



WALKERTOWN RECREATION COMMITTEE
WALKERTOWN TOWN HALL
THURSDAY, 6:30 P.M. OCTOBER 12, 2006

MINUTES

The meeting of the Recreation Committee was called to order by Mayor Doc Davis at 7:00 p.m. Present from the committee were Jeff Larrimore, Arlyn Wilson, Ab Martin, Wendell Amos, Howard Webster, George Withers, and Lynn. The audience included Ralph Landreth, Sarah Welch, Bob Wooten, Carol McNeil, Ron Bell, and Kristen Johnson.

The minutes of the Recreation Committee of September 26th were approved on a motion by Wendell Amos and seconded by Arlyn Wilson.

Discussion then centered on the various plans from past years and the different monies held by different community groups.

Two packets, one titled Master Plan Walkertown Park – by Gardner Gidley and Associates dated May 31, 1991, and the other titled Walkertown Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Report to Town Council dated March 10, 1992, were passed around to be looked at.

Several committee members asked for a copy of these packets.

LYNN WILL MAKE COPIES.

The money being held by the groups included Civic Club, Friends of the Park, the Arts Council, and the “Old” Community Center Group. Walt Wilson, who was unable to attend this meeting, holds money for the Arts Council and has stated that the Arts Council Board would have to be formed again in order to disperse the money. They have about \$8,000 according to Arlyn Wilson, but a portion of that money has been allocated to the Library. The monetary portion they would donate to the Recreation Committee would be donated only for a community center building – and for no other purpose.

Bob Wooten stated that the Friends of the Park has money but it likewise would only go to a community center building because that is what the money was actually raised for.

Gene Reid holds money for the “Old” Community Center Group – at least \$25,000 – and there was some dissension over how much they do have and whether or not that money could be used for a building or if it could be used generally for recreation.

The issue of where to locate a park or community center was raised with several people wanting the park/building to be located at Wickenham Road Park and others wanting it to be located in the current Town Hall complex. Wendell Amos felt that

putting it at Wickenham would be the best solution because that would tend to bring sewer down there sooner. Bob Wooten thought the vandalism and damage would be harder to control at that site. It would be harder to keep up with and should be closer to where we could keep an eye on it. Jeff Larrimore stated that when the high school comes, Wickenham would then be the center of activity and that issue would be moot.

Ralph Landreth felt that the park should be placed near town hall – it would make an attractive appearance for visitors to Walkertown and look better to others. Bob Wooten agreed saying it would be easier to take care of at town hall. Ab Martin felt that if it was at Wickenham, we would have more room for a park, picnic shelters, ballfields – and that with the new housing complex being built, that would cause growth to the park.

Arlyn Wilson agreed with Mr. Martin saying that at town hall, we have no place to grow whereas at Wickenham, we have plenty of growth potential. We need walking trails, gazebos, and picnic shelters. George Withers said that Gene Miller with the Schools will work with us on getting sewer to the ballpark. He said he had also suggested that we look at putting a building across the railroad tracks from town hall but was told no one wants to cross the tracks. He asked about the other \$100,000 Mr. Wagoner had left the town, making a total of \$200,000 --- could we utilize that other money for recreation? Doc Davis said that Mr. Wagoner had indeed bequeathed the town \$200,000 but only \$100,000 was earmarked for recreation and the council would have to approve the use of the other. George also asked if anyone has made application for matching funds. Doc answered that we were still looking for grants and Ron Bell said that without a Master Plan, we would lose so many points with the PARTF grant and others that it would be hard to qualify since they are so competitive.

Howard Webster asked what the fate of the old warehouse next door is and was told by Doc that there are no plans to use that building. It could be demolished. Right now, it is being used for minor storage. Howard responded that we need a plan! Although he likes the idea of a central location for everything, he has no problems with doing the recreation park at Wickenham.

Doc Davis said that it sounds like we want to move forward with an actual building and Ab responded that with a building, then you can add fields, and expand that way. Doc said there is a need and this group was formed to determine what that need actually encompasses.

With all the developments and new houses coming in, Jeff Larrimore said he was concerned with the amount of new kids coming in. We need places for these kids. Bob Wooten said that senior citizens have no place to do anything! In response to these statements, Doc said that we cannot satisfy everyone, but we need to come together and decide what would be in the best interests for Walkertown.

Arlyn Wilson asked if anyone had looked at King's? It is beautiful – exactly what we need here in Walkertown. It has fields and walking trails and picnic shelters. Bob Wooten said we need to start small and add to it. Wendell Amos agreed, saying we have to be able to expand in the future.

Along with King, the community centers at Tobaccolville and Pilot Mountain were mentioned as possible guides to use.

Doc asked Lynn to get specs and information, including costs of their buildings, from all three of these towns for the committee to review. Doc also stated that we needed to consider how to maintain and run a community center, if it is not close to town hall. The maintenance cost should be taken into consideration as well as the fact that Kernersville (someone had mentioned Kernersville parks) had a tax rate at least double Walkertown's! And \$100,000 won't go very far for a community center building.

Carol McNeil stated that the town has had all this money for all these years and the town won't turn loose of it!!

Ab Martin said the original plan was to build so that it could be added on to. He asked if we could poll the public to see what the public wants. In response to that suggestion, Doc Davis said that the committee was formed for the purpose of getting input from the public on recreation issues. The final approval, however, would be up to the Town Council.

Discussion followed about how much money each group had – no one could give an exact figure of the amount each group held. It also appeared, Doc said, that the consensus of this committee was to work towards a community center building – and the committee members seemed to agree. Jeff Larrimore said to make the most use of our available money and George Withers asked what good is a building without sewer and how much would sewer cost?

Bob Wooten said he would find out the exact amount of money two of the groups held.

DOC REQUESTED FOR EACH GROUP TO SUBMIT IN WRITING THE AMOUNT OF MONEY THE GROUP HELD ALONG WITH ANY RESTRICTIONS THE GROUP HAS PLACED ON THE MONEY. (Restrictions such as: can only be used to build a community center building; can only be used for constructing ball fields, etc.)

Ab Martin asked Bob if the Friends of the Park would need to vote on using the money and Bob answered "yes" but the money is earmarked only for a community center building and that is the only way the money can be used.

Doc Davis encouraged each group member to hold on to the money until they were comfortable as to how the town would spend it. They could even put a clause in their submission that stated the money would be given based on spending it on constructing a building.

Arlyn Wilson said if we applied for a grant for a building, we could possibly have more money and Jeff Larrimore asked if anything had been done on lights at the park, to which Doc replied that we need to revisit lights and check on heaters at the park (Darrow Road Park) with the Forsyth County Parks Department.

The issue of complying with the attorney's request for resolution of the money was answered by the fact that the Recreation Committee is actively seeking a "plan". Lynn also stated that the town council had approved a donation of up to \$1,000 to the Walkertown Wolfpack football league and she would be paying the Wolfpack upon her receipt of valid purchase receipts. This money would be an actual draw

from the \$100,000 Mr. Wagoner had donated and thus, would also meet the requirements of active participation in using the money given.

GOALS FOR NEXT MEETING

1. **Get community center building plans from King and Tobaccoville (and also Pilot Mtn, if possible).**
2. **Get costs involved from King and Tobaccoville when they built their community center.**
3. **Check into getting lights at Darrow Road Park.**
4. **Check into winterizing bathrooms at Darrow Road Park.**
5. **Make copies of "old" reports for Walkertown Park for George.**
6. **Make copies of WLL contract for George.**
7. **Look for any maps concerning park.**
8. **Request each community center/recreation park group submit in writing amount of money they hold and any restrictions on money.**

DETERMINATION OF NEXT RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE :

- WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2006, AT 7:00 P.M. AT TOWN HALL

ADJOURNMENT

By consensus, the committee meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn McKinnie
Secretary