

STAFF REPORT

To: City Council Finance Committee Date: January 8, 2013
Via: Gary Jackson, City Manager
From: Roderick Simmons, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department, Director
Subject: Partnership request from UNC-A Foundation for Greenway Development

Summary Statement:

The consideration of a partnership with The University of North Carolina at Asheville Foundation, Inc. for the development of 525 Broadway as part of the Reed Creek Greenway Corridor.

Review:

Attached is the request from The University of North Carolina at Asheville Foundation, Inc. for the City to partner in development of 525 Broadway as part of the Reed Creek Greenway Corridor. The City of Asheville, RiverLink, Inc., the Foundation, and others have had continuing discussions regarding the construction of a greenway to be located on a portion of the Property in approximately the location 525 Broadway as a part of the Reed Creek Greenway envisioned by the City.

The Foundation will be submitted a 2013 Federal Recreational Trails Program Application to the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation for a \$200,000 potential grant to fund a portion of the design and construction costs for the greenway project with a target completion date of no later than August, 2015 the Grant Application is due no later than January 31, 2013.

The total cost of the greenway based on current estimated design and construction costs will be approximately \$410,000. The Foundation will provide an amount not to exceed \$75,000 toward the estimated costs. The Foundation would like the City to support the Final Grant Application and for the City to provide \$75,000 in matching financial support, and RiverLink, Inc. to support the Final Grant Application and to provide \$60,000 in financial support toward the construction component of the greenway.

This action complies with the City Council Strategic Operating Plan by demonstrating fiscal responsibility through leveraging external partners to pursue master plan implementation. In addition, this action complies with the Greenway Master Plan in that this acquisition serves to land bank a key property for future implementation of the Hominy Greenway.

This item will be reviewed by the Greenway Commission on Thursday January 10, 2013 to receive the Commission's endorsement.

Pros:

- Leverage outside funding to implement the Greenway Master Plan
- Accelerate the development of this greenway section
- Provide a need linkage in the Reed Creek Greenway Corridor

Con:

- None

The City's contribution to this project will come from \$75,000 that was approved for Greenway Development as part of the FY2010-11 Parks and Recreation Department's CIP.

Revenue sources for the project are summarized below:

City's Contribution through currently budgeted CIP \$75,000

UNC-A Foundation Contribution \$75,000

River Link (Private Donations) \$60,000

RTP Grant (if awarded) \$200,000

Total project budget \$410,000

In the event that total project cost is less than \$410,000 then the project costs will be shared in the proportions indicated above between the Foundation, City and Riverlink such that each parties' contribution commitment would be reduced pro rata.

If the Foundation does not receive the full \$200,000 requested in the Final Grant Application or the final cost estimates or bids for the design and construction of the Greenway project exceed \$410,000, then the Foundation shall continue to work with the City, RiverLink and other interested parties to find an alternative way to accomplish the Greenway project

The Foundation is requesting approval of a partnership with the City to develop the Greenway component as outlined below:

- 1) Supports the Foundation submitting a 2013 RTP Grant for \$200,000
- 2) Provide \$75,000 in matching funds towards development of the project
- 3) Support a future land swap that will move the greenway closer to the stream.

Fiscal Impact: The requested \$75,000 has been allocated for Greenway Development and is included in the Park, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department's portion of the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 annual operating budget.

Recommendation: City staff recommends approve of a partnership with The University of North Carolina at Asheville Foundation, Inc. for the development of 525 Broadway as part of the Reed Creek Greenway Corridor.

Attachment: (1) UNC-A Board Adopted Resolution