



**MINUTES**  
**TOWN OF STOKESDALE**  
**TOWN PARK IMPROVEMENT**  
**COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**8325 ANGEL PARDUE ROAD**  
**STOKESDALE, NC 27357**  
**SEPTEMBER 07, 2022 AT 5:00 PM**

**Committee Meeting Attendance:**

- Town of Stokesdale Town Park Improvement Committee members present:
  - Mr. Derek Foy
  - Mr. Jimmy Landreth
  - Mr. Thomas N. “Tee” Stephenson, Jr.
  - Mrs. Deanna Ragan
- Town of Stokesdale residents present:
  - None present
- Town of Stokesdale staff members present:
  - Mr. Robbie Lee Wagoner II, Deputy Town Clerk
- Special guests present:
  - Cobie Ellington
    - Superior Recreation of the Carolina’s Inc.
    - NEXT Level Recreation of the Carolina’s Inc.

**1. Call To Order.**

- The Town of Stokesdale Town Park Improvement Committee (“The Committee”) was called to order by Chairperson Tee Stephenson at 5:00pm.

**2. Meeting and Discussion with Playground Designer, Cobie Ellington.**

- Cobie Ellington was introduced, by Derek Foy, to all present members of The Committee.
- Cobie Ellington commented that she was involved with the updating of the playground equipment that is already located at the Town Park.
- Cobie Ellington commented on the important of maintenance to playground equipment and commented that the longevity of playground equipment is based on the amount of use that the equipment receives.
- Derek Foy commented that The Committee is interested in constructing a train-themed playground equipment set at the Town Park.
  - Cobie Ellington commented that her company, Superior Recreation of the Carolinas, has the ability to custom-build almost any type of playground equipment. Or her company has the ability to sell a pre-designed kit that is available to be selected out of a physical catalog or online catalog.
  - Cobie Ellington mentioned that The Committee needs to decide on the following: targeted age of children that will be using the playground, the area / size of the playground, and the budget of the playground.


- Cobie Ellington introduced the idea of The Town of Stokesdale using the “Buyboard” online sourcing platform to purchase the playground equipment from her company. This platform is used by several local municipalities due to the 10-12 percent discount.
  - Cobie Ellington is going to send more information on this program to Robbie Lee Wagoner II.
- Cobie Ellington recommended to The Committee that the Town of Stokesdale utilize a local and professional concrete company to pour the concrete for the basketball court at the Town Park. Then, Cobie Ellington recommended that the Town of Stokesdale hire her company to come in and install the basketball goals once the basketball court is poured.
- Cobie Ellington agreed to leave physical catalogs with The Committee and send electronic catalogs via email to The Committee.
- Cobie Ellington informed The Committee that shredded rubber is more expensive, but it lasts longer; while shredded wood is less expensive, but would need to be replaced more frequently.
- Derek Foy commented that The Committee should decide on a size and theme of the playground, as well as decide on a definitive cost.
  - Cobie Ellington agreed with Derek Foy’s comment and mentioned that The Committee needs to be reasonable during this decision based on the number of options that are available during the design of the equipment, as well as the expensive costs of raw materials and shipping/freight due to the recent pandemic.
- Cobie Ellington informed The Committee that her company’s playground equipment follows the safety guidelines put in place by the Child Protection Services.
  - Cobie Ellington informed The Committee that surfacing is important in regard to safety (ie: shredded rubber, wood, etc.).
- Cobie Ellington informed The Committee that the Town of Stokesdale could create a membership with the Buyboard purchasing website. The Town could use this website to request the playground equipment from Cobie Ellington’s company and, in turn, Cobie Ellington could provide a quote to The Town using this website.
- Cobie Ellington commented that her company uses her husband and his small team of two men to construct the playground equipment.
- Cobie Ellington informed The Committee that they need to determine an age range to entertain with this particular playground equipment.
  - Cobie Ellington commented that the “true users” of playground equipment are typically 10 years of age and younger.
- Derek Foy presented the idea of Cobie Ellington and The Committee physically taking a walk to visit the Town Park in order to better visualize the available options.
- Deanna Ragan introduced her concerns for wasp and hornets’ nests that could potentially gather at the playground set.

- Cobie Ellington responded to Deanna Ragan that these nests are very common, and she recommends that The Town keep an eye out for this issue. Unfortunately, there is not much that can be done to prevent this from happening at the playground set.
- Derek Foy commented that he would like for Cobie Ellington to present information about basketball courts to The Committee.
  - Cobie Ellington informed The Committee that most basketball courts are either paved with asphalt or concrete, but preferably concrete.
  - Cobie Ellington informed The Committee that it is preferred that The Town focus on a basketball court that is not regulation size in order to prevent older basketball players from taking control of the court and hassling residents that are casual players. Instead, The Town should focus on a basketball court that has several half-size courts that would allow several groups to shoot basketball at the same time.
  - Cobie Ellington informed The Committee that her company does not have the ability to pour the concrete for the basketball court, but she does have the ability to sell and install basketball goals.
- All in attendance for the Committee Meeting walked to the Town Park to better visualize the potential options for a playground set.
  - Cobie Ellington and all present members of The Committee agreed that an extension to the existing playground area would be beneficial due to the large amount of space that is currently not in use between the preexisting playground area and the walking trail.
  - Cobie Ellington advised The Committee that when deciding on a color for the new playground equipment, members should pick a color that will blend well with the current playground equipment that is dark green and dark brown.
- All in attendance for the Committee Meeting returned to the Town Hall building for adjournment.


### **3. Adjournment**

- Derek Foy made the motion to adjourn at 6:40pm.
  - Jimmy Landreth seconded the motion to adjourn.
  - All present members of The Committee voted in favor of the motion.
  - Being no further business to come before The Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40pm.

Approved: Thursday, October 20, 2022

  
Mr. Thomas N. Stephenson, Jr.  
Committee Chairperson

ATTEST:

  
Mr. Robbie Lee Wagoner II  
Deputy Town Clerk