COUNTY AGENDA REQUEST

Department:	Board of Commissioners	Presenter(s):	County Manager Steve Rapson
Meeting Date:	Thursday, April 23, 2015	Type of Request:	New Business

Wording for the Agenda:

Consideration of Commissioner Brown's proposal to allow employees of local corporations to use Lake McIntosh Park.

Background/History/Details:

Staff identified several potential issues with issuing a restrictive week-day only/specific hour type pass. The potential issues include identification of industries as opposed to businesses, enforcement-related conflict due to specific hours, late lunches; 2nd shifts, etc., and handling requests from other businesses throughout the county with fewer employees and requests for different lunch hours.

In an effort to address the concerns expressed by the local Peachtree City businesses, the Water Committee approved the following measures that were implemented in December:

1. Entry fees were lowered to $5.00 at both Lake McIntosh and Lake Horton; and

2. Annual passes ($50.00 windshield sticker) are available for purchase by anyone – so far we have issued 14 annual passes.

The Marshal's Officers are already observing increased participation in the parks since these changes were implemented.

What action are you seeking from the Board of Commissioners?

Approval of the Water Committee's recommendation to lower the entry fees to $5.00 at both Lake McIntosh and Lake Horton; and implement an annual pass $50.00.

If this item requires funding, please describe:

Not Applicable.

Has this request been considered within the past two years?	No	If so, when?	
Is Audio-Visual Equipment Required for this Request?*	No	Backup Provided with Request?	Yes

**** All audio-visual material must be submitted to the County Clerk's Office no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting. It is also your department's responsibility to ensure all third-party audio-visual material is submitted at least 48 hours in advance.***

Approved by Finance	Not Applicable	Reviewed by Legal	
Approved by Purchasing	Not Applicable	County Clerk's Approval	Yes
Administrator's Approval			

Staff Notes:

Non-County residents employed locally used to pay $10 per day and now they can purchase an annual pass of $50 per year, which equates to a previous five (5) park visit under the old fee structure. The annual pass approach offers the benefit of park access, at a reasonable price, without impacting our existing enforcement efforts.

Floyd Jones

From: Steve Brown
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 5:15 PM
To: Floyd Jones
Cc: Steve Rapson
Subject: Fw: Agenda item for April 23, 2015 BOC meeting
Attachments: 10-23-2014ActionAgenda.pdf

Floyd,

Please put this email in the packet for my April 23, 2015 agenda item on Lake McIntosh Park.

Many thanks.

Steve Brown
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From: Steve Rapson
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2015 1:49 PM
To: Steve Brown; Commissioners Group
Cc: epoole@fayettega.org; Anita Godbee; Lee Pope; Harold G. Myers
Subject: RE: Agenda item for April 23, 2015 BOC meeting

Honorable Commissioner Brown,

This was noted during the Board of Commissioner meeting on October 23, 2014. Minutes attached and below.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS:
Fluoride: County Administrator Steve Rapson stated that fluoride is regulated through the State of Georgia and therefore, its removal would have to come from the State of Georgia. He said there was a way to petition for the item to be put on the ballot. Floating Docks and Parking at County Lakes: County Administrator Steve Rapson replied to Mr. Gardner's concerns about the floating docks and parking at county lakes. He said Lakes McIntosh and Horton are drinking water reservoirs, so there has to be approval from the Environmental Protection Division before the docks can be installed. He further added that Mr. Gardner would be glad to know that the County had recently amended its policy so that parking fees would be lowered to $5.00 a visit, and it implements a $50.00 annual pass.

Steven Rapson
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From: Steve Rapson
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2015 1:05 PM
To: Steve Brown; Commissioners Group
Cc: epoole@fayettega.org; Anita Godbee; Lee Pope; Harold G. Myers
Subject: RE: Agenda item for April 23, 2015 BOC meeting

Honorable Commissioner Brown,

This was discussed and approved at the Water Committee on November 12, 2014. Minutes attached and below.

Water Committee November 12, 2014

III. PARKING FEES AT PARKS, PROCESS UPDATE.
Mr. Rapson reported that we currently charge $10.00 per visit and there is an electronic machine there that enables that to happen. He said that we did an analysis that showed it was costing about as much time and effort to keep that going and we have had a lot of suggestions from residents who use the parking fee, maybe we can do something different. He said that he and staff have analyzed this over the last month and a half and they are proposing to change the process to go back to manual envelopes, kind of what you see in the City of Atlanta where you have an envelope and you put your car number in and you put it in a slot. This will make it a lot less staff intensive in regards to managing the electronic machines; and lower the fee from $10.00 to $5.00 at all the parks. Also, have a $50.00 annual pass. If you are a frequent flyer at the parks, you can get an annual pass, put a sticker on your car and that will be good for a year; as opposed to paying $5.00, basically if you go more than ten times you will get a pass. He said that we are getting ready to implement that, we are looking forward to implementing that December 1. He said that we wanted to give the Water Committee an update. It has been $10.00 for a while.

Mr. Rapson commented that part of it is how do you regulate who is there and who is not. What we are doing now is based on the Fayette County tag, but there are obviously people who have businesses outside of Fayette County and maybe they are getting their tag for their personal registered at their business in Coweta. When they show up and they have a Coweta tag, they have to pay the fine. This will enable them to get an annual pass for that vehicle, or they can get their car registered. He said there are also some concerns for some of the businesses; they talked to Emily Poole and folks have a lunch break; they want to go over and eat at the pavilion. Mr. Rapson went on to say that you have to keep in mind that our Marshals are not patrolling those parks. There is active patrolling for whether they are parking there and they are outside the county when they are driving through the lot, but short of that, we are not out patrolling the parks every five minutes looking for people. This will make it a way that the businesses can buy the annual passes, or the resident could buy the annual pass, and the six or seven people that have issued the concern to him that he has personally talked to have seemed pleased that they could get a pass for $50.00 a year.

Commissioner Brown commented that there are some local companies that have an activity at their business; one day they will do a picnic at the lake or something like that as a lunch thing. Just to get people out of the

office or out of the plant. They have expressed a real interest to him about having something where we could allow that. We meet them halfway, that is probably the best way that he could figure out how to do it.

Steven Rapson
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From: Steve Brown
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2015 12:06 PM
To: Steve Rapson; Commissioners Group
Cc: epoole@fayettega.org; Anita Godbee; Lee Pope; Harold G. Myers
Subject: Re: Agenda item for April 23, 2015 BOC meeting

I believe the proposal on the April 23 for the local industry is more flexible and work as an economic incentive for attracting and maintaining local industry.

Please send me the BOC meeting date we approved the $5.00 fee and the $50 sticker. I will that discussion in my presentation.

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From: Steve Rapson
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2015 1:39 PM
To: Commissioners Group
Cc: epoole@fayettega.org; Anita Godbee; Lee Pope; Harold G. Myers
Subject: RE: Agenda item for April 23, 2015 BOC meeting

Honorable Commissioner Brown,

As you may recall, when this topic came up last October, staff identified several potential issues with issuing a restrictive week-day only/specific hour type pass.
i.e. Identification of industries as opposed to businesses; enforcement related conflict due to specific hours, late lunches, 2nd shifts, etc. and handling requests from other businesses throughout the county with fewer employees and requests for different lunch hours.

In an effort to address the concerns expressed by the local PTC businesses the following measures were implemented and have been in place since December:

1. Entry fees were lowered to $5.00 at both Lake McIntosh and Lake Horton; and

2. Annual passes ($50.00 windshield sticker) are available for purchase by anyone – so far we have issued 14 annual passes.

The Marshall Officers are already observing increased participation in the parks since these changes were implemented. The concern expressed by staff of having a restrictive week-day only/specific hour type pass is that it could appear that the county is using favoritism towards the business community versus other people i.e., walkers, boaters and people fishing. The majority of people who use the parks do so on the weekends for recreational activities and the yearly pass addresses all the concerns noted above.

While the proposed Monday through Friday 8 to 5 (or 10 to 3) pass would benefit one segment of the population – keep in mind these employees used to pay $10/day and now they can purchase an annual pass of $50/year which equates to a previous 5 park visit under the old fee structure. The annual pass approach offers the benefit of park access, at a reasonable price, without impacting our existing enforcement efforts.

Steven Rapson
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From: Steve Brown
Sent: Saturday, April 4, 2015 11:32 PM
To: Floyd Jones
Cc: Steve Rapson; Charles Oddo; Steve Brown; epoole@fayettega.org
Subject: Agenda item for April 23, 2015 BOC meeting

Consider proposal to allow employees of local corporations to use Lake McIntosh Park

Description:

Several local businesses in Peachtree City's industrial area have expressed their desire to county government officials and the Fayette County Development Authority staff to allow their employees to use the park at the new Lake McIntosh water reservoir for lunch breaks and activities. The one hindrance the businesses have is if employees are not a county residents, they must pay a $10 fee to use the park.

Commissioner Steve Brown has been working with the local businesses on a way to allow more flexibility for park usage, but still maintain the exclusivity for the Fayette citizens at the park. Local citizens would have priority on the most sought after times on the weekends.

The use of the park is seen as another way to retain and recruit good paying jobs in the county.

The plan allows the local businesses to purchase numbered park decals for automobiles from the county to distribute to their employees. Entry with the new decals would only be valid Monday through Friday, leaving the busy weekend hours to local citizens and out-of-county users paying the $10 fee.

The new program would be a win-win for the county and the local businesses. By allowing corporate employees to have lunch and other activities at the park on weekdays, the county has more eyes in the park during low usage hours which helps prevent vandalism and the businesses have an amenity that promotes employee recruitment and retention.

The local businesses would be responsible for the purchase, distribution and tracking of the decals for their employees and the Fayette County Marshal's officers are in charge of enforcement at the park.

Newly designed decals would be purchased by the businesses from the county every three years to insure holders of the decals are current employees of the local businesses.

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