

**RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, September 4th, 2012**  
**Town Hall – 9am**

- I. Call to Order** – Mr. Pfohl called to order the regular meeting of the Recreation Advisory Committee at 9am at Town Hall. Present were Advisory Committee members Barbara Piquet and Jim Brooks. Daniel Scagnelli, Recreation Director, was also present. It was apparent that a quorum would not be reached for this meeting, so no action would be taken; however, the agenda for the meeting would still be covered.

Mr. Pfohl asked Mr. Feierabend, Town Manager, to step in to the meeting to start off with a discussion of the situation between the Town and Genesis Wildlife Sanctuary. Mr. Pfohl asked the Manager to inform the committee of the current situation, to clarify the information seen in the media, and better educate the committee so they can answer questions if asked.

Mr. Feierabend told the committee that this was a simple case of landlord eviction as the lessee, Genesis, had failed to comply with the terms of their lease with the Town. Genesis has hired a lawyer, Charlie Clements, to appeal the action taken by the Town. Mr. Feierabend said Genesis was given more than fair time to comply, but they never did so. This included failure to pick-up debris, comply with building setbacks, and a violation of the lake buffer. The state provided the Town with an email, from DENR representative Lee Spencer, which stated that Genesis' cages continued to violate state ordinances. Right now a lawsuit is underway, staff is to direct any questions to the manager, as should the committee, and Mr. Feierabend suspects that the case will be delayed for up to one year as there have already been motions for continuance.

- II. Approval of Minutes** – Since a quorum was not present, no action was taken.
- III. Recreation & Fitness Report** – Mr. Scagnelli presented the committee with the August Recreation and Fitness report (attached), which had been reviewed in advance of the meeting. There were no questions pertaining to the report.

**IV. Old Business:**

- **A) NC Wildlife Commission Pier Project:**
  - Mr. Scagnelli updated the committee that he had discussed the possibility of adding a pier to Buckeye Lake with the NCWLC. The waiting list is currently very long, but the department has been added for future consideration.
- **B) Fireman's Park:**
  - Mr. Scagnelli told the committee that he expected the playground equipment to be installed by the end of the month. Other finishing work would be completed over the following

two weeks and the park should be ready for opening by mid-October.

- **C) Bark Park:**
  - Mr. Scagnelli informed the committee that the dog show raised over \$1,000 for the Bark Park and would enable the Bark Park committee to move forward with producing the remainder of the dedication benches as well as the plaques.
  
- **D) Buckeye Lake Protection Plan:**

Mr. Scagnelli informed the committee that the Buckeye Lake protection plan had been completed and submitted to the state. The state committee will meet in October, so the issue should be resolved at that time.
  
- **E) Buckeye Recreation Center Windows:**

Mr. Scagnelli informed the committee that the window company had been brought back to install screens on the new Buckeye Recreation Center windows.
  
- **F) Fall/Winter Program Guide:**

Mr. Scagnelli told the committee that production of the fall/winter program guide was still underway and that he hoped to have a draft copy for their review at the October meeting.

#### **V. New Business**

- **A) AAT Grant:**

Mr. Scagnelli informed the committee that he had been notified of their award of a contract for the \$5,000 AAT grant to establish a 1,000 linear foot connection between the Emerald Outback and the West Bowl trails. He has signed the contract and submitted it back to the state. As soon as a final copy is received the project will move forward with the initiation of an RFP.
  
- **B) Summer Camp Report:**

Mr. Scagnelli provided the committee with an update on summer camp attendance and participation for the 2012 season. Although numbers were down, he was happy with camp participation as it compared to other camps in the area. It seemed that camps at the Beech Mountain Club, Lee's McRae and YMCA were experiencing a decline in participation as well.
  
- **C) Dog Show Report:**

Mr. Scagnelli told the committee that the dog show was a great success. The event had a record number of doggy participants, over 250 owners/spectators present, and raised over \$1,000 for the Bark Park.

- ***D) Emerald Outback Winter Access:***

Mr. Scagnelli and Mr. Pfohl told the committee that significant headway had been made in establishing a relationship with the property owners and legal counsel of the fox crest development in order to gain use of a portion of their land to construct a winter parking access/trail head for the emerald outback trails. Mr. Pfohl spoke with Jeff Walker, lawyer and principal of the Real Estate holding company, and gained permission to move forward with the project. Mr. Scagnelli has initiated the easement process with the Town Manager and construction will be added to the list of Fall special projects.

***VI. Speak Out Session:***

Mrs. Piquet asked that Mr. Scagnelli ensure that all staff has read his email memo's and make sure that all staff is aware of program details in order to better serve patrons at all times.

Mr. Brooks asked that the department be sure to send out follow up press releases on programs and events such as the Dog Show to reaffirm the event in the public's eye. He also mentioned that Blowing Rock had received a grant for a recreation facility and asked Mr. Scagnelli to look into the possibility of it being something the Town could apply for.

Mr. Pfohl asked that the department strategically schedule group hikes to align with certain seasonal features of the trails.

***VII. Adjourn:***

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15am.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Scagnelli  
October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012