

WATER COMMITTEE
JULY 11, 2007
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chuck Watkins, Chairman
Dr. George Patton, Vice Chairman
Tony Parrott
Pete Frisina

NON-VOTING MEMBERS: Bill McNally
David Jaeger

STAFF PRESENT: Russell Ray
ABSENT: Jack Krakeel
GUESTS: Anthony Dinota
Jim Daughtry

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chuck Watkins at 8:00 A.M.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON JUNE 13, 2007.

Vice Chairman Dr. George Patton made the motion and Tony Parrott seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on June 13, 2007. There was no opposition.

II. ANTHONY DINOTA – LAKE KEDRON REQUEST.

Mr. Dinota thanked the committee for taking a few minutes out of what is always probably a very busy day here to talk about ambitious projects. He distributed copies of his presentation to the group. He stated he wanted to share some of their thoughts and then leave it with them to think about it. Mr. Dinota stated that he lives in Peachtree City, he has lived in Georgia fifteen years, now. He lives over by Lake Kedron which is an absolutely gorgeous lake and they enjoy it very much. They enjoy the fishing docks very much. He commented that what can be seen in the package is an aerial view of the lake, Peachtree Parkway that intersects the lake and the fishing docks. He pointed out the tennis court which is in The Peninsula subdivision.

Mr. Dinota went on to say that with all the commercial growth and development on the north end of Peachtree City we are seeing a lot more vehicle traffic on Peachtree Parkway. Not unexpected with all the growth that has occurred in the area. But, what that is doing, is starting to pose a pretty significant risk to all of our golf carts and particularly our 14 and 15 year old kids that are trying to get up to the school every day. There have been some near miss vehicle accidents. What they are trying to do is come up with a way to mitigate a safety hazard and certainly prevent one of our children from being fatally involved in a vehicle to golf cart accident. When these golf cart paths were designed, obviously the vehicle traffic was much less

frequent. And, let's be honest, traveled at a much slower speed many years ago. We are trying to separate the two. We think it is a better idea to keep golf carts with golf carts, and vehicles with vehicles. He referenced a golf cart map in his package. He stated what they are looking for today is, they are asking for guidance on how they may go about adding what they will refer to as a utility bridge or utility crossing that would run parallel to Peachtree Parkway. There currently is a crossing there, but it is on the west side of the road. They will propose to add one on the east side of the road. What that would do is allow residents that live on this side of the road to stay on this side of the road, and the residents that live on the other side of the road to stay on their side of the road. Therefore, they would eliminate crossings altogether. This is part of a larger proposal to Peachtree City that would extend the golf cart paths on the west of the road all the way to McIntosh High School, so that all these neighborhoods, there are about twelve neighborhoods in all, the solution ends up being that none of these kids ever have to cross the road on their golf cart which is really what their ultimate solution would be. To keep them separate from vehicles. It all starts here with the Fayette County Water System, because they don't even know if what they are thinking about is possible or feasible.

Mr. Dinota went on to say that, financially they are not asking for any money, they are not asking for anything other than a blessing that says "hey, we think that it is something that would be additive to the community." He commented that a representative sample of the bridge is on page 1. He asked them to spec it with 42" high railings. He did not want anybody driving off the bridge into the water. On the second page there are some details of their standard specifications. They can be modified or altered to be in alignment with the needs of the rules and regulations. This is just representative of what it would be. This company, for example, is one of many that build golf cart and utility bridges around the Southeast United States. Some of their standard specifications are on page 2 and page 3. They would provide all drawings and things like that. He commented that they are not asking for any financial support. They would certainly look for Peachtree City and/or homeowner participation to fund this project to make it a reality. He stated that he does not know that it is 200 linear feet, he guessed high. It would run parallel to; it is top down construction, so the water lake level does not matter. It would progress as they built their utility bridge. It is representative of the first page. The 42" high horizontal hand rails, because they did not want a golf cart, or anybody else for that matter, to fall off. He is not sure how the liability, hold harmless clauses work, but there are other bridges in Peachtree City that cross the lakes. So he is sure, there has to be some language that exists that allows that to occur. He referenced other materials in the package that pertain to other things going on for Peachtree Parkway. There are some discussions for roundabouts, and there are some discussions for stop lights, so that is part of a solution for vehicle traffic. But there are two issues they are trying to resolve here. One would be the vehicles, the other one would be golf carts. He stated that he left his name and cell phone number because this is a lot of information and he knows that you have a busy agenda and as he said earlier, he does not want to take up hours of your time.

Mr. Dinota commented that he would appreciate any feedback or if there were any comments or questions that he could address this morning.

Chairman Watkins thanked Mr. Dinota for his proposal. Mr. Jaeger commented that Mr. Dinota had mentioned that this is part of an overall plan or project to extend that path along the western side. He asked if he knows how this would tie in schedule wise with that. Mr. Dinota replied that they met with the City Council on June 5, this was just a few homeowners and a smaller group of City Council folks from Peachtree City. They will be presenting this entire packet to the full Council on August 18. He thought they should have a discussion with the Water Committee first because if the committee said that they absolutely don't do that here; it would pretty much change the entire proposal. He wanted to get a feel for the acceptance or rejection of, not commitment to do, but yes it is feasible, yes it is possible or no it is impossible. They are going through a comprehensive master plan for all the cart paths in Peachtree City right now, so timing wise, the bridge could be put into full utility because as it is today when you come across, you cross at Peachtree Parkway to the Kedron boat docks, which is, by his guess, probably one of the most dangerous crossings in Peachtree City. It is a down hill blind curve and you cannot see past the tree line. He then described what he proposes in theirs, including closing one crossing completely with everyone crossing in an area that is more wide open with excellent visibility in both directions. The kids cross two or three times before they get to school in the morning. He talked about adults make pretty decent decisions, however 14 and 15 year old kids make marginally good decisions, some of the time. He does not have any kids in that age range, but he represents a lot of the homeowners in the Peninsula neighborhood that do have children in that age range.

Mr. Dinota went on to say that they realize that budgets are tight and nobody really wants to have any increase in taxes. They think that there is enough benefit for Peachtree City and what they can increase the life style or continue that life style that enables people to get around town without having to use a vehicle that they hope to get them to buy in. They may not. They may then have to go to all the 500 homeowners and say it is \$500.00 each if you want to make it happen.

Mr. Jaeger asked if there has been any investigation or discussion about trying to find a way to build it within the right of way of Peachtree Parkway so it would not really include the lake. Mr. Donita said he is sure that once they go to the City, they will ask them to talk with David Rast and the other City engineers in terms of doing that. There is some land along the roadway. He is not a civil engineer, and it does not look like there would be enough room there. He is an aircraft engineer. Everything he looks at is looking from the sky down. Mr. Jaeger commented that he would guess the slope there would be pretty steep right now, but it might be something that could be modified, maybe with a retaining wall or even a bridging structure in the right of way versus over the lake. He is just curious if that had been looked at. Mr. Donita went on to say that they do not advocate any position, they are just trying to get ideas for solutions.

Mr. Parrott commented that he is not sure what the right of way is in this area. The Parkway was planned to be a four lane. There may be enough right of way to keep it in their right of way.

Chairman Watkins stated that the group would review everything and discuss at the next meeting in two weeks. Mr. Dinota thanked the committee.

III. JIM DAUGHTRY – LAKE HORTON REQUEST.

Mr. Daughtry passed around some architectural drawings for review. He explained that he has been in this area, in the banking business for about twelve years. He is really involved in things for handicapped people or people with special needs. He and his partner developed and raised money to build the Fayette Field of Hope over in Peachtree City. It is a special use ball field for kids with disabilities with synthetic turf. They raised about a million dollars to build that field: also, another one for kids with normal needs so they could interact. All of his life, he has no children, and he has always worked with kids with disabilities. In New Orleans he was president of the Jaycees and worked for Special Olympics, and was on the Board for a school with kids with Down syndrome.

He went on to say that he is an avid fisherman. He loves to fish. He has fished a lot of tournaments, and one thing that he feels is that fishing promotes a lot of good clean sport. There are a lot of people in wheelchairs right now that don't have the availability to go fishing. What they want to do is build a ramp, a dock at the first boat ramp on the right. He referenced a picture of the area. There is a peninsula that sticks out. They want to do an asphalt ramp down to a dock, and build the dock to be wheelchair accessible. He commented that Mr. Tony Fritz is in their Rotary Club and he designed this dock. This just gives an idea of what they want to do. He is not particularly sure of what the County regulations are as far as what can be done in the lake. This is a concept. As they did with the Fayette Field of Hope, once they completed it and got everything signed off by the City, they turned it over to the City of Peachtree City. It is under their Recreation Department now. Same token here, once they complete it, it would not cost the County or the Water System any money at all. They will build it through donations.

Mr. Parrott commented that some of the things we do at Lake Horton, such as the asphalt is pervious asphalt. Mr. Daughtry explained that they would build to County specs. They would follow whatever specifications the County has. What they need to know is what they can do, what he wants done and they will do it. Once it is done, they will turn it over and it is open for people with disabilities.

Vice Chairman Dr. Patton asked about a fence being around the dock? He asked if a life jacket would be required when they go out on the ramp, because if they are already handicapped, they may have a hard time swimming if they accidentally fell in. Mr. Daughtry said that is a good point. He is thinking, probably, he does not know what the regulations are for others, but what they will do is do some due

diligence and check. He did not want to do a lot of work on this thing until he saw that there was interest from you guys. They will design everything, come back with their recommendation, per the County specs and go from there.

Vice Chairman Dr. Patton asked Mr. McNally if this will increase our liability out there. Mr. McNally responded that he can never guarantee, anytime the County does something, there is an increase in liability.

Mr. Daughtry stated they have to do railing around. This is right at the handicap parking, and what he is thinking is, we could say it is for wheelchairs only, but you are going to have a lot of people out there fishing if there is nobody out there in a wheelchair they are going to fish. Another thing is the fish feeders or fish attracters. He made some himself for putting out at different lakes that he wanted to fish for tournaments. Basically you make them out of a plastic bucket with concrete and a four inch PVC pipe filled with fish food, drill holes in it and put some funny pipe from lawn irrigation where it looks like limbs. Then stick it out in a certain depth of water. That is another thing, if it is permissible, he will make some pictures, they could put these out so there will actually be fish there that people can catch in a wheelchair. The main thing is, he wants them to be able to catch fish there.

Mr. Jaeger asked if the construction of the dock would require that the lake level be down, so that they would have access to where the piers would go down in the ground. Mr. Daughtry replied that he did not think so right now. He has had two or three people tell him they would help; Brent Scarborough told him that when he got ready to do this, to call him. He has to get into how they will do it, but right now seems like it would be the best time to do it. But, whether it is done this time or if it goes on until next Spring that is fine. This is something that he has wanted to do and he finally just got around to it. He mentioned that he is a conservationist. When it comes to fishing he throws them back, he does not eat them, except if they are bream, he might eat those. This is what they will promote.

Chairman Watkins thanked Mr. Daughtry for his presentation. He commented that he thinks it is very commendable that they will take on a project like this. The scope of this is pretty aggressive and it is a large project. He explained that the Water Committee makes recommendations to the Board of Commissioners. He stated that they would review it and discuss it at the next meeting in two weeks.

IV. REQUEST TO USE FLOAT TUBE IN LAKE HORTON.

Mr. Parrott stated that we had a request to use float tubes for fishing in Lake Horton. The float tube is a pair of waders with an inner tube around the top. Personally, it works pretty good in a three acre farm pond, but he has trouble visualizing using this in a lake that big or we will wind up with somebody bobbing out there in the water, however far they end up out in the lake.

Chairman Watkins mentioned that we do not want to violate any DNR rules. The committee discussed how people might not understand that this is approved and wading in the water is not approved. We could be creating a situation where we are inviting people into the water. This is like a wet suit; there are fins, a float tube and places to put fishing gear. Mr. Parrott stated that he does not view this any differently than someone wanting to go scuba diving, and we don't allow that. There is very little difference between the guy that is going to want to go scuba diving and this.

The committee discussed at length the DNR rules about bodily contact and combustible engines not allowed in the lakes. The definition of a watercraft was also discussed. Mr. Jaeger pointed out when you are in a traditional boat of any kind, whether it is inflatable or a hard shell the risk of bodily contact is very low. When you are in a wet suit or this floatation device, the risk of bodily contact is very high. He thinks that is where the line is. We accept watercraft; a lot of people use the lake but are not in the lake. We don't accept people going in the lake with their high risk of bodily contact. He thinks this falls in that category. Further discussion pertained to contact with the water when someone is putting their boat in the water, which is a point in the letter. It depends on the ramp angle and water level whether you have to stand in the water.

Mr. Parrott made a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners not to change the current rules to include using float tubes in the County owned lakes. Vice Chairman Dr. George Patton seconded and there was no opposition.

V. UPDATE ON DROUGHT CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS.

Mr. Parrott updated the committee that Lake Kedron is 3 ½ feet low and Lake Horton is 5 feet low. Lake Peachtree is full. There is water on the spillway. We are using less water now than we were three weeks ago. We are still under Level II drought restrictions. We still have people call and complain about outdoor water use, but there are some exceptions that they don't understand. Professionals can plant new sod and water any time for thirty days. A homeowner can plant sod and can water 30 days midnight to 10:00 a.m. You can water a garden anytime.

VI. DISCUSSION ABOUT CREEL SURVEY AT LAKE KEDRON, LAKE PEACHTREE AND LAKE HORTON.

Mr. Parrott commented that we have not done a creel survey on Lake Kedron and Lake Horton in several years. He wants to recommend doing this. We also, don't need so much to do a creel survey on Lake Peachtree, but have to take care of the aquatic growth.

VII. DISCUSSION ABOUT AQUATIC GROWTH IN LAKE PEACHTREE.

Mr. Parrott stated that we need to see how many of our grass carp are still in Lake Peachtree and make a decision about how many to put in the lake. We have aquatic growth in Lake Peachtree again. While we treat down at the intake structure with copper sulfate, we keep about 17 acres pretty good; it is starting to grow up in Lake Peachtree.

Vice Chairman Dr. George Patton made a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to use a professional service of the County's choice to conduct a creel survey at Lake Kedron and Lake Horton and a study of aquatic growth in Lake Peachtree and make recommendations. Pete Frisina seconded and there was no opposition.

SYSTEM PRESSURE DISCUSSION.

Chairman Watkins mentioned a neighboring county has increased pressure in their system. It has affected homes by the pressure being so great that it is blowing pipes out of the walls. He questioned that we have regulators and if we exceed 100 pounds or 120 pounds going into the distribution network that is serving homes and businesses, we have safeguards that keeps the pressure from being 180 pounds. Mr. Parrott responded that we have some pressure that is 130. But, we have pressure reducing valves in the system to keep it 130 and below. The 130 is what we are working at. Mr. Parrott went on to say that part of the problem that Chairman Watkins is discussing is the fact that we had the 130 when they built the house so the plumber and the builder understood what they had when they built the house. That made them build to meet that. If you only have 75 pounds of pressure out there and that is what the builder builds to, they put a pressure regulator in that won't handle more than that. If this happened in our system, he would make a recommendation to adjust the neighborhood with a separate PRV.

There being no further business, Chairman Chuck Watkins adjourned the meeting at 8:45 A.M.

Chuck Watkins

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 25th day of July, 2007.

Lisa Quick