

MINUTES

COUNCIL PARKS, TRAILS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

September 20, 2017 – 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
Daniel Cobb, Planning Director
David Lutz, Public Works Director
Keenan Smith, Citizen Member
Colin Izzard, Citizen Member
Cody Owen, President Transylvania Little League/US Forest Service

Staff: Jill Murray, Deputy City Clerk

Press: Matt McGregor, Transylvania Times

Guest: Torry Nergart, Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy

1. Welcome & Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 PM on Wednesday, September 20th, 2017.

2. Introductions

Introductions of committee members and guests were made.

3. Certification of Quorum

Quorum was certified by the Deputy Clerk.

4. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Fatland moved, seconded by Mr. Smith, the August 16, 2017, meeting minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Cobb asked that two items be added to the agenda. The bicycle friendly application and proposals for pedestrian grants. Mr. Fatland motioned, seconded by Mr. Cobb that the agenda be approved as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Tannery Park

Mr. Fatland explained that he attended the PARTF meeting and our grant was denied. There were 61 applications and only 21 of them were approved and those acquiring land received high priority. He suggested that rather than waiting until next year, perhaps we can look at funding some of these projects now and give something back to the community sooner than later.

The first project is the Mary C. Jenkins Center. The County made an overture to the City that if we looked at maybe merging arts and culture along with a senior center, the County may be willing to put funds towards building the Mary C. Jenkins Center. If we were to build the facility ourselves, it would be about \$600,000. That would calculate to roughly \$50,000 a year with a 15 year loan and would be a little over ½ a cent if the City were to take on a project like that. I sent an email to the County about the PARTF grant being turned down and we have our monthly meeting next Monday and we can discuss further with the County.

The other project was the bike pump track. Mr. Fatland asked Mr. Smith if that is a project where the full cost could be raised locally. Mr. Smith said he had several local shareholders that were willing to donate their machines and labor. They would need some basic infrastructure like a water line run to the pump track and potentially some landscaping. He added that we also still have Oskar Blues who is willing to contribute \$10k-\$12. He thinks it's very doable.

Mr. Fatland explained that he met with David Lutz and our consultant, Brown Consultants. They are the ones who designed the pedestrian path that went through the whole park. We thought we could maybe build the pathway but not pave it, like a

stone path. So we've asked for the numbers of how much that would cost and we will come back to this Committee with those numbers. Fencing around the smoke stack would be a part of that cost as well. Also at the end of Duckworth is a vacant lot, owned by the County, that could be utilized as a parking lot for access to a pedestrian bridge from Duckworth to the Tannery site.

Ms. Hollingsworth said that we should put the bike pump track it where it works best without affecting the overall master plan for the site.

Mr. Nergart added that Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy has merged with another land conservancy and has changed its name to Conserving Carolina and they do intend to follow up with the next grant cycle. He has a call out to one of the administrators to make a more successful grant and we'll need to strategize that later on. We are involved with several communities through the park and we'd like to bring our volunteer and member base to improve the park with some of the skill set we have like plant removal and any other way we can support the City. We have a volunteer member base of between 800-900 volunteers that we can tap into to bring into Tannery Park.

Mr. Fatland asked if stream restoration is something they can help with and Mr. Nergart said that he is currently pursuing a stream restoration grant and it has to be on both sides of the stream.

7. Update on Sports Complex Projects

Mr. Fatland asked Mr. Lutz to give a brief update of the ongoing project at the sports complex.

Mr. Lutz stated that they finally completed the drainage improvement on fields 2 and 3 and it's working really well. New doors have been put on the bathrooms and it has been painted. We will be paving part of the parking lot for handicapped persons, as well as, a strip down the center to the building and around the building to also make it ADA compliant all the way to the fence.

8. Bicycle Friendly Application

Mr. Bland explained that in February the City applied to the Bicycle Friendly Communities program and the City received an honorable mention, so we are not

certified but we're close. He passed around a report card (Exhibit A) and it tells us where we're at and what we might do to achieve a bronze level certification. We have not taken any action on some of these steps so we're bringing it before you now to see if we want to start doing some of these things. We can apply in February and October and we just want to know if there is an action that you want us to start taking and implement. None of our high speed roads have bike lanes, we have no bike month or bike to work events and we do not have a bike plan for the City. They also mentioned that enforcement is a weak spot for us. We also need to complement our recreational culture with more functional transportation options, but they're looking for transportation options throughout the year such as getting kids to schools, people to stores etc. Some things we might want to do are reducing the speed on neighborhood streets to 25mph, wayfinding specifically for cyclists that tell you how to get somewhere like to the grocery store for example. Some of the things that bicycle shops could help with is programming. For instance a skills day. Education is one of the five components so that would definitely help. Mr. Izzard offered to help in that department as that is what they do. The police department could also improve things by having officers on bicycles and they have to be in pairs. One last thing is the bike month activities. Bike month is in May, national bike to school day is May 9th, bike to work day is May 18th, bike to work week is May 14th-18th so if we could put on some official event that is City of Brevard sponsored, that would make a difference. Land of Sky would be able to help us with that as well.

9. Pedestrian Grants

Mr. Cobb wanted to explain the pedestrian grant plan because it would sort of connect to the bicycle friendly application. He explained that the state put out a call for proposals for grants to do a pedestrian plan and we as a municipality qualify to submit an application for that and if we are awarded that then they will assist us and it's a 20% match and they estimate the cost to be roughly \$30k-\$40k for a pedestrian plan. It is a pedestrian plan, not a bicycle plan, so for sidewalks and greenways and things like that. If we were to do the pedestrian grant program, we could refresh our pedestrian plan, look at sidewalk priorities and greenway priorities, I think we could work in some of these (bicycle friendly ideas). He further explained that this grant is strictly for putting a plan together but not for any construction beyond that. It would be to take our plan from 2006 and update it and account for all of the work that has been done since then and give a new list of priorities, specific to pedestrians like sidewalks, greenways or bike paths. We cannot do a combined pedestrian plan and bike plan with this grant.

Ms. Hollingsworth didn't understand why we should spend money on a plan when we could spend that money on sidewalk improvements for pathways.

Mr. Izzard added that he thinks doing things that help the community such as finishing the bike path and connecting the middle school to town would be very effective and could happen in a relatively short timeline.

Mr. Daniel added that we already have a plan that we haven't finished what we've got. He would hesitate to spend 20% for a new plan.

Mr. Owen added that we should spend the money on the project, not the plan.

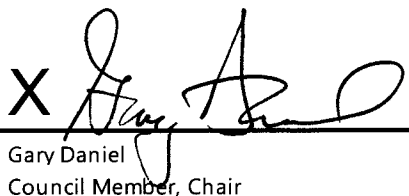
Mr. Smith stated that we should revisit our plan and reprioritize it.

Mr. Bland confirmed that the Committee would rather spend the money on some of the things now and then have an updated plan with new ideas. He added that he can make a list to see which people can do what things for the next meeting.

Mr. Fatland finished by giving an update from the County Parks meeting the night before. Their Committee passed an item for the National Fitness Campaign which would have multi-function workstations and the cost is \$100k and they received a \$10k grant for it and they will be going to the County Commissioners with it next month.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:41PM on Wednesday, September 20th, 2017.

X 

Gary Daniel
Council Member, Chair

X Jill Murray
Jill Murray
Deputy City Clerk

Approved: October 18, 2017



BREVARD, NC

TOTAL POPULATION
7,609

TOTAL AREA *(sq. miles)*
4.8

POPULATION DENSITY
1585

OF LOCAL BICYCLE
FRIENDLY BUSINESSES 0

OF LOCAL BICYCLE
FRIENDLY UNIVERSITIES 0

10 BUILDING BLOCKS OF A BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

	Average: Bronze	Brevard
High Speed Roads with Bike Facilities	19%	10%
Total Bicycle Network Mileage to Total Road Network Mileage	24%	11%
Bicycle Education in Schools	AVERAGE	NO BICYCLIST
Share of Transportation Budget Spent on Bicycling	9%	10%
Bike Month and Bike to Work Events	AVERAGE	NO BICYCLIST
Active Bicycle Advocacy Group	YES	YES
Active Bicycle Advisory Committee	MEETS EVERY TWO MONTHS	NO BICYCLIST
Bicycle-Friendly Laws & Ordinances	AVERAGE	NO BICYCLIST
Bike Plan is Current and is Being Implemented	YES	NO BICYCLIST
Bike Program Staff to Population	1 PER 148K	NO BICYCLIST

CATEGORY SCORES

ENGINEERING <i>Bicycle network and connectivity</i>	2 /10
EDUCATION <i>Motorist awareness and bicycling skills</i>	2 /10
ENCOURAGEMENT <i>Mainstreaming bicycling culture</i>	2 /10
ENFORCEMENT <i>Promoting safety and protecting bicyclists' rights</i>	5 /10
EVALUATION & PLANNING <i>Setting targets and having a plan</i>	3 /10

KEY OUTCOMES

	Average: Bronze	Brevard
RIDERSHIP <i>Percentage of commuters who bike</i>	1.3%	NO BICYCLIST
SAFETY MEASURES CRASHES <i>Crashes per 10k bicycle commuters</i>	1170	NO BICYCLIST
SAFETY MEASURES FATALITIES <i>Fatalities per 10k bicycle commuters</i>	23	NO BICYCLIST



KEY STEPS TO BRONZE



- » Adopt a Complete Streets policy and create implementation guidance. By adopting a Complete Streets policy, communities direct their transportation planners and engineers to routinely design and operate the entire right-of-way to enable safe access for all users, regardless of age, ability, or mode of transportation.
- » Brevard has a great bicycling event culture, as seen in the Assault of the Carolinas. Continue to support and expand events to improve Brevard's brand as a bicycling destination and reinforce the bicycle culture of Brevard. Ensure that the culture of recreational events is complemented by investments that make transportation and utility bicycling safe and comfortable to nurture a year-round bicycling culture.

- » Enforcement-related efforts are a weak spot in your application. Work with the law enforcement community to improve bicycle-related training for law enforcement officers, develop better data collection and distribution practices, and pursue other road safety planning initiatives.
- » Improve Bike Month activities by creating Bike to Work Day and Bike to School Day events. Bike to School Day events often include competitions related to bicycle use, outreach to parents, and pop-up infrastructure on routes to schools.
- » Work to create a low-stress network that utilizes existing low-speed streets. Wayfinding improvements can be helpful for navigating bicycle routes.

LEARN MORE » WWW.BIKELEAGUE.ORG/COMMUNITIES

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