

MINUTES

City Council Parks, Trails, & Recreation Committee

Wednesday, January 16, 2019, 3:30 PM
Administrative Conference Room at City Hall

Members Present: Gary Daniel, Chair, Council Member
Maureen Copelof, Vice-Chair, Council Member
Jim Fatland, City Manager
Daniel Cobb, Planning Director
David Lutz, Public Works Director
Keenan Smith, Citizen Member
Colin Izzard, Citizen Member
Ryan Olson, Citizen Member
Gregory Copeland, At-Large Member

Absent: Cody Owen, Citizen Member
Jared Mull, County Representative, Ex Officio

Staff Present: Aaron Bland, Planning Department
Tom Whitlock, Deputy Finance Director
Denise Hodsdon, Executive Assistant

Guests: Sarah Pooser, First United Methodist Church

Media: None

A. Welcome & Call to Order

Committee Chairman Gary Daniel welcomed all in attendance and called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM.

B. Certification of Quorum

Quorum was certified by Executive Assistant Denise Hodsdon.

C. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Copelof asked to add an item to the agenda regarding enhancement of crosswalks at Methodist Church/Brevard College and on Ecusta Road. Motion by Ms. Copelof, seconded by Mr. Fatland to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Minutes from December 19, 2018 Meeting

Motion by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mr. Izzard to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2018 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Complete Streets Policy

The draft policy was introduced at the last meeting and is part of the Bike Friendly Community Implementation Plan that was adopted last year. Planning Staff asked for Committee member comments and approval to send it to City Council in February. Mr. Smith suggested that we add reference to NACTO and AASHTO design guidelines in addition to the NCDOT guidelines. Motion by Ms. Copelof, seconded by Mr. Copeland to approve sending the Complete Streets Policy with the addition of NACTO and AASHTO design guidelines to City Council for their review and approval. Vote on the motion was unanimous.

F. Bike Racks – City Wide

This item was continued from the last meeting. Before recommending additional locations for bike racks, Committee members had asked for an inventory and map of currently existing bike racks within the City. Mr. Bland presented a Google map indicating several locations of existing bike racks. He explained that anyone with a Google account should be able to edit this map by adding additional existing locations and recommended sites for future bike racks. Committee members suggested that possible new locations could include Walmart, Lumberyard, Food Lion, and Go Grocery. Mr. Fatland said we should make sure that all city-owned facilities have them and it would be nice if all county-owned facilities had them as well. Mr. Olson suggested that it would make sense to prioritize along the bike path first.

Ms. Copelof moved and Mr. Copeland seconded that the Planning Department release the map out for public comment and input on additional existing bike racks as well as where they would like to see a bike rack. Vote on the motion was unanimous. Planning Staff will distribute the link for the map to Committee members first and then publish a City Connections article asking for public input regarding where they would like to see a bike rack.

G. Enhancement of Crosswalks at Methodist Church/Brevard College and Ecusta Road

Ms. Copelof reported that since the last meeting Sarah Pooser of the First United Methodist Church had contacted her with concerns about the safety issue they have with pedestrians crossing from Brevard College to the Church. Ms. Copelof contacted Public Works Director David Lutz to see if he had any information about the cost and whether DOT would authorize or allow the flashing light safety signal on Broad Street.

Mr. Lutz reported that he had contacted NCDOT and some time ago they had conducted a spot mobility study for pedestrian lights and that was one of the areas that was selected to install one of these lights. However, they ran out of money so this location did not get funded. They said they would be happy to install it for us, but it could be a while. To get it quicker DOT would enter into an agreement with the City to install the flashing light for \$13,000 per set and they would maintain it. The total would be \$26,000 to include both Broad Street and Ecusta Road locations.

Ms. Copelof noted that this is not in the City's budget and she had a discussion with Ms. Pooser about the possibility of the Church doing some fundraising. Ms. Pooser said the Church does not have enough parking in their parking lot and they are no longer allowed to use the shopping center parking lot next door. Therefore people are parking at the college and so now there are a lot more people crossing Broad Street on Sundays. She said the Church works closely with the college and she has made a proposal to the College Minister that the students start a fundraising campaign as part of their service project requirements. The college students use the crosswalk regularly and this would be a great benefit to them as well. She also thought it would be a great idea to include the Ecusta Road crosswalk in their fundraising efforts. Ms. Copelof felt that a fundraising campaign would help raise awareness of the safety issues of crosswalks.

Mr. Olson said it would be nice to see the city, the college and the church all work together but suggested that the City take the lead in cost sharing. Mr. Fatland proposed that the City could put up \$6500 and we ask the County to match it, then we would be half-way there. Mr. Lutz said the DOT turnaround time is 3 months. Following further discussion, Mr. Fatland suggested that if it takes 3 months from the time of the order, then the City could front load the whole \$26,000 to get the order going with NCDOT and then pay it back with fundraising. Motion by Mr. Fatland, seconded by Mr. Lutz to send to City Council to initiate a program for these safety lights for crosswalks on Ecusta Road and Broad Street and that the City Council approve 25% funding and that we try to raise money through the community. Vote on the motion was unanimous. Mr. Daniel and Ms. Copelof will ask to add this to the Council's January agenda.

H. Adjourn

There being no further business, Ms. Copelof moved, and Mr. Copeland seconded to adjourn the meeting at 4:13 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

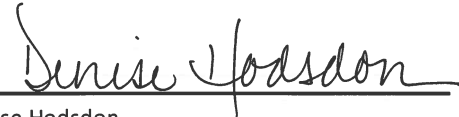
Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled City Council Parks, Trails, and Recreation Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at 3:30 PM.

X 

Gary Daniel,
Chair, Council Member

Minutes Approved: February 20, 2019

X 

Denise Hodsdon
Executive Assistant