

MINUTES

City Council Parks, Trails, & Recreation Committee

Wednesday, March 17, 2021, 3:30 PM
City Hall Council Chambers

Members Present: Maureen Copelof, Vice-Chair, Council Member
Jim Fatland, City Manager
Paul Ray, Planning Director
Nancy DePippo, Citizen Member
Howie Granat, Citizen Member (via Zoom)

Absent: Mac Morrow, Chair, Council Member
David Lutz, Public Works Director
Erik Emaus, Citizen Member
Matt Christian, Citizen Member
Ryan Olson, At-Large Member

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

Media: Matt McGregor, *The Transylvania Times*

Guests: Torry Nergart, Conserving Carolina
Matthew Busché, Resident of Silversteen Drive

A. Welcome & Call to Order

Committee Vice-Chair Maureen Copelof welcomed all in attendance and called the meeting to order at 3:41 pm.

B. Certification of Quorum

Quorum was certified by Executive Assistant Denise Hodsdon

C. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Ms. DePippo, seconded by Mr. Ray to approve the agenda as presented.
Motion carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Minutes of February 17, 2021 Meeting

Motion by Ms. DePippo, seconded by Mr. Fatland to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2021 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

E. NCDOT Bike & Pedestrian Plan Grant Award

Aaron Bland reported that the City has been awarded a \$60,000 grant from the NCDOT Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation for a new comprehensive combined bicycle and pedestrian plan. He explained that the City has had a comprehensive pedestrian plan, but it is now 15 years old and this will allow us to do a full re-write with new public input to create a combined pedestrian and bike plan. Mr. Bland said that we have already been in touch NCDOT to get this underway and we have been assigned ALTA as the consultant to do the plan. He explained that ALTA recently did the plan for Transylvania County so he feels it will be a good fit. He explained that as the trails committee and the bicycle advisory committee for the City, this Committee will be a big part in helping with public input and drafting the new plan. He explained that after we have done the public input, and inventorying and mapping, we would come up with a new list of top priorities for greenway, new sidewalks and improving existing sidewalks. When we get money and grants to build new sections of the greenway, that is the list and plan that we will follow. Mr. Bland added that under NCDOT's Complete Streets Policy, if the infrastructure is on a local plan, they will build it at 100% their cost when they do a street project.

F. Project Updates

1. Dog Park

Ms. Copelof reported that the Dog Park is moving along nicely. Public Works did a great job designing and putting in the water feature. The concrete mow strip and poles for the fence are in and they will begin installing the fencing very soon. The concrete pads for the rain shelters have been poured and the shelters will be built by our Public Works crew and volunteers. The engraved bricks for the entryway have been ordered. We have started designing the agility equipment and we plan to build most of that ourselves to help keep cost down. We still have to do the grass, mulch and gravel pathways. We have raised \$31,000 which is short of our goal of \$40,000, so we have had to cut back on some things. Ms. Copelof hopes that once the park is ready to open, that we can have some sort of an event at the park to do some additional fundraising.

2. Tannery Skate Park Landscaping

Ms. Copelof reported that the first planting day will be on Saturday, March 27th. The volunteer work crew will plant approximately 40 native shrubs and bushes. She said we are still trying to get donations of native perennials for a second planting day in April and then we can do the mulching.

Ms. Copelof shared another idea she had for the park. She explained that we will leave the area open in front of the sign on the fence so that people can walk up to the sign to read it. She suggested that instead of buying stepping stones, it would be fun to have a project for kids to make and decorate their own stepping stones. She said we would need an artistic volunteer to help organize it and Mr. Granat said he would think about

who might be interested in helping.

3. Community Garden

Mr. Fatland reported that the college intern working on this project will be at the next meeting to make a presentation. The location is across the street from the Tannery Skate Park and he has been working with Public Works and Aaron Bland on the plan. Mr. Fatland said the Community Focus Foundation has contacted him as they are looking for a project for a \$10,000 grant they want to apply for. He had suggested they consider the community garden and they have confirmed that they have indeed chosen that project for their grant application.

Additional Comments:

Mr. Fatland informed the committee that the Blue Zones Steering Committee has voted to make the Ecusta Trail the marquee project for Blue Zones Brevard. Ms. Copelof added that they will concentrate on the portion that is in Brevard and the ETJ, starting at the Cherry Street connector on the Estatoe Trail with the goal to get it to Everett Road.

Mr. Fatland reported that grading for the basketball court at Silversteen Playground will begin on March 25th, and then the concrete will be poured and it will be ready for the surface material which is already done. Ms. Copelof added that we are hoping to have an Earth Day celebration at the playground on Saturday April 26th.

Torry Nergart of Conserving Carolina introduced Matt Busché, a resident of Silversteen Drive, and noted that his property is being eroded by the stream. Mr. Busché said he was curious about where the Tannery Park project stands, and he is particularly interested in stream restoration efforts that may or may not occur. Mr. Fatland explained that we were in the process of getting a Brownfield Agreement and plan to put a trail through the park. We are also doing a stream restoration of Norton Creek at Silversteen Park and if we get the grant for that, we want to continue it through the entire Tannery Park as there are other residents who have had erosion problems along there as well. Mr. Fatland said it might be prudent for the City to work with our engineer on getting all of the easements lined up.

G. Set Date for Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Parks, Trails & Recreation Committee will be on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 3:30 PM in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

H. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:36 pm.

X Maureen Copelof

Maureen Copelof,
Vice-Chair, Council Member

Minutes Approved: April 21, 2021

X Denise Hodsdon

Denise Hodsdon
Executive Assistant