

# **MINUTES**

## **City Council Parks, Trails, & Recreation Committee**

**Wednesday, September 16, 2020, 3:30 PM**  
Railroad Depot

Members Present: Mac Morrow, Chair, Council Member  
Maureen Copelof, Vice-Chair, Council Member  
Jim Fatland, City Manager  
Paul Ray, Planning Director  
Nancy DePippo, Citizen Member  
Howie Granat, Citizen Member  
Erik Emaus, Citizen Member  
Matt Christian, Citizen Member  
Ryan Olson, At-Large Member (left at 4:14 pm)

Absent: David Lutz, Public Works Director

Staff Present: Denise Hodsdon, Executive Assistant

Guests: Geraldine Dinkins, Council Member  
Kevin Smith, Tannery Skate Park Task Force Member  
Torry Nergart and Abby Williams, Conserving Carolina

### **A. Welcome & Call to Order**

Committee Chair Mac Morrow introduced new member Matt Christian. He welcomed all in attendance and called the meeting to order at 3:33 PM.

### **B. Certification of Quorum**

Quorum was certified by Executive Assistant Denise Hodsdon

### **C. Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Olson said he had to leave early and asked to move the Brevard Skate Park Update item to the beginning of the agenda. Motion by Mr. Granat, seconded by Mr. Christian, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

### **D. Approval of Minutes of August 19, 2020 Meeting**

Motion by Mr. Olson, seconded by Ms. DePippo to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2020 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

## **E. Brevard Skate Park Update**

Mr. Ray reported that the Brevard Skate Park is coming along great. Staff has added some extra concrete areas along the edges for spectators, which is colored red and stamped to warn skaters that they are not supposed to approach those areas. Benches and a bike rack are on order and expected to arrive in about four weeks. Sod has been laid, but because of the recent heavy rains, we are having trouble keeping the bank in place. However, once the sod takes root, that should help keep it in place. Once the sod has had time to set and the landscaping is complete, we will be ready to open. He estimates it will be another four weeks. Mr. Ray noted that it gets very hot on the concrete spectator area so he is going to look into the possibility of installing shade sails over that area. Mr. Emaus thought that may be a good project for Rotary Club and asked Mr. Ray to get him more information.

Mr. Granat asked if BMX bikes are allowed. Mr. Ray explained that the North Carolina League of Municipalities will not insure the skate park if we allow mingling of skaters and BMX bikes on the structure. Mr. Christian asked if there could be a dedicated time just for BMX bikes. Mr. Ray will look into that possibility with NCLM.

Mr. Olson and Mr. Granat asked that the Committee consider how to keep the Tannery Skate Park open, perhaps through a public/private partnership. Mr. Fatland informed the Committee that at the last City Council meeting, the Council passed a resolution to accept the completed Tannery Skate Park into the City as an asset. The resolution as adopted would keep both facilities open, so there is no plan to close it.

## **F. Dog Park Design**

Ms. Copelof reported that the Dog Park Task Force has completed the design of the dog park. She shared a copy of the master plan and noted that there are separate areas for small dogs and large dogs, with a double gated entry. There will be a water feature in the center of the park that goes through both sections. There will be a fence around the perimeter and inside the fence will be a 10-foot wide gravel path. She noted that all paths in the park will meet ADA requirements. Each section will include various benches and agility fields, and a gazebo structure will be inside the large dog area. There will be a 10-foot grassy walkway around the outside perimeter of the park. She said we are going to put a split-rail fence on the property line between the City property and the private home on the right and we are looking at putting a pollinator garden along that fence.

Ms. Copelof said Public Works has put over 400 hours of labor into getting the site prepped, including removal of trees and shrubs and installing culverts in the drainage ditch. She said we have partnered with Conserving Carolina who brought in a wetland restoration expert who is going to come up with a conceptual drawing of how to restore what is now a drainage ditch to a natural wetland. He is going to do that at no cost to the City and he is advising us on grant funding that is available for wetland restoration.

Ms. Copelof reported that she and Mr. Morrow have talked with Transylvania Hospital about the possibility of partnering with the City by allowing a parking lot off their cul-de-sac with a path leading from the parking lot to the dog park.

Ms. Copelof explained that this will be a phased project. Phase 1 will include the items we absolutely have to have in order to open, including fencing, pathways, mulch and grass and utilities. Phase 2 will include benches, gazebo, water feature, agility fields and other amenities. This is going to be a public/private partnership between the City and Friends of the Dog Park group. Once the plan is approved by City Council and we refine the budget, we will start fundraising with the goal of opening early next year.

#### **G. Depot Brochure**

Ms. Copelof shared a draft brochure for the Depot Railroad Avenue Park. Once the brochure is finalized, Transylvania Tourism has offered to print the brochure for us. The goal is to have the brochure done and ready to print once staff has completed the Depot Use Policy/Rental Application. Erik Emaus and Torry Nergart volunteered to work with staff on drafting the policy.

#### **H. Set Date for Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Parks, Trails & Recreation Committee will be on Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 3:30 PM at the Depot.

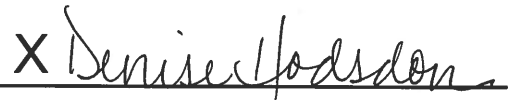
#### **I. Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:44 pm.



Mac Morrow,  
Chair, Council Member

Minutes Approved: October 21, 2020



Denise Hodsdon  
Executive Assistant