

# **MINUTES**

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

**Wednesday, June 16, 2021, 3:30 PM**

City Hall Council Chambers

Members Present: Mac Morrow, Chair, Council Member (via Zoom)  
Maureen Copelof, Vice-Chair, Council Member  
Jim Fatland, City Manager  
Paul Ray, Planning Director  
Nancy DePippo, Citizen Member  
Matt Christian, Citizen Member (via Zoom)  
Tim Robinson, Citizen Member

Absent: David Lutz, Public Works Director  
Howie Granat, Citizen Member  
Ryan Olson, At-Large Member

Staff Present: Denise Hodsdon, Executive Assistant

Guests: Tara Melendez, Community Garden Task Force Member

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

Committee Chair Mac Morrow welcomed new member Tim Robinson and all in attendance. He 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**

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

### **D. Approval of Minutes of May 12, 2021 Meeting**

Motion by Ms. Copelof, seconded by Ms. DePippo to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2021 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

### **E. Project Updates**

#### **1. Dog Park**

Ms. Copelof reported that the new signs were installed this morning. The asphalt

company is paving the entrance today as well. The second order of bricks is in and we are still selling bricks. The Public Works crew is working on the gravel pathway from the parking lot. The brochures are done and will be distributed throughout the City. The Dog Park Task Force will have a tent and table at River Fest in Rosman on Saturday. Ms. Copelof said the target for the grand opening is the end of July.

## **2. Rosenwald Projects**

Mr. Fatland reported that the Silversteen Playground basketball court was opened last week and kids were playing on it as soon as it opened. The City recently received a grant award in the amount of \$95,000 for the Norton Creek stream restoration project. The project will go into final design and then go out to bid. Ms. Copelof said the Rotary Club has submitted a grant application to do landscaping along a pathway by the stream. She noted that the next phase for the playground project is building the picnic shelter and asked if we have a cost estimate of what we need to raise for that. Mr. Fatland said the initial estimate was around \$50,000. She said the picnic tables are currently being built by the Sherwood Forest Woodworkers so we really need to start pushing fundraising for the picnic shelter.

Mr. Fatland reported that the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Mary C. Jenkins Community Center is taking place this Saturday at 11:00 am at the MCJCC site. He noted that the project includes not only the community center, but also parking lot improvements across the street and realignment of the road. Also included in the budget this year is funds to build the Estatoe Trail from the Depot to MCJCC. The groundbreaking ceremony will be followed by a Juneteenth celebration at Silversteen Playground.

## **3. Community Garden**

Ms. Copelof reported that we have put out a community survey for this project. She passed out copies to committee members and encouraged everyone to fill it out. She said results of the survey will determine the type of community garden and how people envision the garden working. The survey will be open until July 15<sup>th</sup>.

It was noted that there is some inaccurate information circulating via social media about the community garden parcel and the former tannery property. Mr. Fatland clarified that the community garden site is not part of the original tannery factory property and not part of the Brownfield. Ms. Copelof added that we are still waiting for the Brownfield agreement for the tannery parcel in order to do anything in that area for the trail. She stressed that until we have that, the information being circulated that we can just go in there is completely inaccurate.

## **4. Tannery Skate Park Landscaping**

Ms. Copelof reported that we are working to get the grills in. It has been decided that the grills can go on the existing concrete pads so we won't need to build new pads. She

said the landscaping is finished for this spring and summer. The plants are thriving but we may need to schedule a weeding day sometime soon.

**Additional Comments:**

Ms. DePippo asked if there was any update on the land abutting Bracken Preserve. Mr. Ray reported that the appraisal for that property came in at \$390,000. Based on our original conversations with the owner, we thought we could purchase the property for \$150,000 because the owner's plans were to carve off a few parcels below and sell them to build houses on. Unfortunately because the ground is so bad on those parcels, it is preventing the owner from being able to sell them for house lots. Therefore, the owner is looking to get the full \$390,000. Mr. Fatland was able to negotiate the price down to \$300,000 and we have started trying to raise some money. Mr. Ray contacted Conserving Carolina and they have been working with him on looking for different grants and ways to raise money. He said so far, we have a grant application already submitted to Conservation Alliance for \$50,000 and we will know by October 1<sup>st</sup> whether or not we get that grant. Conserving Carolina thinks they can raise an additional \$50,000 through private donors and they are going to start on that right away. Mr. Ray said the City Council tentatively committed to \$150,000 toward this as well. There is one more grant that we can apply for with the Land and Water Conservation Fund for up to \$150,000 and the application for that is due in October.

**F. Set Date for Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parks, Trails & Recreation Committee will be on Wednesday, August 18, 2021 at 3:30 PM.

**G. Adjourn**

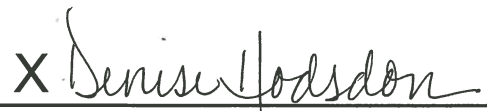
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:07 pm.



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Mac Morrow,  
Chair, Council Member

Minutes Approved: August 18, 2021



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Denise Hodsdon  
Executive Assistant