

Asheville Greenway Committee Meeting Minutes

May 7, 2015

Members present: Mary Weber, Kim Williams, Amy Vanden Heuvel, Jim Grode, Rich Lee, Forrest Merithew

Members absent: Dr. John Ridout

Staff present: Lucy Crown, Mariate Echeverry

Public present: None

Call to order at 3:32 pm

1. Jim moved to approve agenda, Rich seconded, approved unanimously
2. Kim moved to approve minutes, Jim seconded approved unanimously

Staff updates (Lucy and Mariate)

1. RADTIP updates: May 13th and 20th presentations with designers; real estate management office beginning to contact property owners, have until next June for release of federal funds
2. ISO 14000 audits ongoing
3. Charlotte St. project has been pushed back to FY19
4. FBR Greenway: site survey coming in June, 25% drawings due soon, public input on RADTIP possibly week of July 20th.
5. Beaucatcher: Waiting for final construction drawings expected in June, online public input in July, and construction shortly thereafter.
6. Asheville in Motion Multimodal Plan: Public event anticipated after July

New Business

1. Discussion of recruiting new members by August (Mary) Discussion of focus on East Asheville and less-represented neighborhoods; several members questioned if Greenway Committee opening could be included in city email of Board and Commission openings. Jim mentioned that Transit Committee is also due to recruit soon, should coordinate with them.

Old Business

1. Discussion of other meeting locations (Mary): Per Janet, first floor meeting room is the only available room on first Thursdays.
2. Feasibility Studies budget proposal (Mary): Multimodal Commission received budget presentation that did not include feasibility funds. Rich and Mary met Cecil Bothwell in April and walked the greenway section at Azalea Park with seemingly a lot of support. A lot of talk about how to bring private partners to the table with city. General agreement that the committee outreach has been good. GC representatives will be present at May 12 budget committee meeting. If not funded, GC will continue conversation with private partners and push for Azalea Park section to be included in "goat trail" program.

3. Outreach (Mary): Race to the Taps outreach went well, Mary handed out maps and got good response. Mountain Sports Festival: Ann Babcock and others will hand out G'way collateral, Kim will coordinate volunteers.
4. "Goat trails" (Mary): at Multimodal Commission, Cathy Ball said if city didn't call natural-surface paths "greenways", but called them "trails", that might be better for ADA/liability purpose. Amy volunteered to follow up with communities that have trail systems. Kim said many trail systems are created by nonprofits. Lucy recommended that GC committee start and inventory of possible areas for foot trails. Rich, Amy and Lucy will meet as subcommittee to plan further.
5. Rhododendron Creek fence relocation (Lucy): Possible, but needs city resources for survey, legal agreement. Will try to work it in.
6. Discussion of "field trip" meeting: Would be better to have separate walking meeting than business meeting, but have to be conscious of city staff time. Discussion of walking Beaucatcher(?) Greenway after June or July meeting.
7. Website (Lucy): Lucy plans to get all website modification suggestions to Communications at once.
 - a. Greenway committee should collect photos of greenways (Mary for Reed Creek, Rich for some others, Kim has many from work)
 - b. Timeline-Gradient is good idea, will be working on it
 - c. Info on Greenway Committee – cannot do, may include a link to committee page
 - d. Greenway events will be difficult but can be included on partners' greenway calendar as well.
 - e. Description of greenways and benefits is good idea, can't be proprietary material, seeking input from GC members.

Greenway Committee Updates

8. Multimodal Commission (Jim): Got CIP update, deliberated and tabled Ecusta Trail endorsement, discussion of regular meetings with DOT
9. Collaborative Greenway Partners (Mary): Branding consultant hired, Mary and Lucy on a steering committee; city and county are not committed to using branding once finished, that's an ongoing conversation
10. Asheville Parks and Greenways Foundation (Lucy): Not much word
11. City of Asheville Parks and Rec (Forrest): Next meeting Monday 5/11.
12. Friends of Hominy Creek (Amy): Still spending grant money; erosion survey coming up; fundraising event mid-August at Universal Joint
13. Friends of Canie Creek (Rich): Not much word

Possible future agenda items

1. Check on goat trails, proposed areas
2. Possible field trip
3. Development questions from cities with trails

Adjourned 5:00 pm