

MINUTES

City Council Parks, Trails, & Recreation Committee

Wednesday, August 18, 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
David Lutz, Public Works Director
Nancy DePippo, Citizen Member
Matt Christian, Citizen Member
Howie Granat, Citizen Member (via Zoom)
Ryan Olson, At-Large Member

Absent: Tim Robinson, Citizen Member

Staff Present: Aaron Bland, Planner
Denise Hodsdon, Executive Assistant

Guests: Geraldine Dinkins, City Council Member
Jay McCarthy, Innova Disc Golf

Media: Jeremiah Reed, *The Transylvania Times*

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 Executive Assistant Denise Hodsdon

C. Approval of Agenda

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

D. Approval of Minutes of June 16, 2021 Meeting

Motion by Ms. Copelof, seconded by Mr. Ray to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2021 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Disc Golf Course Proposal – Jay McCarthy

City Council Member Geraldine Dinkins introduced Jay McCarthy, an Ambassador for Innova Disc Golf. Mr. McCarthy explained that he focuses on designing disc golf courses and promoting the sport. He noted that disc golf is one of the fastest growing sports and is a great way for people to bond and that people of all ages can participate. He feels that a disc golf course would fit in very well with our other amenities. He said the courses are inexpensive to build and they require very little maintenance. He proposed a 9-hole course in Tannery Park and suggested that it be geared more toward kids or a beginner course.

During discussion Mr. Fatland explained that we would not be able to use the Tannery site because of the brownfield, but he would like to look at various other sites that the City owns. He noted that the capital cost for a course is not a lot and suggested that we look at sites that could accommodate an 18-hole course. Ms. Dinkins expressed concern about a balance of amenities in the City and thought that Tannery Park would be a great location. She encouraged looking at whether there is any possibility to put one in Tannery and perhaps we could do two courses.

Motion by Ms. Copelof, seconded by Mr. Christian to authorize Staff to work with Jay McCarthy to look at various potential sites and come back to the Committee with a recommendation. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. McCarthy will send more information and a cost breakdown.

F. Update on Pedestrian & Bicycle Plan

Aaron Bland reported that Alta received 105 responses to the survey and are going through the results and developing draft recommendations. Alta will be scheduling a second meeting with the Steering Committee for some time in September where they will present the findings of the survey and their draft recommendations.

G. Tannery Brownfield Update

Mr. Ray reported that we are in the final stages of securing the Brownfield agreement from NCDEQ. The last phase is a notice of intent to redevelop a brownfield property. The property has been posted, we have run an ad in the newspaper, and the contiguous property owners are being notified by mail. The notice period is 30 days and begins on August 23rd and ends on September 22nd. Then NCDEQ will present the formal agreement which will be recorded at the Registry of Deeds. We will get an Environmental Management Plan (EMP), which will specify how we can develop in the Tannery Park Brownfield area. Mr. Ray said we are currently looking into grant opportunities for the stream restoration and helping with capsulation and trail building through Tannery. He added that S&ME Engineers, who helped us with soil sampling and analysis, would like to help us with master planning and developing the Tannery property.

H. Bracken Preserve Extension Update

Mr. Ray reported that while Conservation Alliance really liked our project, they chose not to fund it because of the size. They normally fund projects that are several hundred acres minimum. However, they did award us a \$10,000 discretionary fund award, which we can put into the pot toward the purchase of the property. Conserving Carolina is working on trying to get donations from some private donors as well. The purchase price is \$300,000.

I. Ecusta Trail Update / Next Steps

Mr. Fatland noted that the closing on the trail property happened last week. City Council supported the City taking the lead on the Transylvania side of the trail to apply for grants and oversee the design and construction of the trail. The project was also included in the City's USDOT RAISE Grant application.

J. Project Updates

1. Dog Park

Ms. Copelof reported that we held the grand opening on July 31st and had a great turnout. The park is operating smoothly and we are getting incredible reviews. We are still selling bricks to raise funds for some additional amenities. We are working with the hospital to see if we can get an easement for a path from their roundabout and we still need to clean up the ditch. We are working on getting a streetlight on the corner and a security camera.

2. Silversteen Playground

Mr. Copelof said that during last night's storm there was approximately two feet of water coming from the creek across the playground. She checked on it this morning and the surface on the basketball court had lifted and there was some debris under it. Public Works managed to lift the covering and wash the debris away this morning and we were able to reopen the court. She said there was no damage, but we need to get the company to come back to attach the edges of the surface to prevent this from happening again. She added that because of the drainage work Public Works did at the site, there was no water on the playground this morning after last night's storm.

Ms. Copelof reported that we now have 8 picnic tables that the Sherwood Forest Woodcrafters built and donated. We also have a couple of memorial benches in place. We have ordered four more benches for around the basketball court. We still need to raise funds to build the picnic shelter.

K. Set Date for Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Parks, Trails & Recreation Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 3:30 PM.

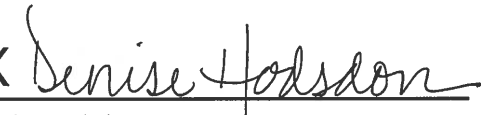
L. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:52 pm.

X 

Mac Morrow,
Chair, Council Member

Minutes Approved: September 21, 2021

X 

Denise Hodsdon
Executive Assistant