

TRYON PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 11, 2023

**Tryon Parks Committee Meeting**  
**July 11, 2023, 4:00 p.m.**  
**Town Hall, McCown Council Room**

**In Attendance:** Susie Hursey: Acting Chair, Karen Bird, Greg Miner, Jerry Soderquist.  
Guest: Jim Fatland, Tryon Town Manager  
Absent: Amy Arledge, Vard Henry, John Vining

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Susie welcomed Town Manager Jim Fatland to his first meeting with the Committee. He intends to be a regular attendee.

Susie gave an update on Chair John Vining's improving health.

**Previous Meeting Minutes:**

Review of previous meeting minutes. Susie reported that Tryon Garden Club has agreed to let us postpone the Woodland Park planting to this Fall. Sign procurement and installation is on hold. Minutes approved with these edits/additions.

**Parks reports:**

**Depot Garden:** Jerry reported that the Depot Garden is in good shape.

**Vaughn's Creek:**

Greg reported that the logs removal in the Creek is complete making a big improvement. Since then another tree has fallen which Greg may be able to remove.

Greg and Wade Smith have sprayed kudzu along the railroad tracks above Vaughn's Creek.

**Tryon Cemetery:**

Greg continues to spray invasives. Mowing schedule has greatly improved.

**Kudzu:**

Jim reported that a gentleman approached the Town with an offer to eradicate an area of kudzu as a demonstration project. Greg will follow up with him to obtain details and determine if/where this is feasible.

**Woodland Park:**

Greg has talked with the neighbor on Carolina Drive re: wisteria removal. Ford Smith has been spraying wisteria in the interior of the park.

Greg asked whether we should remove the moderately invasive kiwi vines. The most fruit-accessible vine has been removed. Tabled for future discussion.

Jerry reported that the Spanish Courts and the home below have just been listed for sale for \$1.7 million. He mentioned this because it backs up to Woodland Park, and we have advocated for a connection to Woodland Park from Melrose Avenue.

Susie reported that the Appearance Commission grant report for the planting project is complete. We are awaiting payment. She also reported that we will purchase plants, mulch, and a sign in the fall with the grant from the Tryon Garden Club. We are matching this grant with labor, and we have already accrued half the match.

Greg reported the Appearance Commission has excess grant funding available immediately. He suggested we apply for \$1000 for rocks. We would use a contractor for installation and match with Parks funds. Greg to follow up with the Appearance Commission.

**Budget:**

Jim reviewed the budget he submitted to the Town Council. It includes \$17,600 for parks on the east side and the cemetery, and \$10,000 for Woodland and Rogers parks? NEED TO VERIFY.

\$13,400 was spent to refurbish the pergolas at Rogers Park.

Jim is re-negotiating the contract with Peter Eisenbrown for the concert series at Rogers Park. The concerts are producing damage to the park in excess of the \$250 fee per concert he is currently paying.

**Harmon Field:**

Jim has submitted a grant application to the Polk County Community Foundation for building renovations including a new kitchen and porch.

**Rogers Park:**

Karen reported that the cable installed for banner display is cutting into the tree trunk and damaging it. Peter Eisenbrown will be requested to remove it (under arborist supervision) and install post. (Location, material and installation to be approved by Town).

Brief discussion re: steep walk down toward stage. It does not meet ADA requirements. Jim suggested a narrow deck off street sidewalk for ADA seating.

Suggestion made to eventually contract for a parks master plan and evaluation of each park. With the Saluda Grade trail implementation, we need to consider connectivity to our other parks.

Restroom lighting requested to be on switch or sensor. It is currently always on. The stage lights are also "on".

**Saluda Grade trail committee member:**

Parks Committee has been asked to send a member to the Saluda Grade trail planning meetings. John Vining declined and suggested Vard Henry. Motion was made and approved to send Vard Henry pending her acceptance.

**Process:**

Jim intends to rely on the Committee for guidance on Parks issues. He considers the various committees to be integral partners in the Town's success and management. He suggested that we prioritize projects, make motions for implementation, and he will consult with us to evaluate, and then take it to the Town Council for a vote.

**Future Meeting:**

Based on increased parks issues and budget, our next meeting is scheduled for August 8th. Monthly meetings were suggested.

**Meeting adjourned: 5:15 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Bird  
Sent from my iPad