

MINUTES

City Council Parks, Trails, & Recreation Committee

Wednesday, March 21, 2018, 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
Gregory Copeland, At-Large Member
Jonathan Griffin, Ex Officio

Absent: Cody Owen, Citizen Member

Staff Present: Aaron Bland, Planning Department
Denise Hodsdon, Executive Assistant

Guests: Torry Nergart, Conserving Carolinas
Rhae Mozley, Transylvania Pickleball Club
Jack Plunkert, Transylvania Pickleball Club

Media: Matt McGregor, Transylvania Times

A. Welcome & Call to Order

Committee Chairman Gary Daniel 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

Mr. Fatland asked to amend the agenda to add a request from the Pickleball Club.

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Cobb to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Minutes from February 21, 2018 Meeting

Motion by Mr. Fatland, seconded by Mr. Smith to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2018 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Bike Friendly Community Discussion

Aaron Bland presented a draft Bicycle-Friendly Community Implementation Plan for the Committee's review. The draft includes highly-achievable projects and initiatives designed to achieve Bronze level certification when we reapply in August. Mr. Bland and Mr. Cobb also provided a list of additional items that could be added to the plan if the Committee so desired before finalizing the draft. Mr. Cobb noted that it would be wise if this became official policy of the City because then, as funding opportunities present themselves or development occurs, this would be a document we can refer to specifically about Bike-Friendly Community. Mr. Cobb said he was simply looking for consensus as to whether this format was worth pursuing in terms of a planning document, or if we want to just keep it as a live list of things we review every month. Mr. Bland pointed out that if the City Council adopted this as policy, then we could include it in our application.

During discussion of this item, Torry Nergart of Conserving Carolina mentioned that there is a community need for more participants out on Bracken Preserve. He informed the Committee that Conserving Carolina is examining the feasibility of establishing a Friends of Bracken group, engaging their current volunteer base and creating new ones, that the City could utilize to work specifically on Bracken. Additionally, he proposed the idea of Conserving Carolina helping to facilitate a program for the Friends of the Greenway to take some of the maintenance burden off the City. He will report further on those ideas at the next meeting.

Mr. Fatland moved and Mr. Copeland seconded to present the implementation plan to the City Council in June and direct Staff to make the application for the Bike-Friendly Community. Motion carried unanimously.

F. PARTF Application – Recommendation to send to City Council

Mr. Fatland noted that this year the application will be for land acquisition only in order to extend the bike path from McLean Street to Rosman Highway. The deadline for application is May 1st and the City Council will need to hold a public hearing at its April meeting. Motion by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mr. Smith to support the resolution

which would authorize the City Manager and staff to apply for the PARTF grant. Motion carried unanimously.

G. Bracken Downhill Trail

Mr. Cobb explained that staff has been working with Keenan Smith and Torry Nergart on this proposed trail that would be on the upper end of the property and is actually the exact same route as a proposed trail from the original 2006 master plan. This trail would be unique in that it would be a one-way downhill trail. In order to add this trail, we would need to obtain approval from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund. Mr. Cobb explained that the best way to do that would be 1) to get support from this Committee to the City Council; 2) City Council to adopt a resolution to support the trail; and 3) write a request to the Clean Water Management Trust Fund to build the trail. Mr. Smith reported that the trail would be built through volunteer and professional skilled labor, as well as donations for materials from the CAN'd Aid Foundation. He said a professional trail builder is willing to facilitate the machine built portion of the trail and then we could partner with Conserving Carolina or Friends of Bracken, if that happens, for volunteer labor force.

Another proposed project is a new climbing trail near the entrance of the property which would provide a gentler grade than the current trail. Mr. Smith thought it would be more beneficial and economical to do this trail at the same time as the downhill trail as we would have a volunteer force in place.

Mr. Fatland moved and Mr. Smith seconded that the Planning staff prepare a resolution for City Council supporting the addition of the downhill trail and the climbing trail within the Bracken Preserve. Motion carried unanimously.

H. Depot Project Update

Mr. Fatland informed the Committee that the funds generated from the sale of bricks is just under \$50,000.00 as of today. Mr. Cobb updated the Committee on the progress of the design plan by Harris Architects. They are trying to replicate the original depot as best they can and are still working on a couple of different design options with the same size footprint as the original building. He shared the preliminary renderings of the two options. One design would be a bare bones, covered space with restrooms that will be accessible year-round; and the second option would include an event space that could be enclosed but would not be heated. A pedestrian bridge will be built across Kings Creek that will tie in behind the depot building.

I. Pickleball Club Request

This item was added to the agenda and was discussed at the beginning of the meeting. Mr. Jack Plunkert and Ms. Rhae Mozley of the Transylvania Pickleball Club informed the Committee that with a growing number of pickleball participants, there is a shortage of court space in Brevard and Transylvania County. They are currently playing at the Rec Center which has the capacity for two pickleball courts. Four players play on each court at a time and there are normally 30-plus people trying to share those facilities.

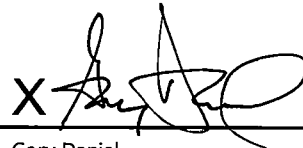
Upcoming summer programs at the Rec Center will exclude them from using that facility so they are trying to secure additional facilities within the County. Mr. Plunkert noted that many communities have converted tennis courts to pickleball courts with each tennis court providing space for four pickleball courts. The courts do need to be made of some sort of composite surface like a tennis court or wood floor. The tennis courts at Silvermont are not an option because allowing the drawing of pickleball court lines will invalidate the ability of the USTA to use that for league play. The Brevard Tennis & Racquet Club does have court space, but they currently charge a fee of \$12 per day per person. Mr. Griffin stated that the County has no land available. Mr. Fatland noted that the City does not have any enclosed facilities, but suggested that we could look at city-owned land that may be suitable for outdoor courts. Motion by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Ms. Copelof to direct Staff to look at city-owned facilities suitable for pickleball court space. Motion carried unanimously.

J. Adjourn

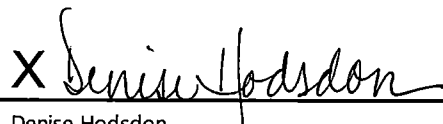
Motion by Mr. Fatland to adjourn the meeting at 4:50 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting

The next City Council Parks, Trails, and Recreation Committee Meeting will be on Wednesday, April 18, 2018 at 3:30 PM.



Gary Daniel,
Chair, Council Member



Denise Hodsdon
Executive Assistant