

# MINUTES

## City Council Parks, Trails, & Recreation Committee

Wednesday, June 19, 2019, 3:30 PM  
Administrative Conference Room at City Hall

Members Present: Gary Daniel, Chair, Council Member  
Maureen Copelof, Vice-Chair, Council Member  
Daniel Cobb, Planning Director  
Keenan Smith, Citizen Member  
Ryan Olson, Citizen Member  
Nancy DePippo, Citizen Member

Absent: Jim Fatland, City Manager  
David Lutz, Public Works Director  
Jared Mull, County Representative, Ex Officio

Staff Present: Aaron Bland, Planning Department  
Denise Hodsdon, Executive Assistant

Guests: Sarah Pooser, First United Methodist Church  
Torry Nergart, Conserving Carolina

Media: None

### A. Welcome & Call to Order

Committee Vice-Chair Maureen Copelof welcomed all in attendance and called the meeting to order at 3:37 PM.

### B. Certification of Quorum

Quorum was certified by Executive Assistant Denise Hodsdon.

### C. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Olson to approve the agenda as presented.  
Motion carried unanimously.

### D. Approval of Minutes from April 17, 2019 Meeting

Motion by Ms. Copelof, seconded by Mr. Olson to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2019 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

## **E. Broad Street Pedestrian Crosswalk – Fundraising Campaign Update**

In January the Committee made a recommendation to City Council that the City initiate the installation of safety lights at the crosswalks on Broad Street between Brevard College and First United Methodist Church and on Ecusta Road. The recommendation was that the City fund 25% of the cost and that we try to raise money through the community for the balance. As approved by the City Council, the City advanced payment for the installation of the new lights and both have been installed and are working well. Sarah Pooser of First United Methodist Church updated the Committee on the proposed fundraising campaign for the crosswalk enhancements. She presented the talking points (copy attached as Exhibit A) and stressed that the important piece is to raise awareness. She said the plan is to take this to the newspaper, radio station and to various hiking/biking groups and breweries. It will be in the Church's newsletter at the end of this month. She noted that Savannah, Georgia has instituted a program where they have added a place on their water bills for people to add a donation for crosswalks and she asked that we consider something similar here.

Ms. Pooser has information ready to post on Facebook, Instagram and GoFundMe and she suggested that we set a goal of \$30,000 because she doesn't think we should stop at two crosswalks and it has got momentum. Mr. Daniel noted that we have taken the basic idea to City Council and they did approve it, although there was some discussion. Mr. Daniel said City Council Member Charlie Landreth had brought up the point that if the City feels we need this then the City should pay for it. Mr. Daniel said he thinks that is a valid point, but he has mixed feelings about it and can see it from both points of view. He said we could proceed with the original plan, but cautioned that if we are going to expand the scope, we would have to go back to City Council before we proceed. He said he would be open to more, but he can't speak for the City Council. Ms. Pooser said she could go ahead and launch this thing and talk about the fact that the City has advanced the money and that this is a public/private partnership where the public is contributing to the enhancements. There was consensus to go ahead with the campaign.

## **F. Name for New Trail on Bracken Mountain**

Aaron Bland reported that the new trail on Bracken is just about complete and we hope to have an official opening at the end of July. We need an official name for the trail in order to add it to the maps. Mr. Bland offered a number of options and after discussion, there was consensus to make recommendation to City Council to name it Pinnacle Trail.

Mr. Bland shared an updated map with the Committee which will be an amendment to the overall master plan to reflect what has actually happened in comparison to what was approved on the plan. This will be added to the agenda for approval at the next meeting.

## G. Update on Relocation of Bike Path along Asheville Highway

Mr. Cobb presented a map of a proposal for relocation of the Bike Path along Asheville Highway (copy attached as Exhibit B). This proposed plan includes a tunnel under Asheville Highway. He said that would not be hard to do as the tunnel would consist of a concrete box culvert tall enough to walk through and there is plenty of elevation to make it happen in that location. He will be meeting with the NCDOT project design team for the Asheville Highway Access Management Project next week. He said all we need to do is get permission from them to do this, pay for the culvert and that is all they have to worry about. It avoids all crossings on Asheville Highway and is the strongly preferred option as it is much safer than trying to cross at roundabouts or between two roundabouts. Mr. Cobb noted that construction for the access management project is scheduled to begin in 2021.

### Other Updates/Comments:

Mr. Cobb reported that we have received quotes for the fence at the skate park. He said they are three months out right now so we are looking at some time in September. He added that we are working on getting the environmental management plan in place so we can build out the rest of Tannery Park. He thought that would be wrapped up in the next 6-8 weeks and then we would be free to start building as time and money allow.

Mr. Daniel expressed appreciation to outgoing Planning Director Daniel Cobb and wished him good luck in his new position.

## H. Set Date for Next Meeting

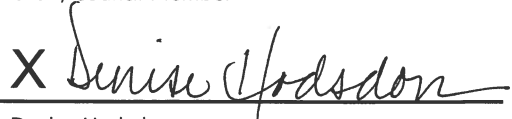
The next regular meeting of the Parks, Trails & Recreation Committee will be on Wednesday, August 21, 2019 at 3:30 PM.

## I. Adjourn

There being no further business, Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Ms. Copelof to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 pm. Motion carried unanimously.



Gary Daniel,  
Chair, Council Member



Denise Hodsdon  
Executive Assistant

Minutes Approved: August 21, 2019