

Goose Creek Scenic River Advisory Committtee
Minutes of the July 14, 2004 meeting,
Lovettsville Room
Loudoun County Government Center
1 Harrison Street, S.E., Leesburg, Virginia

Members Present: Chairman Helen Casey, Vice Chairman Joan Rokus, Kurt Erickson, Bill Hudspeth, Benjamin Lawrence, Fred McIntosh (arrived right after vote to accept minutes)

Members Absent: Steven Combs-Lafleur

County Staff Present: Marie Genovese, Planner, Planning Department
Mark Novak, Park Planner, PRCS
Janet Klein, Recording Secretary, PRCS

Chairman's Business

Chairman Helen Casey called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m and thanked everyone for attending. She asked if there were any changes to the minutes of May 12. There being no changes, Ben Lawrence moved to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Helen announced that the next meeting would be Thursday, September 23, 2004 in the Lovettsville Room at the County Government Center, beginning at 10:00 a.m. She stated that this committee will be hosting the Virginia State Scenic River Board. This will be discussed in more detail later in the meeting.

Helen acknowledged the presence of Steve Hahn from the Lansdowne development and then turned the meeting over to Mark Novak. Due to mechanical difficulties, Mark was not able to show the PowerPoint presentation he had prepared. He gave a brief oral overview.

Presentation by Mark Novak

Lansdowne Community Development has proffered a 51-acre riverfront park site that runs from Goose Creek to Kinnela Farms - up along the old Xerox park site for their employees. There is also a 41-acre Goose Creek Overlook Park that runs from Cotton Bridge to Hole 13 of the golf course, about one mile away. There will be a parking lot for those using the canoe launch. Also proffered was an active recreation site that has ballfields next to the middle school.

There have been issues with building the golf course. Some stockpiling was done on the park site and the owners (Kemper Golf) are now following a remediation plan to fix what was destroyed or encroached upon. Lansdowne developers and Kemper Golf and have been working through the issues. A County Interdepartmental team meets weekly to go over Lansdowne applications so there will be no further unfortunate activity. Mark Novak did state that a Stop Work Order was issued for the Golf Course at one time but that it is now fully operational. Lansdowne's permit was held for a different reason. The Elizabeth Lock is a very old structure. Mark stated that it is hard to tell if there has been any damage. Kemper Golf will do everything they can to stabilize it. Steve Hahn suggested talking with Kevin Miner. Steve will have Kevin call Helen to set up a meeting to discuss this committee's concerns. Ben Lawrence and Mark Novak stated they would like to be in attendance.

When discussing how to arrange for the public to view the lock, there were concerns about the liability because of the proximity to the 13th hole of the golf course. Mark stated that the County tried to convince the golf course to let the lock stay as part of the park land but it remains on golf course property. A viewable area needs to be created. A possible solution might be to suspend golf play for a few hours 3 days a year and arrange for guided tours to be given by a local historian. Joan Rokus mentioned that back in the 1970s Gene Scheel wrote about the history of that land.

Helen acknowledged Tom Dombroski of VDOT who had joined the meeting during Mark's presentation. Tom, an environmental specialist, stated that he was instructed by his superiors to start attending these meetings. Helen asked him who is going to replace Tom Farley. There is someone

serving in that position temporarily but the position has been advertised Mr. Farley is retiring the end of July.

Committee Elections

Ben Lawrence stated that all current officers and members had agreed to serve in the same capacity next year. He therefore nominated the current officers of the Goose Creek Scenic River Advisory Committee – Helen Casey, President; Joan Rokus, Vice Chairman; Bill Hudspeth, Secretary. They were unanimously re-elected.

SEPTEMBER MEETING – hosting State Scenic River Advisory Board

1. Invitations
Helen distributed packets to committee members and County staff which included an example of the invitation Helen plans to send to invited guests, a tentative agenda, and the guest list. Each County Supervisor will get a personalized letter. She asked that everyone please take a minute to look over the invitation and let her know if they have any suggestions for changes.
2. Schedule
 - The meeting will start at 10:00 a.m. with the Luncheon at 12:30 and the Tour to be from 1:30-3:00. Their tentative agenda is enclosed. Dick Gibbons will get her the Final Agenda soon.
 - Mark Novak will speak during the luncheon (no PowerPoint presentation). After Helen said that she would like Julie Pastor (Director of Planning) to speak, Marie Genovese agreed to ask Julie on Helen's behalf.
 - Luck Stone will make a short presentation. There will be no walking tour of the facility. The tour will then continue down Belmont Ridge Road to Cotton Bridge. Then on to the barn at Lansdowne. Helen invited Hobie Mitchel to come on the bus tour and talk about the collaborative effort between the developer and this Committee in the design of the bridge.
3. Guests
 - Helen went through the list of guests. When the question was raised about what the Goose Creek Association does, Joan Rokus explained that the Association is being invited because of their great efforts to preserve the Goose Creek Bridge off Rt. 50, among other things. The Association has members from Loudoun and Fauquier Counties. For more information, visit them at www.goosecreekassn.org.
 - In addition to the members of the press listed, Ben Lawrence will also be inviting the Blue Ridge Leader to send a reporter. Joan Rokus will contact Michael Laris from the Washington Post and Margaret Morton from Leesburg Today.
 - Joan Rokus would like to invite Mark Montgomery, developer of Rivercreek. Joan will contact him for his address so Helen can send him an invitation.
 - It was also suggested that members of the General Assembly be invited.
4. Things to Accomplish Before the Meeting
 - Marie will work on getting a map of Goose Creek that would fit on either 8-1/2x11 or 8-1/2x14 paper. This map will show the Creek at the Loudoun County line and follow it to where it meets the Potomac. Loudoun County maps will not show where it begins in Fauquier County.
 - Joan has agreed to do name tags for all known attendees.

There being no further business of the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

Guests Present: Steve Hahn, Lansdowne
Tom Dombroski, VDOT

Respectfully submitted,
Janet G. Klein