

**Mayor suggests splitting bequest
Executor of estate helps with proposal to aid recreation**

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JOURNAL REPORTER

Thursday, December 6, 2007

WALKERTOWN

Walkertown would divide a \$100,000 recreation bequest among a town park, local schools and area sports organizations, under a tentative plan proposed last week by Mayor Doc Davis.

The town was left the money by the estate of Spencer Waggoner, who died on Jan. 17, 2005. Waggoner gave the town \$100,000 to spend as it wished, and an additional \$100,000 to be spent only on recreation.

The town has had trouble coming up with a plan to spend the recreation money. In the fall of 2005, the town was asked to return it because it remained unspent.

The town kept the money with the intent of coming up with a spending plan, but another year went by and the town made no decision.

Elizabeth Quick, the executor of the Waggoner estate, filed a lawsuit on Aug. 20 asking the court to award the money to the Winston-Salem Foundation Inc., which had agreed to take charge of the money and make sure that it is spent for recreation in Walkertown.

Alternatively, Quick asked the court to order the town to come up with a plan to spend the money. The town and Quick settled their dispute last week when a judge approved a consent order that gives the town 90 days to decide how to spend the money.

Last week, Davis presented the Walkertown Town Council his ideas on dividing the money. He called it a "starting point" and not a final recommendation.

Under Davis' plan, the town would spend \$43,000 of the money toward creating a town park near the town hall. About \$40,000 would be spent for equipment, which could include a gazebo, walking trails, horseshow pits or other recreational items. About \$3,000 would be kept aside to go toward grant-application costs.

Three schools would get recreational money from the grant - Walkertown and Middle Fork elementary schools and Walkertown Middle School would each get \$15,000.

The Davis plan envisions dividing \$8,000 from the bequest among four sports organizations, which Davis described as all the ones he knew about being active in Walkertown.

Each group would get \$2,000. The town would give \$4,000 for senior citizen groups. The organizations getting the money would include the Walkertown Little League, the Walkertown Warriors, the Walkertown Wolfpack and girls softball team.

Council Member Wayne Hester said he favors putting more money toward the planned town park rather than the schools. Council Member Brenda Mabe said that whatever spending done among organizations should be done equally.

The council took no action on the Davis' plan last week. In addition to the Waggoner bequest, the town has an additional \$390,000 in a fund that can be spent only for recreation, economic development, tourism and similar programs.

During a recent work session, council members learned that the town can apply for up to \$500,000 in state money. That money could go toward a park.

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