



Town of  
**INDIAN TRAIL**  
north carolina

**PARKS, TREE AND GREENWAY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**January 4, 2012**

**6:00 PM**

**Members Present**

Roger Fish  
Ed Dubisz  
Nydia Morales  
Brian Olin  
Alex Rohleder  
Justin King

**Staff Present**

Hillary Pace

**Call to Order:** Chairman Fish called the meeting to order.

**Roll Call:** Kim Nicholson and David Grant were absent.

**Discussion items:**

**Urban Forestry Management Plan- David Grant- not presented**

**Park and Rec Update**

Ms Pace stated there were many questions at the last meeting regarding the Park. Mr. Fivas will be attending the Feb meeting to discuss and answer questions. This will be after the Town Council's strategic planning meeting which will be held on January 28<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting, on the 28<sup>th</sup>, the Council will lay out goals for the next fiscal year, park development being one of the issues.

Chairman Fish stated he met with Town Manager Joe Fivas and conveyed what the committee members have discussed regarding the bond issue and plans to move ahead with the park. Mr. Fish stated he also discussed activities of the Indian Trail Arts and Historical Society and possible things that will dovetail with the Parks committee. He stated there could possibly be a presentation from the Society to the Parks committee. The PARTIF grant was not approved, and the question is whether to move forward with it this year. The time line is the end of January.

This would mean carrying forward the same plan or a very quick revision without much additional input. The feeling from the meeting with Mr. Fivas was to revisit the proposal, get some broader input from the community groups including athletic associations and other groups to develop both portions of the park. At the Society meeting the issue of the location of Carolina Courts and the park area was also discussed. There were other possibilities that cannot be mentioned because of the confidential nature of them. Developing the historical aspect of the park was an item of discussion. The Historical Society came up with the idea of possibly putting up a log cabin for educational and historical activities.

Member Rohleder asked if the Town knows what the next step in the park development is. Ms Pace replied this is what the Council is going to decide at the strategy meeting. Mr. Rohleder asked if the Town has any money set aside for the park that they are willing to release to go on even if the grant is not acquired. Ms Pace replied she assumes so but that would be something Mr. Fivas could answer.

Chairman Fish stated Council approved a tax a couple of years ago generating revenue that has built up over the years to help this park. He stated he believes this will be a topic at the Council retreat. He stated there was discussion about the failure of the bond issue. It wasn't a huge defeat, in terms of numbers, from what he understands. It was concentrated in perhaps one area. Mr. Fish stated his personal reaction to the result was the voters have spoken, and it will have to be approached in a different way. If the committee came up with some ideas, maybe with some alternative revenue approaches that the Council would endorse, they might endorse at least that portion of it. He stated the best hope is to probably reapply, I think if you go in with a strengthened proposal and you can demonstrate who the groups were this would mean a lot to the reviewers.

Ms Pace stated the points missed were a site specific master plan, a full plan for phase 1.

Chairman Fish stated there was so much attention last year paid to the design of the first park, there would probably be a need for assistance from a consultant. Ms Pace informed the members the grant can be applied for every year.

Member Dubisz suggested putting the park bond on the ballot the year of a national election.

Ms Pace stated she understands a bond proposal can be put out at any time.

Chairman Fish stated the location of other parks could be was included in the discussion. There is a geographical use of parks that need to be looked at. There should be placements of parks on the other side of 74, there are some properties that may be available and it is a good time in most cases to purchase property. They need to look at the larger picture.

Member Rohleder stated he may be able to get some information on that. He stated Mecklenburg County has a park plan as to how they are located. He suggested a master plan of the number of parks for an area.

Ms Pace stated the Town has a Park Master Plan that addresses that and suggested it be revisited being there are new members since the adoption in 2010.

Member Morales suggested an execution plan. She asked whose initiative is it, does the committee give suggestions or wait for the Council.

Chairman Fish replied the committee gives suggestions we don't sit and wait.

Ms Pace stated all these items can be discussed with Mr. Fivas at the next meeting.

Member Dubisz suggested a map of the open land for park locations should be looked with the new members of Town Council.

Member Olin stated there has to be a balance of acquiring property and the development of the park.

Member Morales stated once the land is owned it doesn't have to be something elaborate. It could be a nature area.

Member Olin stated people aren't going to want to see land bought if they don't see any parks being built.

Chairman Fish stated, politically, if the Town had districts and he stated he is not one to specifically advocate having districts, if you are a voter north of 74 you might want to have a park close to you and it would be judicious for the council to look at this distribution of parks. It is a political decision if you build it now or buy it reasonably but you need to have thought out distribution of these parks. The Master Plan suggests some areas and the Council needs to look at those areas.

Member Olin stated something on the other side of 74 would certainly gain support from people on that side of town.

Chairman Fish stated it was precisely that area that had a lower support. Mr. Fish stated the town has vast watershed areas that can be used to develop trails and so on. Then there are other plans, developed by other committees and subgroups that have not been talked about. He stated Mr. Olin is involved with the Carolina Thread Trail, those are connection points with precise location of these trails need to be worked out. The Bike Plan is another one. They need to be layered one on top of the other to see where they make sense. Ms Pace stated they are.

Member Olin stated the proposed trails in Indian Trail were looked at in determining the paths of the Carolina Thread Trail.

Chairman Fish stated in looking at the area it is in the one mile radius of the original 1907 Indian trail. These things become increasingly important to the vitality, health and growth of this community.

**Union West Library Children’s Class- Lesson Plan**

Ms Pace stated she will send out a reminder for this event on Monday the 6<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting will be February 1<sup>st</sup>. Ms Pace asked if the members would like to keep the same agenda at the library class. The purpose is to teach the children the impact of trees. Members agreed.

Chairman Fish presented an internet video that was shared with him by the Master Gardeners discussing stormwater issues and rain gardens. Ms Pace stated she will email links for heritage and champion trees.

**Adjournment**

Town of Indian Trail  
Park, Tree and Greenway Committee

\_\_\_\_\_ Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_\_ Secretary