

**MINUTES OF THE
TOWN OF LADY LAKE
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
LADY LAKE, FLORIDA**

**March 12, 2014
5:30 p.m.**

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting was held in the Town Hall Commission Chambers, 409 Fennell Blvd., Lady Lake, Florida.

CALL TO ORDER: Vice Chairperson Thomas Schmelzer

Vice Chairperson Schmelzer called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL: Thomas Schmelzer, Vice Chairperson/Member
Connie Merrell-Kasch, Member
Betty Cantelmo, Member

ABSENT: Julius Chirieleison, Member

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Burske, Parks and Recreation Director; Kris Kollgaard, Town Manager; and Nancy Slaton, Deputy Town Clerk

Also Present: Mayor/Commissioner Ruth Kussard

B. OPEN FORUM:

Vice Chairperson Schmelzer asked if there were any comments from the audience. There were no comments.

C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: September 11, 2013 Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Regular Meeting

Upon a motion by Member Kasch and a second by Member Cantelmo, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee approved the Minutes of the September 11, 2013 meeting as presented by a vote of 3-0.

D. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Review Regarding Combining the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the Tree and Beautification Advisory Committee to Make One Board (Mike Burske)

Parks and Recreation Director Mike Burske read the background summary for this agenda item. He stated that the Town is going to combine the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the Tree and Beautification Advisory Committee. The Parks and Recreation Director prepares the agendas for both boards, and in many cases, one issue will go to both boards. Mr. Burske stated that in order to streamline the boards, the Town will include all current and active members from both boards on the new Parks and Recreation/Tree Board. He stated the new board may have up to seven members at first, but will eventually be reduced to five members with attrition. If a Board member wants to remain on the

Board once their term expires, it will go before the Town Commission for their vote on reappointment to the Board.

Member Kasch asked if there would be seven members total on the combined boards.

Mr. Burske replied that it should be, but he is unsure at this time. He asked the Town Manager if she knew if the Tree and Beautification Committee could make quorum at this time.

Town Manager Kris Kollgaard stated that there is currently a quorum on the Tree and Beautification Committee.

Member Cantelmo asked again for clarification on the number of members.

Ms. Kollgaard confirmed that there would be seven members when the boards are combined, as there are vacancies on both boards.

Member Kasch asked what topics the Tree and Beautification Committee reviews that would be different from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee.

Mr. Burske replied that Tree and Beautification Advisory Committee was formed in order to be eligible for a Tree City USA designation, and to assist with ideas for projects to beautify the Town's medians, parks, etc. He reported that the last big project that was completed was the tree grant.

Ms. Cantelmo confirmed that there are no more huge projects lined up to plant trees.

Vice Chairperson Schmelzer asked if the Tree and Beautification Committee has anything to do with tree trimming.

Mr. Burske replied that it does not; that falls under the Town's Growth Management Department for permits to cut down trees. He stated the Committee reviewed Chapter 10 of the Land Development Regulations regarding tree trimming/removal when it was developed, but has no authority over it.

Ms. Kollgaard confirmed Mr. Burske's comment that the Town's Land Regulation Developments under Chapter 10 outline the Town's requirements and limitations on tree trimming. She stated that if those requirements are not followed, the case will go to Code Enforcement. She asked Mr. Burske if the Tree and Beautification Committee looks at historic tree removal mitigation.

Mr. Burske replied that the Tree and Beautification Committee only looks at that when they review site plans for new development, but they do not look at it if it is just a request for a permit to pull down a historic tree.

Ms. Kollgaard stated that when the two boards are combined, staff will have to create a new ordinance for the combined board, and will then meet with the board to explain the new duties/responsibilities.

Member Kasch asked what the advantage is in combining the two boards. She asked about the Tree City USA designation.

Mr. Burske replied that the Town has to have a tree board in order to retain the Tree City USA designation. He stated one of their responsibilities is to insure that the Town's Land Development

Regulations regarding landscaping is adhered to regarding replacement of trees during construction/development.

Member Cantelmo confirmed that the new McDonald's across the street would be responsible for landscaping, and also asked about the past tree grant.

Mr. Burske replied that he wrote a grant application and the Town was awarded a grant for \$18,000-\$19,000 approximately three years ago, and planted 148 trees at the Rolling Acres Sports Complex and at the Guava Street fields as a result. He stated there are not many other places to plant them at this time.

Mr. Burske stated he could have a Town-staffed tree board, but that he would prefer to have a board made up of involved citizens. He stated that he is aware that this committee's role would be expanded slightly.

Member Schmelzer asked if the new committee would have anything to do with educating the public regarding tree trimming. He stated he has an issue with tree trimming, as it is overdone in The Villages, and many tree trimmers are unlicensed and uninsured and butcher the trees.

Ms. Kollgaard replied that the new committee could look at this issue and the Town would appreciate any input on it. She stated the Town is also looking into it, as it is frustrating because Code Enforcement cannot catch everyone; the tree trimmers start at one end of a street and go right down the block. She stated the responsibility currently falls on the homeowner, and the Town has been discussing this along with the attorney to come up with an ordinance to make the contractor responsible for the fines. This ordinance could have the contractors register with the Town and they would be provided the guidelines and restrictions to follow regarding tree trimming, and they could be fined by the Code Enforcement instead of the homeowner if the attorney can find a way to do that legally. Ms. Kollgaard stated that even though there have been articles and the Town is trying to get the word out about it, it still happens a lot.

Member Kasch suggested putting this information out on the water bills.

Ms. Kollgaard stated that the water bills do not go to Lady Lake's residents of The Villages, and the Town needs to find a way to educate and reach all its residents.

2. Consideration to Send a Recommendation to the Commission for the Lady Lake Girl Scouts to Place a 10' x 8' Steel Shed Beside the Boy Scouts' Shed at the Scout Hut (Mike Burske)

Parks and Recreation Director Mike Burske read the background summary for this agenda item. He stated that the Girl Scouts are requesting to place a 10 ft. x 8 ft. steel shed at the Scout Hut. The shed will be a much smaller shed than the one the Boy Scouts had donated by the American Legion, but will be placed on the south side of their shed. The shed will hold the Girl Scouts' items until needed. A photo of the shed and the specifications was included in the packet. Mr. Burske reported that he has spoken to the Boy Scouts Troop Leaders and they do not have a problem with the proposal.

Leah Nelson introduced herself as a Girl Scout Troop Leader in Lady Lake for the past 13 years. She stated that the Girl Scouts have accumulated many items over the last 13 years, and there are five individual troops who work together as a team. Ms. Nelson stated they would like to have a central location to store their items, and that they appreciate the Town's consideration.

Member Kasch asked who would install the shed.

Ms. Nelson replied that they would install the shed themselves with volunteer help.

Mr. Burske asked what would be the base of the shed.

Ms. Nelson replied that the shed will sit on a paver base with a plywood floor inside the base of the shed.

Mr. Burske commented that this would make the shed totally lightweight and it could be readily moved or removed.

Upon a motion by Member Cantelmo and a second by Member Kasch, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee approved the Recommendation to the Commission for the Lady Lake Girl Scouts to Place a 10' x 8' Steel Shed Beside the Boy Scouts' Shed at the Scout Hut by a vote of 3-0.

Mr. Burske noted that this item will be taken to the Town Commission for final approval, and that he would send the Girl Scouts an email regarding the date.

E. CHAIRPERSON/MEMBERS' REPORT:

Member Kasch asked who is currently on the Parks and Recreation Board.

Mr. Burske confirmed it is made up of those present and Mr. Julius Chirieleison, who is absent at this meeting, for a total of four.

Vice Chairperson Schmelzer stated that Mr. Mathias resigned from the board as he moved out of town.

Member Cantelmo asked if there will be monthly meetings once the boards are combined.

Mr. Burske replied that the meetings of the combined boards will still be scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month, and there should be more meetings than there has been recently; however, he stated that he will not hold a meeting if there is nothing to bring forth for discussion or consideration.

Mr. Burske reported that the Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for April 12th, and he invited the members to contact him if they know of any groups or organizations who would like to participate.

F. ADJOURN:

With no further business or discussion, and with a motion by Member Kasch and a second by Member Cantelmo, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Julia Wolfe, Staff Assistant to Town Clerk

Thomas Schmelzer, Vice Chairperson

Minutes transcribed by Julia Wolfe, Staff Assistant to Town Clerk