

TOWN OF STOKESDALE
PO BOX 465
STOKESDALE, NORTH CAROLINA

The Stokesdale Town Council held a Park Workshop at the Town Hall at 8416 US Highway 158 on June 28, 2007.

Eleven people attended the meeting including the following members of Council: Mayor Randle L. Jones, Mayor Pro Tem John W. Flynt, Mickie Halbrook, and Bobby Richardson.

Others present included, Philip Fieler, Stewart – Cooper - Newell Architects; and Carolyn Joyner, Town Clerk.

Mayor Jones called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Mr. Fieler said that a park is being considered on the rear portion of the property that the Town owns. He noted that activities shown on the drawing are shown for place holders for activities that the Town would like to see placed on the property. The drawing is schematic in nature to show the kind of activities that could occur but it is not necessarily a defined set of things that will be incorporated into the park when it is built. The purpose of the meeting tonight is to find what its citizens would like to come out and enjoy at a park. He pointed out a master plan of the entire property with buildings, parking and some activities. A smaller scope of the parcel could be considered in a first phase of construction. He stressed that the purpose of the meeting was to learn what activities that citizens would like to see now and in the future for the park. All ideas could be discussed and listed on a chart and then the ideas would be ranked based on priorities of those present. This will help to determine the activities to be considered by Council for the first phase of the project.

Fred Eisel, President of Stokesdale Parks and Recreation, Inc., asked about the placeholders that were shown on the plan. Mr. Fieler indicated that soccer fields are shown arranged so that the largest size of soccer field for regulation play would overlay the two smaller fields. Horseshoe pits are shown as well as small pavilions that people could reserve for outdoor activities/events. A larger pavilion would provide space for a concession stand and equipment needed to maintain the park. There are playground areas for younger children in addition to volleyball courts, tennis courts, and disc golf course of 6 holes.

Mayor Jones noted that the soccer fields could be reconfigured for another use if needed. Mr. Eisel asked if the fields would be lighted. Mr. Fieler said that the purpose of the meeting is to look at priorities to be determined by the activities that will take place on the property.

Mr. Flynt asked how many children played soccer versus baseball. Mr. Eisel said that about 220-250 children played baseball and the same number play soccer. This would involve about 300 to 400 parents. There are two baseball fields at the existing Park. Stokesdale Youth Football, a separate entity, is practicing at Stokesdale Elementary School. Soccer and baseball are played at the existing park. There space at the park for is one regulation size soccer field and two small soccer fields. Some of the soccer fields are not large enough. There are maybe 10 -12 children on a team for the older children and less for younger children.

Vicki Lawrence said that the Park may have two to three games on Friday night and games all day on Saturday with games at two different places.

Mayor Jones noted that there are walking trails and that the Town Property connects to the school property.

Mr. Fieler noted that the adjoining property has some development occurring and some green space has been designated which may connect with the Town property. There is an opportunity to tie into other walking tracks. The loop around the Town property is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile. Mayor Jones noted that a joint venture between the school and the Town so that the property could be utilized.

Mr. Fieler asked for those in attendance to join in general discussion to brainstorm ideas for sports ideas and things that you have seen in other parks that you and your neighbors would like to participate.

The goal is to generate a full list of activities and then prioritize them to develop a list with high priorities that Council would like to accomplish in the first phase.

Mr. Eisel indicated that he felt that field space is a must with soccer fields being the best use of the space. He said that approximately 250 children play soccer now with approximately 300-400 parents. He noted that the Park has basketball in the spring and softball in the fall. Children from Summerfield, Oak Ridge, Huntsville areas play on the Stokesdale teams. In the fall Oak Ridge focuses on football, Summerfield focuses on baseball and Stokesdale has soccer. Children from other communities come to Stokesdale to play soccer.

During discussion, Mr. Fieler recorded the various activities that were mentioned that the group would like to see placed in the park. Participants were given 4 votes to cast for what they felt were the most important items they would like to see placed in the park from the ideas that were discussed. The following chart shows the results:

Soccer Fields – Multi-use fields	8
Playground	4
Pavilions	3
Basketball	
Walking Path	4
Benches	1
Educational Activities	
Small Picnic Shelter	4
Grilling Stations	
Disc Golf	2
Fitness Trail	1
Rock Climbing	
Volleyball	
Horseshoe Pits	1
Tennis Courts	
“Safety “ Zone	
Splash Zone – Water	
Ropes Course	
Gardening Area	1
Riding Ring	2

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Carolyn L. Joyner, Town Clerk

Approved:

Randle L. Jones, Mayor