on Faith Church Road - \$2,500.

**Ponds:** Bryan Wallace with Foster Lake & Ponds discussed the stormwater retention ponds in the VOLP and the fish kills in Veterans Pond and Versailles Pond. The fish kills were caused by oxygen inversions. Low oxygen events most frequently occur just before sunrise, because oxygen levels are at their lowest at this time of day. Foster Lake & Ponds started maintaining the ponds in April. The Garden Pond has also had two fish kills in the last couple of years and Bobbie Lane pond has had one previous fish kill. Once a pond has experienced a fish kill, there is a higher probability of the pond experiencing another fish kill. In shallow ponds a couple of ways to move large volumes of water is to install diffused air and/or surface fountains. Most of the ponds are 4 to 5 feet deep not taking in to account the silt that has built up over the years. Questions were also asked about littoral shelves, plants and limiting fertilization around ponds.

**Pool Renovations:** Mayor David Cleveland shared that the Village has been budgeting \$20,000 per year for three years in order to have the main pool, adult pool and the water feature pool resurfaced. The Village has been working with Brandon Vaughn of Carolina Pool Management to secure bids to have the resurfacing project completed at the close of pool season this year. We have two bids for the work, Swim Specialties - \$55,920 and Atlantic Pool - \$55,575. The Swim Specialties bid also includes gel coating the mushroom and the addition of a step and new hand rail for the adult pool. The bid from Atlantic Pool does not include any of these additional items and to add the work it would increase the Atlantic Pool bid by a couple thousand dollars. Brandon Vaughn shared that both companies are good companies and will do a good job for the Village. Swim Specialties has done work in the Village since 2005. Wayne Daniels made the motion to recommend Swim Specialties to Council for the pool renovations. Fabian Szarko seconded the motion. Vote – Unanimous.

Annette Current has a letter from her doctor and she is requesting a refund on her pool membership. She has been unable to use the pool all season. She also received the 5 free guest passes - \$35. Ashley Dance made the motion to refund her pool membership minus the cost of the guest passes unless they were returned to the Village. Wil Ortiz seconded the motion. Vote – Unanimous.

Mayor David Cleveland read Melanie Secrest email into the minutes.

I have been a member of Lake Park pool many years and go frequently. Over the years, I have told many people how Lake Park is a fun, friendly, family oriented, safe pool and I am so glad that I, as an outsider, am able to be a part of the Lake Park family.

I have been to many pools and I can tell you that Lake Park is one of the nicest I have seen. Always clean and orderly. Cheri and CPM Staff are very friendly and helpful. Cheri is always open to complaints and suggestions and handles them with a great attitude. The CPM staff respectfully enforces the rules, which is very impressive. As far as the pool and deck area, I love the way things are always kept up. For instance, when chairs, tables and umbrellas are broken, they are always fixed or replaced in a timely fashion. I so appreciate the renovations done in the past and heard others are being done soon. In other words, every summer that I come back, I am very impressed by something new, whether large or small.

I have heard over the years complaints about little things such as the "railing being too hot", "bugs in the pool", "pine needles and bark in the pool" and a few other meaningless quips. With that said, I would say that you must be doing a great job! I, personally, am very impressed by the way this pool has been handled and maintained and I am giving you guys an A+! Thank you for all of your hard work and efforts.

Looking forward to another great summer!

Sincerely,  
Melanie Secrest

**Budget Report:** Mayor David Cleveland shared that the Village has received two very large water bills – the first month was due to a valve being left open at the adult pool overnight. CPM has issued a credit for the difference. The second bill was due to irrigation leaks. Lucas Landscaping has replaced five heads that were leaking. Union County Public Works has been out and done a courtesy reading since the repairs.

**Community Center:** Mayor David Cleveland discussed the need to have the windows washed. Cheri Clark will get a quote for the cleaning of the windows inside and out. Wayne Daniels made a motion to have the Community Center windows cleaned for up to \$300. Wil Ortiz seconded the motion. Vote – Unanimous.

Central Academy at Lake Park has requested the use of the tennis courts for the spring season. Practice would begin in January on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:15 until 6 pm. The season would end April 30, 2016. Matches would be scheduled in March and April on those same days and they will try to use the same time schedule. Ashley Dance made the motion to approve Central Academy's use of the tennis courts. Wayne Daniels seconded the motion. Vote – Unanimous.

**Landscaping:** Southend Painting provided a quote for the Faith Church Road Castle - \$3,073. This price includes pressure washing the castle, repairing the stucco, painting the railings and coating the inside of the castle and benches with a graffiti resistant coating. Council approved \$2,548 for the painting of the castle. We have a vandalism account that the graffiti resistant paint could be charged to if P&R decides to have the castle treated. Ashley Dance made a motion to approve the anti-graffiti paint. Wil Ortiz seconded the paint. Vote – Unanimous.

Ashley Dance discussed the Hoover Park Restoration project and the two quotes that she has received. GTM General Contracting, Inc. provided a lump sum for the work - \$3,750. The price did not include repairing hairline cracks in the mortar and replacing the chipped bricks or any landscaping. Lucas Landscaping proposed a quote to remove all the juniper, all abelias, all mop heads and all dwarf yaupon holly and replace with new plantings - \$2,140 and to replace pillar/caps on columns to make all consistent - \$1,175.00. Total quote from Lucas Landscaping - \$3,315. The restoration project was tabled until September.

Veterans Pond Flag Up lighting – the new lighting is either too broad and needs to be adjusted or different lights are needed.

Front Entrance – Mayor David Cleveland met with Wil Ortiz a few weeks ago and after Union Power cleaned the utility easement, the trees are leaning toward the road. Union Power can remove the trees, grind the stumps, grade and plant grass seed at no cost to the Village. Mayor David Cleveland has also checked with Lucas Landscaping to see if there would be an additional charge to mow and maintain the area. Lucas will not charge anything extra to maintain the space. Ashley Dance made the motion to approve Union Power removing the trees to the left of the entrance. Fabian Szarko seconded the motion. Vote – Unanimous.

Kiker Tree Service has provided a quote of \$750 to remove three dead pine trees and two diseased Leland Cypress trees. Fabian Szarko made a motion remove the 3 dead pines and two Leland Cypress trees. Wil Ortiz seconded the motion. Vote – Unanimous.

The Village has received a quote from Lucas Landscaping to install three Crepe Myrtle, remove some scrub trees and install 15 – 1 gallon Liriope and 3 – 3 gallon Nandina Firepowers for \$600 in Russell Park. Wil Ortiz made the motion to approve the Russell Park plantings and the removal of the scrub trees. Wayne Daniels seconded the motion. Vote – Unanimous.

ABC Professional Tree Service has provided a quote of \$400 to remove five trees and their stumps and encroaching roots at Barnett Park. Lucas Landscaping has provided a quote for 25 yards of playground mulch - \$1,550 for the Barnett Park playground. Fabian Szarko made the motion to remove the trees and to have new playground mulch installed. Wayne Daniels seconded the motion. Vote – Unanimous.

Lucas Landscaping has also provided a quote for the Mimosa Island. Lucas is proposing that the Birch and Maple trees be removed along with the Umbellata Minor Hawthorne and then seed and straw the area and install 7 – 7 gallon Umbellata Minor Hawthornes for \$1,000. Mayor David Cleveland requested that the P&R members go and look at the island before the September meeting. Discussion was tabled until the September meeting.

Bocce court – Mark Phillips shared that he has reached out to Troup 39 and there are prospective Eagle Scouts that might be looking for an Eagle Scout Project. Mayor David Cleveland shared that P&R had looked at an area between the basketball court and the playground area for a potential Bocce court. P&R did not budget a Bocce court in the 2015 – 2016 budget. Mark Phillip's asked if funding was available, would P&R be receptive. P&R would be receptive to hearing an Eagle Scout proposal.

**Events:** Mayor David Cleveland thanked Ashley Dance for leading the National Night Out (NNO). Ashley Dance shared that we had a turnout of 350 people and we came in under budget. The Village spent \$858.89 hosting NNO. P&R had budgeted \$1,000 for the event. Hungry Howies Pizza and Texas Roadhouse provided the food for the event either at a large discount or free. Sir Purr was a hit with the crowd and danced with the residents. Everyone had a good time.

Ashley Dance read the following statement into the minutes.

Monday, August 24, 2015

Dear Parks & Recreation Commissioners;

I am troubled by the National Night Out article in the Lake Park newsletter. It was agreed upon in the July P&R meeting that the National Night Out event would not be used for campaign purposes, however, in my opinion the August newsletter article did just that.

In past issues regarding events, the “Thank You” section has been primarily used to thank the volunteers who participated in the event, however, this year each candidate seeking election was specifically mentioned, with the exception of one, Councilman Mark Phillips who ran the Fire Safety House. I am saddened that the promise to keep campaigning out of the event was not followed through. In my opinion the mention of candidates took away from the purpose of thanking the volunteers especially those that volunteered for the very first time.

To further add insult, the newsletter stated that “Council member Fabian Szarko coordinated the event with Ashley Dance”. I am offended by this statement as it is simply not accurate. Mr. Szarko did indeed participate that evening, but for him to receive recognition as the coordinator is deceitful. In my opinion, this was done to boost the credibility of a candidate in an election year.

It is with a heavy heart that I must say that I am disappointed and ashamed of those who had a hand in and using the newsletter as a campaigning tool.

Regards,  
Ashley Dance

Mayor David Cleveland shared a couple of comments. A year ago in the August 2014 Villager the article read as follows: “Thank you, all August 5 National Night Out volunteers, sponsors, vendors, Union County Sheriff’s Office, Hemby Bridge Fire Department and other professionals who brought entertainment, provided crime prevention and safety tips to all who came out. Thanks to Little Caesar’s for an abundance of pizza and to those who helped serve cold drinks and popcorn.” When the information was being provided to the editor for this year, I expressed concern about listing individual participants and volunteers for the exact reason that has happened tonight – someone’s feelings getting hurt. I sent that statement to the editor and she copied Ashley Dance on that e-mail. We as Parks and Recreation Commissioners, Planning Board, Economic Development and Council and all volunteers, don’t serve for praise and adulation. If we are doing it for praise and adulation, we are doing it for the wrong reasons. We need to be doing it because we want to serve our community.

Ashley Dance stated that she did not list one Council person or P&R commissioner in the information provided to Sandy Coughlin for the Villager.

Mayor David Cleveland stated that he has known Fabian Szarko a long time and if anyone thinks that he contributed to that article in any way shape or form in an attempt to get votes, they don’t know Fabian Szarko.

Fabian Szarko shared that he saw the Villager today and that he serves my community because he cares. It was not his intent to offend anyone and he apologized if he did. He does not have social media and was unaware of the situation until today. Mayor David Cleveland shared that hopefully everyone that serves is here to better our community and make the Village a better place to live.

The Chili Cook-off is November 14<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8 pm. Wayne Daniels will be heading up the event again this year.

The annual Christmas tree lighting will be held on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 6:30 pm in the Town Center Park. Music will be provided by the Union Academy Band Octet and the Union Academy Choir. Scriptures will be read by Pastor Lonnie Pittman of Faith United Methodist Church.

**Adjourn:** Fabian Szarko made the motion to adjourn. Ashley Dance seconded the motion. Vote – Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cheri S. Clark".

Cheri S. Clark  
Village Administrator