

# **Greenway Commission**

## **February 10, 2011**



### **Members present:**

Marc Hunt, Chair  
Jim Grode, Vice Chair  
Marcia Bromberg  
Susan Barlow  
Stephen Jones  
Stephanie Pankiewicz  
Glen Locascio

### **Staff present:**

Megan Shepherd, Special Projects Coordinator  
Seth Hendler-Voss, Landscape Architect  
Barb Mee, Transportation Department  
Blake Esselstyn, Planning Department

### **Guests present:**

Marc called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

### **1. Approval of January minutes**

Stephen motioned to approve the January minutes, Jim seconded, all approved and the motion passed unanimously.

### **2. Ranking Analysis Update**

Jim reported that he, Stephen and Glen met with staff to discuss updating the ranking analysis. They determined that the descriptions and categories will be revised. Next month they'll return with suggestions of new ways of thinking about the matrix.

Glen added they want to walk many of these corridors starting in the spring to gain a stronger familiarity with the areas in question. Marc proposed that all members make an attempt to walk more corridors in 2011.

Stephanie moved to recommend Commission members make a personal commitment to explore more greenway areas this year. Stephen seconded, all approved and the motion passed unanimously.

### **3. Waller Tract Update**

Marc reported the Waller Tract sale is almost finalized. The dry closing occurred around the end of January. The Citizen-Times will be shortly running a story on this project.

#### **4. City Council Retreat Report**

Marc reported that last Friday City Council held its annual retreat to set goals and discuss the budget. Four members of Council stated their intention to make 2011 the year the City starts making objective progress on multimodal transportation infrastructure, which includes greenways.

City Council ran out of time to finish their budget discussion, which will continue in later sessions.

#### **5. Community Outreach Committee Report**

Sue reported that the Community Outreach Committee's Board of Realtors presentation has been rescheduled for March 24. Starting in the spring, the Committee may begin working with school groups. Sue has been in contact with members of the School Board and they are amendable to the idea.

The Greenways brochure is finished and copies were distributed to members. Commission members should contact Megan if they would like additional copies.

#### **6. Wilma Dykeman Riverway Design Project Update**

Stephanie gave a recap of the public meeting regarding the Wilma Dykeman Riverway Design Project and presented the core options and study area information. Of note, 26% of public support (the largest percentage) in the "Riverway Dollars" exercise was for land acquisitions for future greenways.

Marc suggested that the Greenway Commission consider the following when making a motion regarding the Wilma Dykeman Riverway Design Project Update:

1. The Commission recommends planners look at best practices from other communities regarding layout of bike lanes, and consider amending the cross-sections to include facilities for pedestrians, slower bicyclists, and in the interest of safety, high-speed bike lanes separated from automobile traffic and parked cars.
2. The Commission endorses a right-of-way corridor that includes as much traffic separation from the French Broad River as possible, so as not to separate the community from the river. This might also enhance redevelopment potential, open space, aesthetics, greenway opportunities along the river.
3. The Commission recommends including a bike/ped bridge across the railroad area (preferably near AB Tech) in the study, in addition to the bike/ped bridge across the French Broad River.

Marcia moved to support the Wilma Dykeman Riverway Design Project by providing the recommendations outlined by Marc as public comment. Sue seconded, all were in favor, and the motion passed with Stephanie abstaining from the vote.

Glen also mentioned Town Branch greenway area as a potential connector site for the pedestrian bridge.

Jim also wanted to commend the participants for their commitment to multimodal transportation.

### **7. Staff Updates**

Blake reported there is a potential buyer for the Sand Hill Road property. Also, for the first time, the Technical Review Committee received six submittals.

Seth reported Reed Creek Greenway Phase II will go to City Council on February 22<sup>nd</sup> to award the contract. Construction may begin around the end of March or early April.

### **8. Asheville Parks & Greenways Foundation Update**

Glenn reported that the Foundation has set up a task force to work with the City to help determine the future of the Foundation. They might get a facilitator to help with that process. They recently found a document done in 2001 about what the Foundation should be doing that might lend some guidance.

### **9. Buncombe County Greenways Update**

Marcia reported Buncombe County is about to post the RFQ for the County greenways master plan. A kick-off event will be held in mid-late April. The two feasibility studies are now on their website.

### **10. Asheville Bike and Pedestrian Task Force Update**

Jim reported that the Bike/Ped Task Force gave a recap of the year's goals and prioritized them. None of the goals were greenway-specific, though one has some overlap: developing maps and understanding the bike/ped elements of various area plans.

Stephen asked about distribution of Greenways brochure. The Community Outreach Committee will be coordinating distribution.

Meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.