

MINUTES

City Council Parks, Trails, & Recreation Committee

Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 3:30 PM
City Hall Council Chambers

Members Present: Mac Morrow, Chair, Council Member
Aaron Baker, Vice-Chair, Council Member
Nancy DePippo, Citizen Member (via Zoom)
Howie Granat, Citizen Member

Absent: Matt Christian, Citizen Member
Tim Robinson, Citizen Member
Ryan Olson, At-Large Member

Staff Present: Paul Ray, Planning Director
Katherine Buzby, Planner
Wesley Shook, Acting Public Works Director
Becky McCann, Communications Coordinator
Denise Hodsdon, City Clerk

Guests: Nora Jane Montgomery, Resident

A. Welcome & Call to Order

Committee Chair Mac Morrow welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

B. Certification of Quorum

Quorum was certified by City Clerk Denise Hodsdon.

C. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mr. Granat, seconded by Mr. Baker, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Adopt-a-Green Space Applications

- 1. Wilson Road River Boat Access**
- 2. Hap Simpson Park**

Katherine Buzby presented applications for the Adopt-a-Green Space program from Jack Henderson of MountainTrue – French Broad Paddle Trail for the Pisgah Forest

River Access (Wilson Road) area and for Hap Simpson Park. MountainTrue will perform the following tasks at both locations: picking up litter on a regular basis, cleaning signs, and removing silt from the boat ramps. Ms. Buzby added that MountainTrue has developed a Master Strategic Plan that includes future improvements like replacing the ramps, adding updated signage, etc. Some of their future goals for these parks include installation of floating ADA docks, restroom facilities and large covered pavilions, boat and bike racks, additional picnic tables and trash receptacles, and stabilizing eroding stream banks as needed. They will also help the City when NCDOT relocates the bridge on Wilson Road. These developments will be presented to the committee at a future meeting. Motion by Ms. DePippo, seconded by Mr. Granat to approve the applications. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Pedestrian & Bicycle Plan Implementation Recommendations

Paul Ray noted that the next step in the recently adopted Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan is to identify a Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee to steer the plan's implementation. It was brought to the Public Works Committee last week and the Committee felt it would be best for the Parks, Trails and Recreation Committee to be the steering committee, with cross-pollination of other committees such as the Public Works Committee when it comes to public infrastructure and the Public Safety Committee. Mr. Morrow added that the action steps include a lot of outreach and building collaboration with other organizations, and members of this committee are actively engaged with these other organizations and we need that to implement the plan. Mr. Ray noted that this committee would be the first step for any implementation of this plan. Aaron Bland has been designated as the staff lead for implementation of the plan.

Mr. Baker pointed out that a lot of the steps in the plan are not recreation in nature, but are transit infrastructure, and suggested that we may need to form a separate committee or task force. He added that Aaron Bland, as the staff lead, should let us know what kind of structure would be most helpful for him, and if he and staff feel we need a separate committee we can go from there. Following discussion, Mr. Baker moved, seconded by Mr. Granat that the Parks, Trails and Recreation Committee serve as the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee temporarily in cross-pollination with other committees, and adjust as staff sees fit. The motion carried unanimously.

F. Committee Member Applications

City Clerk Denise Hodsdon informed the committee that the terms of all citizen members expire in May. Anyone wishing to be reappointed needs to submit an application. The application deadline has been extended until the end of March. Ms. DePippo has already submitted her application and Mr. Granat planned to submit his application later in the day. Committee members were asked to reach out to others who may be interested in serving. Under the new committee appointment process, advisory committees are given the opportunity to review applications and make recommenda-

tion to the Finance, Human Resources and Citizen Appointment Committee, which will then make recommendation to City Council. Mr. Baker moved, seconded by Mr. Morrow to recommend that Nancy DePippo and Howie Granat be reappointed to the Parks, Trails & Recreation Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

G. Set Date for Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Parks, Trails & Recreation Committee was scheduled for Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 3:30 PM.

Additional Comments

Mr. Granat gave an update on the Bracken Preserve extension. Todd Branham is working on mapping out the trail, but the exact boundary of the property needs to be clarified. Mr. Granat plans to meet to with Brevard Music Center to ask if they would be willing to shift the easement to add the climbing trail at the beginning. Conserving Carolina is working on trying to get grants for building the trail. Mr. Granat said the question has been raised if it is better to have Conserving Carolina keep the property, build the trails and then convey it to the City, or to convey to the City once it is paid for and then have the City responsible for building the trails. He said that is still an open questions, but the initial thought is that Conserving Carolina would have more leverage for fundraising and getting grants to build the trails.

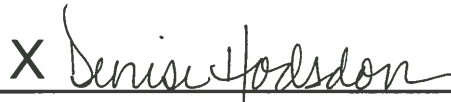
H. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:27 pm.

X 

Mac Morrow
Chair, Council Member

Minutes Approved: April 19, 2023

X 

Denise Hodsdon
City Clerk