

MINUTES

COUNCIL PARKS, TRAILS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

December 14th, 2016 – 3:30 PM

Administrative Conference Room at Brevard City Hall

Members Present: Gary Daniel, Chair, Council Member
Ann Hollingsworth, Vice-Chair, Council Member
Jim Fatland, City Manager
Dr. Marty Ingram, Citizen Member
Jimmy Perkins, Citizen Member
Josh Freeman, Community Development/Special Projects Dir.
Lynn Goldsmith, Parks & Property Management Director

Members Absent: Ben Hardy, Citizen Member
Colin Izzard, Citizen Member

Staff: Jill Murray, Deputy City Clerk

1. Welcome & Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:32 PM on Wednesday, December 14th, 2016.

2. Introductions

Introductions were skipped.

3. Certification of Quorum

Quorum was certified.

4. Review of the Minutes

There were no minutes to approve.

5. Proposed Dog Park Sites

Mr. Fatland explained that a Citizen Ad-Hoc Committee had been formed and asked Harlow Brown to look at some sites around the City where we could put a dog park.

Mr. Brown introduced himself from Brown Consultants and handed out a packet showing several sites to be considered for the City dog park. He said we need 2 acres of land for the dog park.

The sites that were looked at were a few sites along Cashier's Valley Road (Tannery site, Rathey site and Public Works site) Franklin Park, Wilson Road, a couple of areas at the City Sports

Complex, however there is not much room there. He also looked at the Jennings site which is adjacent to the trails behind the hospital and the Davidson River site. The Franklin Park site was favored by the Citizen Ad-Hoc Committee because of its central location and the land already has trees on it. The very top choice was the hospital property but the hospital turned us down because it interfered in their long term master plan. However, an idea had been brought up to revisit with the hospital and ask about possibly leasing the land with the understanding that if they decide they need it to expand, they give us a year's notice to move.

Mr. Daniel did not like the idea of Franklin Park as it is already a community park that has prescribed uses and we would be taking that away. He suggested looking further into the Tannery site and doing further analysis there to see if it's feasible.

Mr. Freeman said that the bigger concern at the Tannery site is the relatively high water table and to keep it from becoming a muddy mess. Also some of the public has already expressed concern about barking dogs. However, there are two sites within Tannery that are largely out of the floodplain.

Mr. Daniel and Mr. Freeman both agree that barking dogs would not really be an issue and can be controlled with hours of operation. Ms. Hollingsworth asked about the property next to Pickelsimer Park on Gallimore that Tore owns. Mr. Fatland explained that originally that site was not on the radar because we were looking at property that the City owns first without purchasing additional land.

After much discussion it was agreed for the committee to go back and revisit with the hospital about a possible lease and to look at Pickelsimer Park and revisit the Tannery issue as well.

6. Tannery Park Master Plan and Part F Application

Mr. Freeman gave an update on the Part F grant with the goal of presenting a preliminary master plan to serve as an application to Part F and other grant resources. He is working on Phase 1 of that master plan showing parking, trails and any other amenities, perhaps including a dog park, as a Phase 1 and closing out the Brownfield Agreement. If we ever want to add additional amenities to it, it would simply require renegotiating the Brownfield Agreement to include new uses on the site. He's also been working with Mr. Brown on getting easements from neighbors on the east side of Norton Creek so that we can do a stream restoration project on both sides of the stream. He added that he has done quite a bit of public engagement in the past on this property and there is some concern from neighbors on how to properly place a dog park and where it would go. The biggest feedback is that they like it's a largely open space and they can see deer and want to make sure that crowd control, public safety and connectivity is made to occur in a way that is sensitive to the neighbors around the property.

Ms. Hollingsworth added that a dog park is an excellent way to kick off the use of that park, other than trails and it just seems like a perfect fit.

Mr. Freeman mentioned that Carolina Mountain Lake Conservancy will be submitting a proposal by next Friday that will help us secure federal and state grants for stream restoration, helping us secure state Part F grants for trail construction and looking for opportunities to marry those two together. Also, there is a relatively new stream restoration funding resource through a state recreation and parks program that is really meant to fund stream restoration projects but they allow themselves to be used as a match to Part F applications to be used as a local match where you're doing a combination of trail construction and stream restoration.

Mr. Fatland added that he thinks it's a good fit because the neighbors would know and see an improved pathway and see the stream get cleaned up as well.

Mr. Daniel said that it might be a selling point with the neighbors as far as a dog park is concerned because you would have a lot of folks coming here that are going to want to see that area maintained. It can only be a positive.

Mr. Perkins asked about the smokestack and whether it is stable or not. It was noted that it would be about half a million dollars to keep it and roughly \$200k-\$400k to take it down. It makes more sense to fence it for safety and keep the historical significance.

7. County-City Park and Recreation Master Plan

Mr. Fatland presented 5 options the City/County Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan Task Force County has looked at and would like the Council Parks, Trails and Recreation Committee to look at. The County came to the decision of recommending Option A, which is forming a new authority.

Mr. Daniel stated that he is removing himself from the City/County Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan Task Force and feels Charlie Landreth would be better suited since he has an ongoing relationship with the commissioners. It was agreed that this appointment would be on the January City Council Agenda.

After much discussion, Ms. Hollingsworth motioned, seconded by Mr. Perkins, to send to Council for approval to consider a concept in creating an authority, Option A. Motion passed unanimously, however, Ms. Goldsmith and Mr. Freeman opposed the motion.

8. Trail Signage and Sponsorship

Mr. Freeman explained that he has been putting together a sponsorship program for signs along the greenway system. He handed out a draft of an “adoption program” that lays out the intent and elements of the program and asked for the Committee to authorize a program to take out to the community to gain sponsorship.

After much discussion, it was proposed to put this item on the retreat agenda for Council to review.

9. Railroad Avenue Bridge

Mr. Daniel wanted to bring forth his concern that when the Committee spent a fair amount of time discussing the West Loop Project, the Railroad Avenue Bridge was never brought up before it went before City Council at their last meeting.

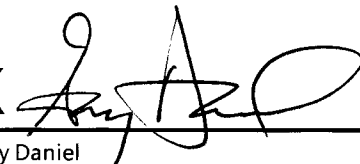
Mr. Fatland explained that the City started out with a design for the Railroad Avenue Bridge and in the agreement it doesn't say the width of the bridge, it just says an MOU not to exceed \$1,040,000. The City retained CDM Smith and the City owns that bridge but DOT was going to pay for 80%. Their project was designed at 54' wide bridge with two vehicle lanes, two bike lanes and two sidewalks. Then we had the West Loop meeting and the West Loop was designed in the same configuration starting just past the Deer Lake area. There were a lot of comments saying that you're going to have two bike lanes and two sidewalks going to nowhere and the West Loop project not funded until way off in the future. One of the ideas we had was since this project was going to be over budget, why not take another look at it. We looked at a few more options to bring the cost down. My dream is that when we finish the bridge, the pedestrian path from McLean to Probart would be done at the same time so people would see a bridge and pathway done and it makes all of us in the community feel good about the project. I wanted to seek input from this Committee on the design of the bridge and also as Josh works on the Part F grant is getting grant money to put the pathway in concurrent with this bridge project as it unfolds. That is the background and your point is well taken that we discussed this with the Public Works Committee and we should have brought it back to this Committee for discussion as well.

Mr. Bland mentioned that the Planning staff has been investigating what it would take to apply for the Bicycle Permit Community Program, which would make us a certified bicycle community, and one of the things that would bolster our application is if the City has a Bicycle Advisory Committee so was brought forward to the Planning Board and they suggested that maybe this Committee could fulfill that role and we wanted to see if that is something you all would want to take on. Essentially it's a community group that advocates for improved bicycling within the community. The Committee felt that it was something they already talk about from time to time and it was fine with them. Mr. Fatland suggested that they make it a

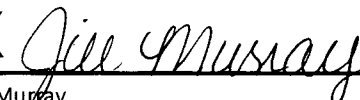
consent item for the January agenda, that way there is documentation. Mr. Fatland motioned, seconded by Ms. Hollingsworth to add it to the agenda for January.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM on Wednesday, December 14th, 2016.

X 

Gary Daniel
Council Member, Chair

X 

Jill Murray
Deputy City Clerk