

Asheville Greenway Commission 2007 Annual Report



Master Plan Update

- Commissioners worked with staff to review and refine the RFP for updating the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Marc Hunt and David Tuch are serving on the Steering Committee; they reviewed proposals, participated in consultant selection and are representing the Greenway Commission throughout this process.

Land Acquisition/Prioritization Committee

- Marc Hunt, David Tuch and Linda Giltz, with support from staff (Seth Hendler and Al Kopf) developed a matrix of criteria and weights to “score” all the greenway projects. The Commission reviewed, revised and approved the scoring and ranking.

Greenway Project-related Work

- **Reviewed a number of proposed greenway / park projects.** A few of the larger projects:
 - **Beaucatcher Overlook Park** – The Commission considered this proposal, brought forward by Scott Riviere and Trust for Public Land, and unanimously endorsed the purchase of this property and the development of Beaucatcher Overlook Park.
 - **Haw Creek** Community Association request for funds to purchase a tract that would connect the neighborhood to the Blue Ridge Parkway and Mountains-to-Sea Trail. The Commission saw the benefit in the greenway connection but felt the price tag was too high for the City and suggested some alternative development scenarios.
 - **Hominy Creek greenway** – Commissioners learned about this opportunity in April and followed its progress with support through the year. The Waller tract connects near the French Broad River to Sand Hill Road; it is about 11 acres and would provide one mile of greenway.
 - Mountain Housing Opportunities development along **Choctaw and Town Branch** greenway – participated in public meetings and provided comments on designs.
 - **Hominy Creek – A-B Tech Enka potential greenway** – Citizens presented a proposal to the Greenway Commission for a greenway connecting A-B Tech Enka to the Buncombe County Sports Complex. This is a great future opportunity for the City and County to work together on a joint greenway project.

Public Education/Involvement and Partnerships

- The Greenway Commission has worked closely with the **Asheville Parks and Greenways Foundation** over the past year. Glen Locascio is serving as liaison between the two groups.
- Collaboration with the **Blue Ridge Bicycle Club** –The Commission and Asheville Parks & Greenways Foundation partnered with the BRBC and provided about 40 volunteers for their

large Fletcher Flyer event May 20, 2007. Scott Jackson and Jack Saye coordinated the volunteer activity. Both the City, Greenway Commission and the APGF got a lot of good publicity from this event and the BRBC gave a donation of \$10,000 to the APGF as a result of this partnership.

- Commissioners met with staff and Trust for Public Land to discuss funding strategies and how TPL could assist the City and Foundation.
- Met with RiverLink, NCDOT, and staff regarding the EDACO property and getting the greenway built to connect the two parks and greenways along Amboy Road.
- Greenway Commission had a couple discussions with representatives from the **Asheville Board of Realtors** to come up with a project that the realtors could assist with or lead. No decision has been made yet.
- Linda Giltz gave a greenways presentation as part of the **Eco-Realtor** Certification course.

Related Activities:

- **Chattanooga Retreat/Trip** – The Asheville Greenway Commission planned a retreat trip to Chattanooga (April 28, 2007) to learn from their successes in greenway planning, development and funding. A few key learnings:
 - Collaborate with key organizations – City, County, non-profits and funders. Grassroots involvement was very important in the redevelopment of Chattanooga, with a heavy infusion of corporate and other private funding.
 - Consider hiring someone outside of City staff knowledgeable about real estate to deal with property acquisitions.
 - The Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center and local realtors should be provided with information about Asheville parks and greenways to give out to visitors.
- **Future Funding / Possible Bond Referendum** – Commission members met with City Council members throughout the year to discuss funding needs and a possible bond referendum in November 2008. They presented cost and funding information to the Finance Committee and City Council in March 2008.
- Reviewed the proposed stormwater ordinance and provided comments.

Organizational Development and Recognition

- Chris Gilbert and Marc Hunt worked with staff to define a process for new project requests, so we and staff can look at them fairly and efficiently. It was in place in October 2008.
- Linda Giltz elected as Chair and Marc Hunt elected as Vice-Chair for 2008.
- The Commission presented Paula Robbins with a commemorative tile to show appreciation for her seven years of dedication and hard work.

Commission Members in 2007:

Linda Giltz (Chair)
Marc Hunt (Vice-Chair)
Chris Gilbert (new in August)
Glen Locascio
Scott Jackson
Paula Robbins (resigned in August)
Phyllis Stiles
David Tuch
Susan Roderick (ex-officio)
Karen Cragolin (ex-officio)

Commission Meetings:

2nd Thursday of each month
3:30-5:00 p.m.
4th floor conference room in City Hall