

City of Asheville Greenway Committee Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2015

Committee in attendance: Mary Weber, Jim Grode, Forrest Merithew, Rich Lee, Kimberly Williams, John Ridout, Lucy Crown

Committee absent: Amy Vanden Heuvel

Staff in attendance: Mariate Echeverry

Guests: Deborah Gurriere, Judy McAfee, Billie Lofland

Call to order 3:30pm

Lucy move to approve agenda, Jim second, approved unanimously

Kim motion to approve minutes, Jim second, approved unanimously

1. Public Comment I: Deborah Gurriere commented that she bought land without knowledge of greenway, surveyors on land without permission, appraising home values to determine loss from greenway visitors
 - a. Forrest Merithew: is the last remaining greenway project under Parks and Rec authority and will be transferred to Transportation authority in coming months.
2. Staff update (Mariate):
 - a. STP-DA call for projects from remaining funding, going to city council January 27th, asking council for permission to apply for 4 grants: #1 Craven Bridge design and construction for upgrade, still don't know which option re expansion or building second bridge; #2 Greenway Connectors between Clingman Forest and Town Branch and Town Branch to Beaucatcher; #3 Transit Master Plan Update; #4 MPO travel study. **Rich moved for GC to endorse city application, Lucy seconded, passed unanimously.**
 - b. Duke Greenway: finally have right to entry, needs new environmental assessment. Rich: How far will that push back timeframe? Mariate: We don't know. Kimberly: Can we find out if the bridge affects the Craven St. trailhead? Mariate: **Will get update from McCrae Coates.**
 - c. Clingman Forest and Town Branch: Some changes as Town Branch turns out to be less expensive, Clingman Forest turns out more expensive, will balance out.
3. Presentation by Broadway Improvement Action Committee of Five Points (Judy McAfee) Wants to reassert interest in Broadway corridor, continuation of Reed Creek Greenway. Mary: Where did these maps come from? Judy McAfee: We don't know, possibly former Pioneer Building owner. What can we do? Mary: It helps if you talk to neighbors about offering easements.
4. State Transportation Improvement Plan (Lucy): Proposed road improvements on Riverside from Craven to Broadway (\$7.8 million), Amboy from Carrier Park and Meadow to Biltmore (\$36 million due to complexity of bridge), and Swannanoa River Road from Biltmore to S. Tunnel Road (\$10.55 million). Opportunity for greenway connection from Silverline Plastics to MSD and in East Asheville along Swannanoa. Rich: Timeframes for construction are 2022-2024 for most. Is that delaying greenway sections if we tie them to road construction? Kimberly: We'll need to see plans along the way for greenway impacts. Forrest: What do we need to do? Mariate: Wait.

5. Retreat goals (Mary)
 - a. Improved communication with city (Mary): We want to invite Parks and Rec to next meeting
 - b. Serve as Community Liaison (Mary): branding RFQ coming out soon. Lucy has set up Google Calendar to coordinate events, will get invites out. Lucy also getting software for volunteer coordination.
 - c. Greenway Prioritization (Rich and Mary): Survey looks good, everyone will take by next meeting. Committee considered recommending that Reed Creek Connector, Swannanoa from Biltmore to S. Tunnel, and Swannanoa from S. Tunnel to Tunnel be submitted for feasibility studies. Mariate: three feasibility studies will be included as placeholders in budget. Kim: Some factors like price not as well known by committee members. Rich: Can have Misc. field where people include special knowledge. Should all take survey before next meeting, and discuss before recommending anything.
 - d. Develop Partnerships and Projects (Forrest): Catalog of ideas and collateral forthcoming.
6. Greenway Committee Updates
 - a. MMTC (Jim) Haven't met since previous meeting. Jim presenting to council on MMTC update, next Friday is annual report. AIM Consultants coming Jan 28th at 3:00.
 - b. Friends of Connect Buncombe (Lucy): Working on branding and structuring
 - c. Collaborative Greenway Partners (Mary): Working on RFQ for branding
 - d. Asheville Parks & Greenway Foundation (Lucy): Fundraiser tomorrow
 - e. CoA Parks and Rec (Forrest): Planning to hand off Beaucatcher Greenway to Transportation
 - f. Canie Creek Greenway (Rich): Got CWTF money but owners are mixed about selling
 - g. Preservation Society (Lucy): Rise and Fall of Sulphur Springs, this Sunday
7. Public Comment II - none
8. Next agenda items. – include disclaimer statement at start of meeting

Adjourn.