

# **MINUTES**

## **City Council Parks, Trails, & Recreation Committee**

**Wednesday, April 21, 2021, 3:30 PM**  
City Hall Council Chambers

Members Present: Mac Morrow, Chair, Council Member  
Maureen Copelof, Vice-Chair, Council Member  
Jim Fatland, City Manager  
Paul Ray, Planning Director  
Nancy DePippo, Citizen Member  
Matt Christian, Citizen Member  
Howie Granat, Citizen Member (via Zoom – left at 4:52 pm)

Absent: David Lutz, Public Works Director  
Erik Emaus, Citizen Member  
Ryan Olson, At-Large Member

Staff Present: Erick Mendez, Intern  
Denise Hodsdon, Executive Assistant

Guests: Torry Nergart, Conserving Carolina (via Zoom)  
Matthew Busché, Resident  
Hannah Bowers, Resident  
Aaron Baker, Resident  
Rachel Kinard, Resident

### **A. Welcome & Call to Order**

Committee Chair Mac Morrow welcomed all in attendance and called the meeting to order at 3:34 pm.

### **B. Certification of Quorum**

Quorum was certified by Executive Assistant Denise Hodsdon

### **C. Approval of Agenda**

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

### **D. Approval of Minutes of March 17, 2021 Meeting**

Motion by Ms. DePippo, seconded by Ms. Copelof to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2021 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

## **E. Community Garden Presentation – Erick Mendez**

Mr. Fatland introduced Erick Mendez, an intern from Western Carolina University who has been working on a project to create a community garden on a city-owned parcel on Silversteen Drive across from Tannery Skate Park. Mr. Mendez presented the concept plan to the committee and discussed the benefits of a community garden; concerns surrounding community gardens; proposed plot layout and structure; composting; and proposed fees. A copy of the presentation is filed with the minutes. Mr. Mendez explained that the budget for the project would be \$10,000 and he has applied for a grant from Pisgah Health Foundation for the full amount.

Following the presentation, Ms. Copelof noted that we should aim for having the garden ready for fall planting, but that we would need to have procedures in place. She will work with Mr. Mendez on forming a task force on community gardening.

## **F. Bike & Pedestrian Plan Update re Kickoff Meeting w/Consultants**

Mr. Ray reported that ALTA, the consultants working on our updated pedestrian and bicycle plan, have requested that we schedule a kickoff meeting for Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> to begin the process.

## **G. Project Updates**

### **1. Dog Park**

Ms. Copelof reported that the 2<sup>nd</sup> rain shelter will be completed today; installation of the fence is complete; the first pathway from the entrance to the shelter in the small dog area is done; the bricks have been ordered, and we are getting the sign printed. She noted that opening the park is dependent on when the grass is ready, but estimates we can open by mid to late summer and we will have an opening kickoff celebration. We continue to sell bricks and have a new fundraiser where we are selling memorial trees to assure that we will always have successional planting at the park. We are hoping to sell 15 small trees for \$180 each, which will include a small memorial plaque.

### **2. Tannery Skate Park Landscaping**

Ms. Copelof reported that the second planting day was this past Saturday and everything that was planted that day was donated. A total of 52 bushes and 70 native perennials have now been planted. Aaron Baker has organized a group of volunteers who will keep the garden watered. The next work day is scheduled for Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Ms. Copelof said we have received a request for a grill at the skate park. She has talked with Fire Chief Cooper and he confirmed it would be okay as long as there is a gravel pad under the grill. Following discussion, it was decided to order two grills for the park and Mr. Baker will recommend the best place to locate them within the park.

### **3. Silversteen Playground**

Mr. Fatland reported that the new playground has been a tremendous success and that there are kids there all the time. The concrete for the basketball court will be poured next week and the synthetic surface and hoops are already here. We will have a soft opening once the court is complete.

### **4. Public Art Board**

Mr. Morrow has reached out to the Executive Director of the Transylvania Arts Council and they would love to work with us on this project. Billy Smith is excited about leading a workshop for the genre of skateboard art, with the idea being that we hang panels on the wood fence to display various artwork. The Arts Council will figure out the details and get back to us.

## **H. Proposed FY2021/2022 Parks, Trails & Recreation Committee Budget**

Mr. Fatland reported that we have acquired an easement from Henderson Oil, which was the last piece we needed in order to extend the trail from the Depot pedestrian bridge to West Main Street. Brown Consultants, our design engineer has advised that the design for that portion of the trail is now 90% complete and they hope to go out to bid as early as June 1<sup>st</sup> for that section.

Mr. Fatland also reported that the City of Brevard has been allocated \$2,319,450 in American Rescue Plan funds, which can be used to fill up a COVID-related budget shortfall and for infrastructure projects. He explained that each year when we do the budget, the Utility Fund reimburses the General Fund \$600,000 to cover the salaries for meter readers, the employees that collect the utility bills at the window, and a portion of Public Works administration cost. However due to COVID, last year the Utility Fund paid nothing to the General Fund, so we had to appropriate fund balance to balance the budget. He is recommending this year that the Utility Fund pay back the \$600,000 that the General Fund didn't get last year and to use those funds to increase the contribution from the General Fund to the Parks & Pedestrian Fund. He explained that we normally give two cents of our tax rate, totaling \$180,000 to the Parks & Pedestrian Fund. This year he is recommending that the appropriation to the Parks & Pedestrian Fund be \$180,000, plus the \$600,000 reimbursement from the Utility Fund to the General Fund, plus \$240,000 we have not spent from the Pisgah Health Foundation grant, for a total appropriation of \$1,020,000 toward the construction of the Estatoe Trail from the Depot Railroad Park to the Mary C. Jenkins Community Center. Motion by Ms. Copelof, seconded by Ms. DePippo to recommend to City Council that we appropriate \$1,020,000 for the Estatoe Trail. The motion carried unanimously.

## **I. Set Date for Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parks, Trails & Recreation Committee will be the kickoff meeting with ALTA on Wednesday, May 12th, 2021 at 3:30 PM.

**J. Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:09 pm.

X *Mac Morrow*

Mac Morrow,  
Chair, Council Member

Minutes Approved: May 12, 2021

X *Denise Hodsdon*

Denise Hodsdon  
Executive Assistant