

GREENWAY COMMITTEE MEETING

October 10, 2013

3:30-5:00 pm

First Floor Conference Room-City Hall



GREENWAY COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the City of Asheville's Greenway Commission is to advise City Council on implementation of a system of greenways within Asheville by integrating City and County Parks and Transportation plans while educating and engaging the public and advocating for funding.

Members Present: Sue Barlow, Chairman, Ally Donlan Wilson, Vice-Chairman, Bryan Mitchell, Secretary, Stephen Jones, Mary Weber, Jim Grode, Marcia Bromberg.

Staff Present: Mariate Echeverry, Transportation Planning Manager, Roderick Simmons, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, Ken Putnam, Transportation Department Director, Pete Wall, Parks and Recreation Dept. Landscape Architect.

Community Present: DeWayne Barton, Chris Joyell, Amy Van Hoovel, Linda Giltz.

- Chairman Barlow called the meeting to order at 3:31.
- **Review and approval of 10-10-13 agenda:** Bryan moved and Mary seconded and carried unanimously.
- **Review and approval of 9-12-13 minutes:** Ally moved to approve the minutes as written, Stephen seconded and carried unanimously.

New Business:

- **Neighborhood Festival 10/27/2013** - Jim stated:
 1. Festival hosted by the Neighborhood Advisory Committee which will introduce the many different neighborhood associations in the area.
 2. Multi-Modal Transportation Commission (MMTC) will be in attendance. Stephen has volunteered to represent the Greenway Committee. Mary might be able to attend as well.
- **Burton Street Community Plan:** DeWayne Barton, representative from the Burton Street Community, spoke about the community and the plan. He is also representing Green Opportunities, an organization started to assist the community with organizing efforts.
 1. Originally the community organized around how the I-26 Connector will impact the area.
 2. The community is concerned about current connectivity from the area with other parts of Asheville and even more concerned about connectivity in the future with the I-26 Connector possibly being built in the community.
 3. The community thinks the Smith Mill Creek area needs to be considered for a greenway. This would allow for connectivity across the river.
 4. Chris Joyell from Asheville Design Center has assisted the community and will get an existing plan for the community to the Greenway Committee (GC) for reference.
 5. Marcia spoke of the beauty of the area from the site visit 2-3 years ago and her visits since.
 6. Stephen asked about other organizations the community is partnering with and DeWayne responded that Green Opportunities and WNC Alliance have helped.
- **City of Asheville Greenway Master Plan Proposal:** Roderick spoke to the GC about the proposed Greenway Master Plan. Pete Wall spoke as well.

1. Two years ago the city looked at updating the Greenway Master Plan. A workshop was held with the GC in March 2013 and the city now has an updated, draft Master Plan.
2. Marcia is very excited about the new proposal. She also asked about the definition of greenway used in the proposal and why it was not the same definition the GC spent time defining. Roderick commented that P&R would take a look at making a change to GC's definition.
3. A new greenway is on the map - Emma Creek Greenway - and was introduced by Roderick. Roderick explained that due to the I-26 Connector, all connectivity for the areas impacted need to be included in the plan so DOT will make considerations in its planning.
4. Pete gave an overview of the plan. The map and list are attached with this document. Overlays of Buncombe County and City of Asheville proposed greenway routes were used to produce this plan. This plan makes proposals to DOT to inform them of the desires of the local government and includes this plan in DOT's planning process.
5. Of note, Hominy Creek South is included and has alternative routes across I-26.
6. Jim commended Pete's work in taking a network approach to the greenway plan.
7. The Plan goes to the City Commission October 23rd. Any comments by GC need to be given to Sue by October 17th. She will forward to the correct person with the City.
8. Ken Putnam spoke of the City's commitment to the project by identifying a plan for the City to put \$1 million towards the I-26 Connector project. DOT appreciated the gesture and is looking to devote these monies to items like greenway construction.

Old Business:

- **Multi-Modal Transportation Commission (MMTC):** Mary stated that the second meeting for the MMTC took place on September 25th.
 1. State Bike Summit will take place in Carrboro, NC.
 2. Community Transportation Grant - Patton Ave is already in Transportation Plan. Haywood Rd will see a complete street redesign with bike paths on both sides with sidewalk.
 3. Kristy Carter reported on Haywood Street redesign and the need for bulbouts and crosswalks in the short term. Land use investment depends on a transportation bridge to Patton. Draft to be done by late December.
 4. The Commission made a subcommittee to look at developing by-laws.
 5. Bob showed new Greenway Foundation greenway maps which will need to be updated within a year.
 6. Talked about presence at the Neighborhood Festival.
 7. Multi-Modal Plan - RFP was planned for mid-October but has been pushed to Nov-Dec now for review by the commission.
 8. Project updates are in this packet.
 9. Reed Creek Greenway is now under review.
 10. MMTC will have one meeting first week of December for both November and December.

Greenway Committee Updates:

- **Community Outreach Committee Report:** Sue reported:
 1. Bryan was asked about an email he sent out. Bryan reported that the Best of WNC voted Greenways tops in two different categories. It is believed that the public is taking notice and in fact desiring more greenways in the area.
 2. Ally spoke about generating talking points for volunteers of GC at events.
 3. Marcia spoke about the need for a social media presence but acknowledged that barriers existed between a City Committee and established such a communication piece. She sought the rules around such a presence.
 4. Mariate will look into the social media presence rules and report back. She did know that previous tactics have been addressing the presence as "Friends of ..." seemed to be allowed.
 5. Amy Van Hoovel, city resident, volunteered to help with a future social media presence.
- **Asheville Parks and Greenway Foundation Report:** Stephen reported:
 1. A Foundation campaign update. Campaign is in the planning process and looking to begin shortly.
 2. The Foundation maps are nearly or fully funded and printing will begin shortly. Stephen will bring maps to next month's meeting.

- **Bike/Pad Task Force Update:** Bryan reported:

1. He spoke with Sue about being relieved of his duties with the Task Force.
2. There was agreement that there was redundancy with Bryan's attendance to Task Force meetings since they were represented at the MMTC level.
3. Bryan formally requested to be excused of reporting from this duty. Marcia moved and Jim seconded and carried unanimously.

- **Friends of Connect Buncombe County (FOCB) Update:** Marcia reported:

1. The group is excited to announce that they have targeted as a first project connecting the Hominy Creek Greenway to the NC Arboretum.
2. The greenway is proposed to parallel or follow 191 most of the way along the eastside of the road. This is a real opportunity to connect Hominy Creek with the Farmer's Market. The route would then go under I-26 via the viaduct or possibly pass over the bridge and then move along the backside of the mall.
3. The organization is developing its own external website apart from the county.
4. The organization is working on 501(c)3 status.

Staff Updates:

- **Transportation Update:** Mariate reported updates on a list of projects:

1. See the attached List of Projects.
2. Listed but recorded here - a public meeting will be held on the East of the Riverway Transportation Network Plan on October 24th.

- **PRCA Update:** Roderick had no report other than the Master Plan previously mentioned.

1. Mary asked about an RFP and whether it was cancelled. Roderick responded that it was not cancelled entirely, just delayed.

- **Planning:** No update

Final Comments:

- Linda Giltz, former GC member/chair of seven years and currently works for Land of Sky, spoke about all the progress with greenways within the City.
- Sue wrapped up with a reminder to look over the Master Plan and get her comments within the week.

Sue Adjourned at 4:40 pm