GREENWAY COMMITTEE MEETING
June 12, 2014
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, Bryan Mitchell, Vice-Chairman/Secretary, Mary Weber, Jim Grode, Marcia Bromberg, Rich Lee, John Ridout, Kimberly Williams, Amy Vanden Heuvel.
Staff Present: Barb Mee, Transportation Planner.
City Council Present: Gwen Wisler.
Community Present: Forrest Merithew, David Wilson, Deborah Gerary.

- Chairman Barlow called the meeting to order at 3:29.

Review and approval of 6-12-14 agenda:
Bryan moved and Jim seconded and carried unanimously.

Greenway Committee Member Marcia Bromberg Honored - Sue presented:
1. Marcia Bromberg is finishing her second term on the Greenway Committee (GC), which began in July 2008, at today's meeting. The GC honored her dedicated service with a plaque. She states that she will remain very involved in local greenway development with Friends of Connect Buncombe.

Staff Updates:

- **Transportation Update**: Barb reported:

1. See the attached List of Projects. List was discussed later in the meeting during New Business.
2. A capital improvement budget was presented, Marcia would like to know if numbers are locked in? Gwen responds that City council adopts the city budget one year at a time. This has been one of the first years that capital projects have a been looked at going into the future. 2017 is not committed but since it is listed, it has high likelihood of being funded. The budget does still have some wiggle room. 2015 is the budget that will be approved in two weeks. Numbers are not dependent on Tiger Six Grant funding.
3. Marcia hopes that the opportunity for other sources of funding outside the city allocations can provide for more greenways.

- **Beaucatcher Greenway Plan Update**: Barb reported:

1. The consultant, Stewart, has performed thorough surveying and research of the corridor. Subsequently they have developed some preliminary design and route alternatives in strategic places. These will be shared with select private property owners initially who are adjacent to some of these alternatives. Thereafter, a general public meeting will be held to get input on the overall master plan of the greenway corridor. The city plans to have these meetings in the next couple of months. Staff has been delayed and an updated timeline to complete the construction drawings will be determined as the general public meeting transpires.
2. Barb will note that the consultant has been requested to present to the GC in the near future.

New Business:

- **Parks and Greenway Foundation**

1. Dana Davis was not present. Sue has requested someone to step forward to be a liaison to the Foundation. The GC needs to have representation to connect the two groups and identify other sources of funding for greenways. The representative would be a board position.
3. Marcia states the Foundation is having its annual meeting at the beginning of July. They ask that you RSVP for the event.

- **City Council Greenway Vision** - Gwen Wisler:

1. Sue states that the GC has lost its connection with the Parks and Recreation Dept. Gwen will talk with Gary Jackson about having some representation from Parks, but maybe not every month. An example of the missed connection is the greenway and parks signage that Parks is working on and we did not know about the effort.
2. When Gwen looks at the five year Capital Improvement Plan, multi-modal transportation has the lion share of the budget. This City Council recognizes the benefit of greenways and that is reflected in this budget. There has been a lot of talk about connectivity among the council. There is recognition of the need to connect paths.
3. Marcia states that health benefits and the economic driver of greenways is lost in the conversation much of the time. Gwen thinks the council is putting in place metropolitan service districts where greenways will be included. Gwen states that greenways are a wise investment of tax dollars and all future investments will be measured for similar impact. Gwen is thanked for her attendance.

- **Capital Improvement Budget** - Sue led the discussion:

1. We return to the transportation project list. Part of the Tiger Six grant application included funding for RADTIP.
2. Nextbus.com on your phone to get the app. Rich states that it is an amazing app to know in real time where buses are located. David Wilson will check out the Tracfone and NextBus issue. Gwen talked about how much comfort the program has given to customers and citizens.
3. Hendersonville Road sidewalk project - Design for pedestrian crossings are underway with NCDOT, which visited last week.
4. French Broad River West greenway has a preferred consultant and negotiations are underway.
5. Return to Cap Improvement Budget: Kimberley talks about the Outreach Committee conversing about smaller allocations for smaller projects. She suggests a workshop in the near term, especially since there are so many new committee members. Sue thinks we do need to look at redefining our mission and goals. Our mission says we look for funding sources but we have not coordinated in this area. Marcia does think it is time for a workshop. She hopes we get the support and resources to help the planning take place. Mary thinks we should look in the fall. Kimberley is willing to head up a collaborative workshop.
6. Rich says that no one from the GC or MMTC voted on the cap improvement plan, why not? Sue thinks we should look at prioritizing the projects. Jim says to be fair that the River to Ridge initiative was the GC's input and the city listened. The cap improvement plan represents our input. Rich is making sure the GC is still at the center of power and is not off to the side. Marcia agrees but cautions that we should have a cohesive voice and plan in searching for funding. Rich thinks we are on the same page but we need to orient ourselves.

- **Collaborative Greenway Partners** - Marcia presented:

1. Marcia requests that someone from GC represent at the next meeting. The group first focused on fundraising but has moved beyond that. A second planning session took place two weeks ago. The group decided to make a brochure that every group will be able to hand out when talking about greenways. The brochure will be designed and funded by Friends of Connect Buncombe.
2. The goals of CGP are as follows:
    a. Designing and printing a brochure
    b. A website that includes activities and news from each greenway group
    c. Becoming a "clearinghouse" for information related to greenway development
    d. Act as an "umbrella" advocacy organization for smaller groups and possibly serve as a fiscal sponsor for those smaller groups

e. Invite NC Div. of Parks and Recreation to sponsor a regional Greenway Conference which invites experts in planning as well as representatives of other greenway efforts
f. Develop an outreach plan for local festivals, civic groups, etc.

Old Business:

- **Committee Appointments:** Sue presented:

1. Marcia would like to recommend to the MMTC that Forrest Merithew and Lucy Crown be added to the GC. Forrest has shown great interest. Lucy is a former greenway planner with the county. The GC was in agreement.
2. An application for the MMTC is attached to the meeting packet and applications are due July 2. Sue would like for someone from the GC to take the open spot.
3. Marcia would like to add that it is possible for a person to apply for the GC spot on MMTC and would automatically be added to the GC.

- **Secretary Position:** Sue presented:

1. The GC is in need for someone to take over as secretary. Sue asked for volunteers.

- **Brief Overview of May 8th Greenways Field Visit:** Sue presented:

1. Rich says that the Hominy Creek Greenway erosion and wash out is still happening and hasn't been addressed. The Asheville App has not responded and it has not been addressed as of a few days ago. Jim says the area has been taped off.
2. Rich thinks the Burton Street corridor is a prime opportunity. Gwen advises that the GC could head up interests in right-of-way access instead of the city. Community members get better response from property owners. The corridor running parallel to Patton Avenue also does need to be approached by community members.
3. Rich talked with Duke Energy rep about walking the potential French Broad River West pathway in the fall after construction is finished.

Greenway Committee Updates:

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

1. The fundraiser is ongoing. The County is going to apply for a grant to match donations. Currently fundraising totals $8,000.
2. After fundraising and the feasibility study is finished then planning would begin on the first segment from Hominy Creek to the Farmers Market.

- **Multi-Modal Transportation Commission (MMTC):** Jim stated:

1. The meeting focused on the Neighborhood Sidewalk Program
2. MMTC gave input to Capital Improvement Plan budget and changes were made to reflect that input.
3. Public works director presented on repaving priorities. Streets that get very little vehicle traffic serve as multi-modal pathways. Question was asked about how to get these streets repaved since traffic count was so low. Is there a way to get these sections higher prioritized? Does identifying them as part of MMTC network get them higher priority?
4. MMTC approved application for Title VI from the transportation department.
5. I-26 connector comments were due today and MMTC submitted comments on behalf of GC and the city.

- **Community Outreach Committee Report:** Kim reported:

1. Kimberley, Amy, and Mary met recently to discuss goals of the subgroup before proceeding.
2. Goals:
    a. Collaborate with FOCB
    b. Continue to support in finding dedicated funding for greenways and multi-modal projects.
    c. Continue to build partnerships
    d. Public outreach - identify the top 4-6 events that GC should send rep and provide refined message

Final Comments:

- Sue has the Greenways maps in her possession if anyone needs them.
- Jim is giving the MMTC annual presentation to the city council in mid-July. He will focus on the need for dedicated funding.

Sue Adjourned at 4:59 pm

Transportation Planning Division
Project update
May 28, 2014

On-going

- RADTIP
  - Final design process is underway. The consultants are gathering data to begin the design. Surveyors are working in the corridor right now. An aerial survey was completed last month. The consultants will present a preliminary design in November of 2014 and are expected to complete the final design by December of 2015. Right of way acquisition is planned for 2016.

- East of the Riverway Transportation Network Plan
  - Staff is providing comments to final draft.

- JARC Signals Design contract
  - Locations:
    - Louisiana & Haywood Rd
    - McDowell & Choctaw
    - South Charlotte & Biltmore
  - Design has been sent to NCDOT for approval

- Multi-modal Transportation Plan.
  - In the process of signing the contract.

- French Broad River Greenway (Duke Energy property) and connection between FBR Park and Carrier Park
  - RFQ evaluation process on-going.

- Nextbus project
  - 80% implemented. Equipment installed and operational
  - Nextbus at bus stop graphics is in design process
  - Signs installation unerway
  - Communications campaign

- ISO 14000 - ART
  - Quotes received.
  - Evaluation process is on-going.

- Charlotte Street
  - RFQ is in process.

New

- ADA restructuring
  - Redefine service area
  - Streamline eligibility process

- Transit Station repairs
  - Working with PW to determine scope of work – on hold due to City's reorganization.

- Sharrow Network North
  - On hold

Other efforts

- TIGER VI grant application
  - Submitted April 28.

- The Riverside Drive development plan (led by Stephanie Monson-Dahl in Economic Development), developing another section of this plan, in the procurement process.

- Clingman Forest and Town Branch Greenways and Depot Street Roundabout (led by Al Kopf in Parks and Recreation Department).
  - Roundabout construction drawings are complete.
  - Greenways: the plans are 80% complete with mostly detailed engineering work that is still underway (such as the boardwalk and stormwater features)

- Haywood Rd. Multimodal Improvements (led by Robert Kun in PW).
  - Contract documents are ready and plans have been modified according to property owner and concerned citizen requests. Submitted for NCDOT encroachment May 1st. Property is going through condemnation.

- Hendersonville Rd. sidewalk (led by Brian Estes in PW).
  - Design – Initial plan design continues.

    Major changes:

    We are in the final stage of comments from the Parkway. We will submit final plans to the Parkway for that section next week.

    The analysis of the proposed design of the sidewalk at the Dingle Creek Shopping Center has indicated that it would create a rise in the floodway. I am looking into alternative designs to address this issue.