GREENWAY COMMISSION MEETING

ASHEVILLE GREENWAYS

April 12, 2012
3:30-5:00 pm
First Floor Conference Room City Hall

Members Present: Jim Grode, Marcia Bromberg, Glen Locascio, Susan Barlow, Stephen Jones, Mary Weber, Ally Wilson,.
Staff Present: Al Kopf, Parks & Rec, Blake Esselstyn, Planning, David Foster, Assistant Director of Public Works, Mariate Echeverry, Staff Liaison, Martha McGlohon, Legal Liaison, Barb Mee, Staff Liaison, Janet Georgemurr.
Community Present: Debra Maddox, Alex Maddox, Bryan Moffitt of ARCA Design, Owen Aycock, Will Aycock of Orthopaedic Application, Mike Lewis, Bill Roark of McGill Engineers.
Jim called the meeting to order at 3:30.
Introductions from Greenway Commission, staff members and community participates.

Review and approval of 4-12-12 agenda: no changes.

Review and approval of March 8, 2012 minutes: Sue moved and Glen seconded and carried unanimously.

New Business:

- Street Closures: Biltmore Village and Mission Hospital: David Foster gave a perspective from a Council directive that anytime there is a street closure petition to the Public Works Department. Prior to moving forward for the state required process, PW is required internally to take it all of the City departments in making sure there are no conflicts in utility or department. Also, to bring to the Greenway Commission per the Council directive ensure there is not an overall need from Greenway perspective at a higher level than operational for any of the right of ways that are proposed being closed. David will present each project and give the developer to speak or answer any questions outside of the procedure.

  1. Nine Kitchen Place in Biltmore Village - David presented a map of the area and road closure. David stated that he solicited internal comments from all of the city departments and have not received any opposition to this project and also submitted to the local utilities with no conflicts at this time. Based on GC vote and review which will be included in the staff report to Council. Brian Moffitt with ARCA Design represented Biltmore Property Group, also presented renderings for Greenway Commission's review and that this project will not impede future greenway development. After a group discussion and question and answer session, Sue moved to approve the Biltmore Village project and support the closure of the unnamed alley in Biltmore Village and Marcia and carried unanimously.

  2, Mission Hospital and Victoria Rd: David presented and oriented Greenway Commission with the project rendering. David stated that few years in conjunction with Victoria Rd project, Mission Hospital brought a closure request forward where it was reconfigured to create the new road. Mission Hospital and the property owners came to terms with the adjacent properties which left a significant wide right of way and this project would close the last remaining remnant of the public right of way and bring that right of way to a more consistent width through the new part of Victoria Rd. There was not City departments or utilities conflict. David showed on the rendering where the bike lane was installed. After a group discussion with question and answer session, Glen Locascio moved to approve the road

closure of the portion of Victoria Rd, Sue Barlow seconded and carried unanimously. Jim Grode thanked everyone who participated in a detailed explanation of the road closures.

- **Property easement on the Corperning and Trinity Baptist Church properties**: Jim stated that the GC learned that the existing unimproved trail on the Waller Tract goes off the property that is owned by the City and onto Ms. Corperning's property for some distance; and that the path crosses Trinity Baptist Church property as well as Ms. Corperning's. Jim wanted to bring this item to GC to learn more about the actual circumstances and figure out what can be done and what are the risks and issues and the opportunities to address them. Marcia stated that this is a heavily used greenway and that the understanding is that the City purchased this property, but the improvements would not be a high priority. Now people are using the property they are trespassing which is causing a real problem and there will be uproar if people cannot use the trail. Al gave a brief history which was included in the GC meeting packet. Al stated that City Council directed funds to acquire the Waller Tract to land-bank for future development and did not authorize the use for any other purpose. Al and Blake showed the Commission a survey of the 600 linear feet of land in question. Al continued to say that it took 10 months from the Legal Staff to find out if the City could close the gap on the eastern end of the property. Al stated that depending on how the owners would want to proceed with the land transaction that the funds would need to be allocated for the survey, environmental assessment, etc. Al stated without a direction from Council, staff will not be able to move forward on the project. Al suggested if GC recommends requesting to Council to include operating costs. The P&R department assumes responsibility for the maintenance of the City parks and greenways and will use volunteer groups such as Friends of Hominy Creek Greenway (FOHCG) as supplemental maintenance assistance. Marcia stated that the Friends of Hominy Creek Greenway will have a retreat in May where GC could ask them if they have spoken with the property owners. Al stated people have been walking the trail for years and have made improvements on the property which fostered the feeling of insecurity. People were building things on the property that was not appropriate and never approved by the City. Al suggested having the volunteers who worked on the property to approach the property owners. Marcia suggested speaking with Friends of Hominy Creek Greenway and Jim will arrange a meeting with Chris Pelly with Marcia Bromberg before the resolution goes to Council. GC prepared the following resolution to Council: "The Greenway Commission requests the City Council direct that staff investigate procuring use of or access to privately owned land along Hominy Creek adjacent to the parcel of land known as the Waller Tract or Hominy Creek Greenway to ensure continuous access from the Sand Hill Road entrance to the Shelburne Road entrance for future greenway development and current informal use. We further request the City Council to take steps necessary to ensure access to the property is secured." Marcia moved to propose the above-written resolution to Council, Sue seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. Marcia stated that since GC is an advisory group to Council will be asking the Council liaison as to the best approach. Barb stated that the staff is willing to investigate as to what it is going to take and that Al is correct that we do not have funding for easement acquisition or to hire an agent to acquire the easements. Martha asked if staff has provided GC with a timeline in terms of costs for city staff to do this because this would be one of the questions that Council members will ask staff. Al stated that he will speak with Nikki Reed to work up projected costs and models that Nikki would have from models already development in other greenways and to have a tentative schedule of fees.

- **Town Branch and Clingman Forest RFQs**: Jim stated that Mariate emailed him about having someone from the GC to participate in the Town Branch and Clingman Forest RFQs Evaluation Committee every month and material to read. Barb stated that it is mainly city staff which is part of the Tiger Grant east of river way and received 8 proposals for approximately a one month commitment in reading and evaluating through the interview process. The group will be meeting on Tuesday 4/17 at 4pm. Al understands there will be two different groups - one committee to review the proposals by city staff and two neighborhood representatives; and one representative from GC . Marcia Bromberg volunteered for the GC representative. Barb will send the qualification statement to Marcia and confirm the time of the meeting.

Old Business

- Ribbon cutting ceremony discussion -
  - ▶ Sue stated that she has been in contact with Ron Phillips who is spearheading the greenway fund raising in Montford and is excited about participating in the Reed Creek.
  - ▶ Barb stated that Sandra Travis in PRCA is experienced in staffing the official ribbon cutting. In the past that PRCA waited until the greenway is completed to do a ribbon cutting.
  - ▶ Barb received a call from Tony Hauser, and engineer, is interested in participating with GC and suggested coordinating the ribbon cutting with the Montford Festival 5/19/12.
  - ▶ Glen stated that Asheville Parks and Greenways Foundation expressed an interest in participating and helping with the PR for the ribbon cutting at Reed Creek.
  - ▶ Sue suggested an outreach when there are festivals, such as the Montford Festival that a GC representative to show that GC is working together.
  - ▶ Barb stated that the participants of Strive Not to Drive are also interested in the ribbon cutting.

Greenway Commission Staff Updates:

1. Community Outreach Committee Report: Sue reported a lot of opportunities for GC to volunteer:

   1. Healthy Kids Event at the YMCA - Sat 4/14 - at the Renaissance Hotel from 11am-3pm where Claudia Nix will be for there for a bike rodeo. A booth at Pack Square where Lucy Crowne from the County will be attending and Sue suggested for GC to go to the booth. Marcia stated that she will be volunteering.
   2. Health Family Event at the Baptist Church on 5/5 from 11am-2pm.
   3. Realtor Expo on 5/17 and details will be later at the Crowne Plaza.
   4. Biltmore Baptist Church on 6/23 - fund raiser and Sue will send more details later.

   Jim stated that he will not be able to do this Sat 4/12; but Jim will get the map of the greenways and brochures to Marcia.

2. Asheville-Buncombe Bicycle Pedestrian Task Force Report - Jim reported that on March 20 an NCDOT investment strategy summit and the report from that is mainly from MPO cities to discuss how NCDOT should be targeting its investments and the take away message was there was a lot of support even from people who were usual suspects for additional funding for bicycle/pedestrians facilities.

3. Asheville Parks and Greenway Foundation Report - Glen reported that the foundation has been active with radio interviews and work on funding raisers and met with local breweries on ideas and more details in May. The PR and funding raising committees have been meeting separately and will have better announcement next month. Jim stated that he was excited to see the stories out on the new Belgium where greenways are mentioned in the article.

4. Buncombe County Greenway Commission Update - Marcia reported that this commission is moving forward on the greenway master plan and will be preliminary plan and presented to the public in a series of 5 public meetings in May which she will share with GC in the county. Also obtaining feedback on the preliminary ideas of the plan; working hard on Connect Buncombe; and on the sign "I want to _____ on the Greenway which is an active campaign. Friends of the Hominy Creek will have a retreat in May and seriously looking at how they incorporate in order to be a body that can contract with the City to do work along Hominy Creek.

4. Bike of Irish Update sponsored by Asheville on Bikes- Ally reported that event started in 2006 with only 20-30 riders. This year there was 300 riders participate to tie with wearing green which focused on the greenways and highlighted those for people. This year rode the Reed Creek Greenway and down to the Hominy Creek greenway and finishing up at the Wedge Brewery. This was a great way to educate people about the greenways b/c a lot of riders did not know that Hominy Creek existing or that Reed Creek was finished and also along the way there were different speakers included UNCA's chancellor and the commitment to finish the greenway on the Momentum property.

Staff Updates:

Al reported on the Craven Street development of a RFQ from Cathy Ball, Director of PW, released on Monday for a design of a storm of street and storm water improvements on Craven Street, west of

brewery as well as a greenway design from "bridge to bridge" from Craven to Haywood and Riverlink and Amboy Road owned by Progress Energy. There will be a mandatory meeting next Tuesday at the Civic Center of professional consultants to attend. Martha stated the funding is being worked out by Bob Oast, City's Attorney. Al will have more information to share at a later date.

RFQ for the construction drawings of Beaucatcher greenway, which is out and will have a representative from GC.

Transportation Updates:

1. **Complete Streets**: Barb stated the final draft of the policy based on GC and Transit Commission input. The policy will not reflect the percentage of the total costs and removed the paragraph allowing exception for "no need for pedestrian, bike or transit facilities." Barb is asking GC to endorse the policy as it is brought to the Planning and Economic Development Committee next week and to City Council at the end of May. Martha asked if Barb would accept where the statement in the resolution second paragraph: "The City of Asheville desires that all users...." rather than the work "ensure." Ally moved to approve the policy, Mary second and carried unanimously.

2. **Transit Master Plan (TMP) Implementation**: Mariate reported that the launch is scheduled for April 30 at the Civic Center and 5 community meetings from 5/1-5/15 at the north, south, east, west quadrants from 4pm-7pm. Mariate is asking for volunteers and the dates will be sent to the GC. Mariate stated that a volunteer plan is in the works and there will be training sessions and Mariate will inform the GC. The training will be 2 or 3 hours 2 or 3 days before the beginning of the informational meetings. The plan is training GC on the master plan and who to speak with public questions. Marcia asked would she be volunteering as a GC or a citizen. Mariate answered as a citizen.

3. **Planning Update** - Blake updated the New Belgium project; Complete Streets; Hunt Hill project which is multiple family to P& first Wed in May.

Jim Adjourned at 5:02 pm