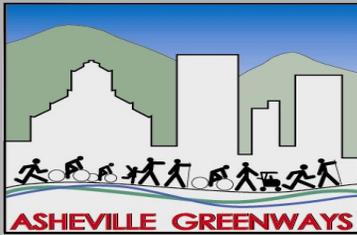


GREENWAY COMMITTEE MEETING

February 20, 2014 3:30-5:00 pm
6th Floor Training Room-City Hall

GREENWAY COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the City of Asheville's Greenway Committee 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: Jim Grode, Marcia Bromberg, Bryan Mitchell, Acting Chair, Mary Weber

Staff Present: Mariate Echeverry, Transportation Planning Manager, Roderick Simmons, Director, Parks and Recreation Department

Community Present: Doug Brotherhug Barlow, Rich Lee, David Wilson

- The meeting was called to order at 3:30 and the agenda and minutes from the Agenda and minutes from the December 12, 2013 meeting were approved.
- The Committee officially accepted Ally Wilson's resignation which opened her seat for Vice Chair.

Staff Updates:

Transportation: Mariate Echeverry

- The 60% drawings Clingman Forest/Town Branch greenway plans have already been submitted and now the design team is working on the 100% drawings to be submitted by late March.
- The final choice of a consultant for the MMTP will be later than originally planned.
- Duke Energy Project (west of river greenway). A Memorandum of Understanding between the City and Duke Energy will be brought to the City Council at their 2/25 meeting. There will be two agreements—right of way use and construction and maintenance of the greenway. Following Council approval an RFQ for planning and construction will be issued. Funding for the project will be in the FY 2015 budget.
- The Henderson Road sidewalk project will install sidewalks from I-40 to Long Shoals Road on one side of the street. Any leftover funds will be used to install sidewalks on a portion of the other side.

Parks and Recreation: Roderick Simmons

- (Mr. Simmons arrived late due to a scheduling conflict and had no additional comments but was able to clarify the Committee's relationship to the Transportation and Parks & Recreation Departments noted below).

Planning: No Report

New Business:

- Brotherhug Barlow gave a presentation about the Vlabel property, the site of the Canie Creek Greenway listed in the Greenway Masterplan
- The property is located 1/3 mile from the Hominy Creek Greenway on the south, connected by a sidewalk, and to property owned by Goodwill Industries on the north where there is a bus stop on Smoky Park Highway. (Goodwill appears to be agreeable to allow access to the connector property).
- Brotherhug reviewed the history of the property including ownership over the years, various

- The property is currently on the market for \$1 million. However due to flood plain constraints and sewer easements it is unlikely a developer will be attracted to the property at this price. The listing agent's contract will be ending soon.
- Brotherhug and other interested community members have been in touch with the trustee of the property. Based upon their conversations, they believe the owners have an interest in seeing the property preserved in more of its natural state and that once the current contract ends the price for the property will be reduced to between \$500,000 and \$700,000.
- Brotherhug has spoken to one or more developers active in West Asheville who would be interested in buying a portion of the property for 10-12 houses on larger lots. Funds would have to be raised to purchase the remainder of the property.
- A group called the Friends of Canie Creek, acting under the umbrella of the Friends of the Hominy Creek Greenway, has formed to work out plan for purchasing the property and turning it into a community park with a greenway running through it. (caniecreekgreenway@gmail.com)
- Marcia asked what role the City could play in this plan since the greenway is part of the City's masterplan. Brotherhug suggested that the City might be interested in purchasing an easement in the property for the greenway.
- Brotherhug will be presenting the ideas for Canie Creek to the Malvern Hills Community or other interested groups during the next few weeks.
- Brotherhug also brought the Committee up-to-date on what's been happening on the Hominy Creek Greenway.

Old Business:

Recruitment of New Greenway Committee Members:

- There are currently 5 Greenway Committee members and the Committee can have up to 11 members.
- We received 5 applications for the Greenway Committee and an additional 5 applications for the Transit Committee from people who were not selected for that committee.
- Marcia suggested accepting all 5 Greenway applicants and inviting the 5 Transit applicants to attend the next Greenway Committee meeting to see if they were interested.
- Other Committee members preferred a more selective process.
- The Committee members agreed to review the applications in depth and divide applicants into three groups: Definite, Maybe and Not Ready.
- This exercise will be completed by the end of next week. If necessary, Committee members will interview applicants before making a final recommendation to the MMTC on new members.

Clarification on the responsibility of greenways between Parks and Transportation

- Roderick Simmons responded to this agenda item
- In the future the Transportation Department will be responsible for planning and constructing all greenway projects except those that are located in City Parks. In the latter case the Parks and Recreation Department will be responsible.
- Once constructed the Parks and Recreation Department will be responsible for maintenance of all greenways.
- The Parks and Recreation Department will continue to oversee projects begun before this change in responsibility—Beaucatcher, Clingman Forest and Town Branch Greenways.

Reschedule Greenway Tour:

- The Committee agreed to reschedule the tour of Smith Mill and Hominy Creek Greenways until May (2-5pm May 8th).
- We will add Canie Creek to the tour.
- Marcia will contact Dewayne Barton and Brotherhug Barlow about the new date.

Greenway Commission Updates:

Friends of Connect Buncombe:

- Marcia told the Committee that the Friends are planning an event in November on the first section of the Hominy Creek to Arboretum Greenway. This event will take place on the Hominy Creek to Farmer's Market section of the Greenway and will include an evening event at the Farmer's Market hosted by the Asheville Associates Group. There will also be daytime activities.
- Last weekend members of the Friends walked the Hominy Creek to Farmer's Market section of the Greenway with the Director of the Farmer's Market who is very enthusiastic about the project. They crossed the old NC 191 bridge that goes under I-26 and found a wide right of way along the 191. The hurdle is crossing the I-40 bridge which currently has no sidewalk. However, there are 6 wide lanes on the bridge and the Friends plan to approach NCDOT about dedicating all or part of one lane to walking/biking.
- Marcia told the Committee that the Friend has a new website, weconnectbuncombe.org and will soon be actively recruiting members and supporters.

Multi-Modal Transportation Commission Update:

- Jim, Mary and Marcia briefed Bryan on the January MMTC meeting.

Public Comment:

- Rich Lee, who is an applicant for the Greenway Committee, briefed the Committee on the formation of a new group formed to support development of the greenway on the Duke property. The working name is Friends of Duke Land Greenway.

The meeting was adjourned at 5 PM