

Item Title: Community Use of Schools Funding Agreement with the Town of Fuquay-Varina for the Construction of Park Amenities at the Future South Lakes Elementary School Site

Specific Action Requested:
That the Board of Commissioners:

- 1. Reallocates \$250,000 of Community Use of Schools CIP Funds for the construction of park amenities at the future South Lakes Elementary in partnership with the Town of Fuquay-Varina and the Wake County Public School System, and**
- 2. Authorizes the County Manager to execute a funding agreement with the Town of Fuquay-Varina and Wake County Public Schools in the amount of \$250,000, subject to terms and conditions acceptable to the County Attorney.**

Item Summary:

Wake County developed the School/Park program in the 1970's not long after its Division of Parks and Recreation (now Parks, Recreation and Open Space, PROS) was created. The School/Parks program was a partnership between PROS and Wake County Public Schools and allowed school campuses to be improved by including recreational amenities that exceed the requirements of the schools' regular program. Examples of these improvements could include picnic shelters, trails, athletic fields, and playgrounds that provide the community with valuable recreational amenities. Under the School/Park program, Wake County designed, funded, oversaw construction and maintained these facilities.

The current Community Use in Schools program is an evolution of the School/Parks concept in that it actively seeks partnerships with municipalities to oversee and maintain the park related improvements on these school campuses. The benefit of this program is municipalities and local communities becoming more engaged with public schools. The combined programs have allowed 35 school campuses to be improved.

In 2011, the Board of Commissioners authorized the purchase of approximately 20 acres of land off Old Honeycutt Road in Fuquay-Varina from South Lakes Investors LLC for an elementary school (E-35). An adjacent ten-acre property also owned by South Lakes Investors LLC was purchased by the Town of Fuquay-Varina for a town park.

Last summer, the Town of Fuquay-Varina submitted a funding request to augment the future South Lakes Elementary School site (E-35) with recreational amenities above normal elementary school program. The Town's request for \$250,000 would be used towards design, site development, and construction of athletic fields and additional parking; other amenities could include a playground, permanent restrooms, and/or field lighting.

The proposed amenities and site would be available to the public outside normal school operating hours as a Town of Fuquay-Varina park, and the Town would be responsible for all future operating costs associated with the site.

The table below reflects the current balance in the Community Use of School Parks unit before and after the reallocation:

<u>County CIP Reallocation Table</u>					
FROM:					
Element	Project	Unit	Current Appropriation	Reallocation	Revised Appropriation
Parks and Recreation	General Community Use of School Parks	004R	\$500,538	\$250,000	\$250,538
TO:					
Element	Project	Unit	Current Balance	Reallocation	Revised Balance
Parks and Recreation	South Lakes Elementary – Fuquay Varina	TBD	\$0	\$250,000	\$250,000

This partnership assists in meeting the Board of Commissioners stated goals and initiatives, specifically: Work with WCPSS to open school grounds and share recreational resources for broader community access.

The Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee reviewed this partnership at its January 2018 meeting and recommended it be forwarded to the Board of Commissioners for their consideration.

Attachments:

1. PowerPoint Presentation
2. Town of Fuquay-Varina Funding Request