

The Smithfield Town Council held its continued meeting on Tuesday December 10th, 2013. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. Members present were Mr. T. Carter Williams, Mayor; Dr. Milton Cook, Mrs. Denise N. Tynes, Ms. Connie Chapman, Mr. Michael Smith, Mr. Andrew Gregory, Vice Mayor; and Mr. Randolph Pack. Staff members present were Mr. Peter M. Stephenson, Town Manager; Mr. William T. Hopkins III, Director of Planning and Public Works; Ms. Lesley G. King, Town Clerk; Mr. Steven G. Bowman, Police Chief; Mr. Alonzo Howell, Deputy Chief; Ms. Judy Winslow, Director of Tourism; and Mr. William H. Riddick III, Town Attorney. There were no (0) citizens present. There was no media present.

Mayor Williams – Good evening ladies and gentlemen. I would like to call the December 10th, 2013 continued meeting of the Smithfield Town Council to order. We are going to start with the Town Manager with an update on Upcoming Meetings and Activities.

Town Manager – Thank you. The only update from last week's meeting is that the Board of Historic and Architectural Review will not meet. They did not have any agenda items this month. As a reminder, the Committee meetings are early because of the holiday. They will be next Monday the 16th and Tuesday the 17th. I wanted to make sure to invite you all to the Christmas lunch on December 23rd. We sent out an E-Newsletter about that today. Captain Howell mentioned that FOX News came by today. There may be something on the news tonight.

Chief Bowman – It is the first anniversary of Mr. Newby's homicide. We are trying to generate more interest as far as that is concerned. We are asking the news media to bring it up again. Hopefully, we can get some tips or more information on it.

Town Manager – Thank you, Chief Bowman. That is all that I have for today.

Mayor Williams – Thank you. Next is the Action Section.

Councilman Smith – We have to amend the readoption of this reallocation of funds.

Town Attorney – Mr. Saunders thought that it was important to designate that the funds would be spent on Segment 3 which is the portion that is within the Town of Smithfield between the bridge and Battery Park Road. It would be only for the portion

within the town not the entire trail. He made that suggestion and I thought it was a good one.

Councilman Smith – I would like to make a motion to Amend and Readopt the Resolution to Reallocate Town Funds from the Department of Transportation Urban Funds to another Project as Specified which would be within the Town Limits of the Town of Smithfield for the Bike Trail.

Councilwoman Tynes – Second.

Mayor Williams – A motion has been made and properly seconded. Is there any further discussion?

Councilman Dr. Cook – At the Committee meeting, we talked about spending this money on a couple of things. Some of these items all tie into the bike trail like the lights which would go from the retirement villas up to the stoplight. Would that be part of this project?

Town Manager – It probably can be. I think the biggest concern is the three phases and we want to make sure that the County and VDOT do not think that it is part of the phase out in the county.

Councilman Dr. Cook – Do we have to specifically say that it is going to be used for a bike trail within the Town of Smithfield limits for Segment 3?

Town Manager – Yes.

Councilman Dr. Cook - Does that limit us on what we can spend it on like the lights along the side of the road?

Town Manager – No. We can still add the lights.

Mayor Williams – It is within the trail that is going to be installed but we have to have a specific area that this money is going to be spent on. They want to know exactly what we are going to do with it. It is a broad area. We can do lights or whatever.

Councilman Smith – We talked about this. We were only making a clarification.

Councilman Dr. Cook - I was just making sure that this involved all that we talked about.

Town Manager – I will make sure that we include that.

Mayor Williams – Are there any other comments from Council? Roll call vote.

On call for the vote, seven members were present. Councilman Smith voted aye, Vice Mayor Gregory voted aye, Councilwoman Chapman voted aye, Councilwoman

Tynes voted aye, Councilman Dr. Cook voted aye, Councilman Pack voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Mayor Williams – We are going to skip over the closed session for now. Next we have New Business. Does anyone have any new business?

Councilwoman Chapman – I have some new business regarding Windsor Castle Park. I would like to discuss with the Council the open forum that we have planned for next week. We want everyone to be on the same page next week when we have our forum that will be open to the community. We wanted to provide everyone with some factual information so that if they have any questions they would have the right information. The first sheet has ten items that Ms. Ippolito has created based on the history of the park that are questions that we plan to post on the website so that people can refer to them. It is the most common asked questions. The kayak phone number is currently not being used so that number (359-0846) has been designated as a hotline for people to leave a message so we can answer their concerns or questions. We also have an email wcpark@smithfieldva.org that will go directly to Ms. Musick and me. On the double sheet that has two slides that we plan to display next week along with the park plans. Basically, it will be in color with photos of the restrooms, picnic shelters, playground, and all of these areas. I have incorporated the information that Ms. Ippolito typed up. We have the short version. The ten things that you might be asked is the long version. We think that these will be the most popular asked questions. We wanted to make sure that everyone felt comfortable addressing these issues. One of the things that I would really like to make sure that everyone is on the same page about the difference between passive and active. We currently have passive and active elements in the park. If I take my kayak to the kayak launch on my own then that is a passive activity. If you rent a kayak through the town's rental services then it would be an active activity because it is staffed by the town. Passive would mean things that you can do on your own such as a picnic, walking the trails, having lunch, taking pictures, or riding your bike. Active would be things that require town administration such as scheduled programs, activities, events, and weddings. Some activities can be both passive and active. We want to make sure that people are clear on that. What we are thinking for next Monday is to have an open house format. We would like to have a sign in sheet to capture the attendee's names, addresses, and emails so we can have an accurate

number of those in attendance. We will have the plans on display and informational sheets can be posted up as well. We decided that instead of having easels with flip charts we would have index cards for people to write their feedback on so their comments are not being viewed by everyone. We would like to encourage Council, staff, and Foundation members that are available to be in attendance on Monday for meeting, greeting, and answering questions. We would like to identify those individuals that feel comfortable answering questions with a name tag since it is an open house type format. We want to make sure that we all have the same information.

Mayor Williams – I think we need to have something that tells everyone that we have a Committee meeting the next day in case they want to come.

Councilwoman Chapman – Would you like to advertise that we have a Committee meeting the next day?

Mayor Williams – Just something that states that there will be a Committee meeting with the date and time.

Councilwoman Chapman – We can certainly do that.

Mayor Williams – It was amazing to Vice Mayor Gregory and me when discussing the ball fields that no one seemed aware of the new Rescue Squad building being built on Great Springs Road. People are just not informed until things are ready to go and then they are upset. The more we let them know then the better off we will be.

Councilman Chapman – Everything here is an educational piece for us and the community. These are all facts not opinions or wishes of mine or the Foundation Board. I thought that it was important to include the data from Ms. Ippolito on the public sessions that have occurred since we have been recently told that it was just released to the public. It has always been out there. It will give them a little background on it. After we receive all of the feedback next Monday we can go to Tuesday's Committee meeting to discuss where we want to go with this. We need to have Council's vision for the park whether we decide to do all of the amenities or part of them even if we have to table the ones that are hot topics like the picnic shelters and disc golf. It will be up to the committee. I do not want to take those off of the table until after our open forum to see what the feedback is. The Town Manager has an ad going into the newspaper tomorrow that will advertise the open forum.

Mayor Williams – Does anyone else have anything to say?

Ms. Ivy – Ms. Sue Ivy. I live at 220 Grace Street. We talk a lot about the park being a passive park. All of the amenities on the plans could be considered passive unless we choose to make them more active. A great example is Central Park which Mr. Joe Luter modeled Windsor Castle Park after. It has different elements you can sit on a rock, rent a bike, or ride on a horse.

Ms. Ippolito – Ms. Gina Ippolito. I live at 231 James Street. I think that it is important to know the definition of passive and active especially for the things that we know are hot topics. I think we all need to be fairly consistent. The other hot topic is the green line for the disc golf that is on the plans. I want everyone to understand that it is not an exact location. It never has been. The reason that it is shown on the map is because through the public process it warrant consideration. It is only shown on the map to show what 4,100 linear feet look like in relationship to the rest of the things at the park. You could choose to do nine holes or none at all. The picnic shelters have also been a hot topic. There has been a lot said about the trees being cleared in order to put the picnic shelters in. You will find that in a lot of places there are no trees shown but that is because if they had left them on there then you could not see all of the boxes underneath. Tree protection is a very high priority for the Foundation and the Natural Playground Company. The picnic shelter in reality is wooded for the first two thirds of it. It is cleared out and fairly open where the boxes are located on the map which is why they were placed there. Again, these three items are not in permanent locations. If you decided to move forward with picnic shelters then you would have to decide how many you want. I have seen a lot of structures where they leave the trees coming up into the structure. The hill slide is in a pretty good place. We want everyone to know that these are conceptual locations. The purpose is to give factual information.

Mayor Williams – Thank you, Ms. Ippolito. Are there any questions about our forum next Monday?

Councilman Pack – In reference to what Ms. Ippolito said I think we are going to run into some friction with people if we do not vote on where the amenities are going. Are we voting that yes we will have all of these amenities but we are going to put them in different locations from what is shown? I think that is kind of what the public wants to see is where we are putting things. I really think that we need to decide where things are going or at least the general area before we approve this so that we can tell the

public that this is what we are going to build and where it will be located. For example with disc golf since it is a hot topic I think we need to tell the public that we are proposing a disc golf course with eighteen holes and it is going to be located here. It can be decided yes or no then it can be adjusted. I really think that when we approve the plans we should approve where the amenities are going.

Ms. Ivy – The disc golf and fit stations are really the two things that can be moved. The fit stations could move to the outside trail or the whole four mile trail except where the historic easement is. We are not quite sure about that. If you approve the picnic shelters then they would be located there on the map but they could be scaled back.

Councilman Pack – They would be located in this general location which is what I want to make sure that we are telling people. I did not hear any resistance on the fit stations. I actually heard compliments on them and how they were off of the path.

Ms. Ippolito – There was a thought process put into where the fit stations would go in relation to muscle groups that are used and the amount of distance between the pathways. You would disrupt that if you decided to move some of them to a different location. There are a lot of people that do that type of integral training. The fit stations are a bit different from some of the other conceptual ones like disc golf.

Councilman Pack – So these plans are 50% ready to go we are basically deciding on locations when we talk to folks on Monday.

Councilwoman Chapman – I think that everything is pretty much where it was proposed except for disc golf.

Ms. Ivy – Yes. There are markers out there. They know exactly where they are putting everything at the park.

Ms. Ippolito – The only things that are questionable are the disc golf and the location of the community garden. The bottom community garden location is the original location that the Operations Committee of the Windsor Castle Park Foundation Board decided where it should go years ago. The consultants recommended that we move it closer to the amenities for a lot of reasons. You need to decide on that. The picnic shelters are not in an exact location. You need to decide how big you want the picnic shelters and how many. It would not make sense to put picnic shelters in a different location.

Councilman Pack – At the community forum we can tell people that this is the general location of the picnic shelters. We do not have to tell them specifically to the foot where they will go.

Ms. Ippolito – After the public input on Monday I think they will ask what Council plans to do next.

Mayor Williams – We will take their answers and questions under consideration.

Councilman Smith – What is the hot topic about the shelters other than the trees possibly coming down?

Ms. Ippolito – That is really all it is. I heard one person say that they were not sure if they wanted those at all because it would have large groups coming to the park. There is electricity at the large picnic shelter at Nike Park some people have DJ's, bands and music. If a church is having a meeting they might need a microphone or something. You could choose not to put electricity in there at all. You could put electricity but not allow people to bring in inflatable devices and bands. I have heard some people say that they did not want that for Windsor Castle Park because it would be disruptive to the rest of the park.

Councilman Smith – The area that you are talking about is partially cleared you would not have to take down any trees.

Ms. Ippolito – We have had drafts of this plan for months. I think some people just jump to conclusions that they will cut down trees in the entire area because there are no trees showing on the map but that is not true. There are some dead trees that need to come out anyway. The back area is fairly open so you would not have to cut down trees to put the picnic shelters there. I have seen picnic shelters built where trees come up right in the middle of it. There are some parks in Fairfax County where they built an entire trail system out over the woods and it is ADA accessible. It is easier for them to get out in the woods that way than to push someone on moon dust trails. Our trails are supposedly ADA accessible but it is difficult to push a wheelchair around on them.

Mayor Williams – Does anyone else have any comments or questions?

Vice Mayor Gregory – If we keep hearing the active versus passive argument then I think Council needs to come up with ultimately what our true vision is whether we want this to be active or passive. I think we can do both but everyone has to be on board. It will still be a great place. If people do not feel that way or Council does not feel that way

then at some point we have to come to a consensus. If we do not have that vision then we are always going to be divided on what we agree on.

Councilwoman Chapman – I agree. We need to know what the Council wants as a whole. I think when we try to get as much unison as possible then it will be better for the whole community. I do not think that anyone should change their feelings based on the group. I think understanding all of the facts and share what your thoughts are. If it is different than someone else's then that is okay.

Mayor Williams – Thank you all for giving your input. Next we have Closed Session.

Town Attorney – Is that all there is?

Councilman Dr. Cook – There is some stuff in one of the barns at Windsor Castle that no one knows who it belongs to. It is sort of like a company's assembly line. It really looks like an assembly line apparatus. It is disassembled in the barn.

Councilwoman Tynes – It belongs to the citizens of the town.

Councilman Dr. Cook – You are right if it was there when the property was given to us. I am just wondering if someone put it in there after an event and forgot about it.

Mayor Williams – It is very expensive stuff whatever it is.

Director of Planning, Engineering and Public Works – I will show our Town Manager where it is.

Councilman Dr. Cook – I did not think that it was a closed session item.

Town Manager – Do we want the Director of Tourism to bring up the American Pickers item? I included that in my email to you all on Friday. I also forwarded Ms. Winslow email.

Director of Tourism – We are really excited. I do not know how many of you are familiar with the American Pickers but it is extremely popular show. They are already very interested in Mr. Dave Hare and Mr. Trey Gwaltney barns that are on Institute Street. American Pickers are sending a producer here within the next two weeks to look around to see what we have to offer and to see what kind of good T.V. we will be. Mr. Hare suggested giving them as an incentive to come by allowing them to go into the barns at Windsor Castle Park to see some of the artifacts that remain there. I wanted to put it on the table. It is definitely something that they are extremely interested in doing

since this is the home of the founder of Smithfield. They are looking for great stories and that would be a great story.

Councilman Pack – Are they looking to find something in one of these barns and purchase it?

Director of Tourism – Perhaps.

Councilman Pack – I think that is where I would have a problem with it because it is the town and citizen's property.

Director of Tourism – We can certainly open the doors and look.

Councilman Dr. Cook – We need to have someone that knows something about what is in there. We do not want to give away something that might have some value to the town. There may be some historical items especially in the kitchen area. I do not think that we can sell things without the proper procurements.

Town Attorney – You shouldn't and you can't so that is two strikes.

Councilman Dr. Cook – They might want to include it in the show with a planted item. Someone in Kansas does not know what is in that barn so it could be a good story.

Director of Tourism – I do not even know if they would have to be able to purchase it. They may want to film discovering it. I think that is probably enough. They like to purchase items but they go through thousands of items during a show and offer to purchase two items. I saw a show where they purchased items then donated it to the local museum. It is fascinating television. You can put those parameters on them. We could say that any items purchased have to be from Mr. Hare and Mr. Gwaltney barns.

Mayor Williams – Is there any other new business? Next is a Closed Session.

Town Attorney – We need a motion to go into closed session for the discussion of the acquisition and disposition of real property.

Vice Mayor Gregory – So moved.

Councilwoman Chapman – Second.

Mayor Williams – A motion has been made and properly seconded. Roll call vote.

On call for the vote, seven members were present. Councilwoman Tynes voted aye, Vice Mayor Gregory voted aye, Councilwoman Chapman voted aye, Councilman Dr. Cook voted aye, Councilman Pack voted aye, Councilman Smith voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Town Council went into closed session at 5:35 p.m.

Town Council went back into the continued meeting at 6:04 p.m.

Vice Mayor Gregory – I would like to make a motion that during the closed session there was only a discussion of the disposition and acquisition of real property.

Councilman Pack – Second.

Mayor Williams – A motion has been made and properly seconded. Roll call vote.

On call for the vote, seven members were present. Councilwoman Tynes voted aye, Vice Mayor Gregory voted aye, Councilwoman Chapman voted aye, Councilman Dr. Cook voted aye, Councilman Pack voted aye, Councilman Smith voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Mayor Williams – Is there any further discussion? We stand adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.


T. Carter Williams
Mayor


Peter Stephenson, AICP, ICMA-CM
Town Manager