

MINUTES

City Council Parks, Trails, & Recreation Committee

Wednesday, November 18, 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
Matt Christian, Citizen Member
Jared Mull, County Representative, Ex-Officio Member

Absent: David Lutz, Public Works Director
Erik Emaus, Citizen Member
Ryan Olson, At-Large Member

Staff Present: Denise Hodsdon, Executive Assistant

Media: Matt McGregor, *The Transylvania Times*

A. Welcome & Call to Order

Committee Chair Mac Morrow welcomed all in attendance and called the meeting to order at 3:32 PM.

B. Certification of Quorum

Quorum was certified by Executive Assistant Denise Hodsdon

C. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Ms. Copelof, seconded by Ms. DePippo, to approve the agenda as presented.
Motion carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Minutes of October 21, 2020 Meeting

Motion by Mr. Granat, seconded by Ms. Copelof to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2020 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

E. County Update – Jared Mull

Transylvania County Parks & Recreation Director Jared Mull updated the committee on

the following County projects:

1. Pickleball Courts – There will be four new courts located adjacent to the Rec Center. The project has been in the works for some time and would have been finished a while back, but they have run into some issues with the surfacing and moisture, which they are working to resolve.
2. Silvermont – They had budgeted for improvements including stormwater improvements, paving the trail and restroom renovations, but capital improvements have been put on hold because of COVID. Those projects may be revisited in January or February. The two existing basketball courts will be removed and replaced with a full-size court closer to the existing picnic shelter. He said the reason for that is that both courts are not used as much as they used to be. Mr. Mull said the Silvermont Master Plan is available to view on the County's website.
3. New Park – The old airport property off of US 276 and Gallimore Road was added to the County's inventory about a year ago. They have selected a consultant to put together a master plan for the park. He said there are no preconceived notions of what the park is going to be and they will be seeking public input on what they would like to see there. They will advertise the public input sessions and stakeholder meetings once they are scheduled and Mr. Mull encouraged everyone to participate if possible. He said there is currently a 6- to 8-foot-wide mowed strip around the perimeter of the property and people are already using it.

F. City Project Updates

1. Rosenwald Community Projects – Mr. Fatland reported that the playground equipment should be delivered the week of December 7th. City Council has agreed to sell a parcel of land on Cashier's Valley Road to a non-profit that will build sweat-equity homes and the \$125,000 from that sale will go toward Silversteen Park. Additionally, the ABC Board has agreed to increase its profit sharing to the City by \$50,000 and Mr. Fatland is going to recommend to City Council that the additional funds be earmarked for park improvements; \$20,000 for the Sports Complex and \$30,000 for Silversteen Playground.

Planned improvements for Silversteen include new playground equipment, new basketball court, picnic shelters, future splashpad and stream restoration. Ms. Copelof reported that there is a group working to get additional funding for the gap between what the City has put toward the project and what we need to complete it. Ms. Copelof noted that people are going to start getting really interested once the playground equipment is installed and she is suggesting that we have some sort of kickoff event, such as a hot cocoa party at the site. She is working on fact sheets for the playground and the Mary C. Jenkins Community Center to give people a picture of what the entire Rosenwald project will look like. Mr. Fatland reported that the Mary C. Jenkins Community Center design is complete and the project will be going out to bid in January.

2. Brevard Dog Park – Ms. Copelof reported that the grading is now complete and they will be staking for the perimeter fencing tomorrow. She noted that the City has budgeted \$75,000 and we have raised an additional \$20,000, but still need another \$20,000. She encouraged everyone to continue their efforts to sell bricks.
3. Depot – Ms. Copelof reported that the brochure has been finalized and is going to the printer. We have received donations of 3 bird houses, 2 bat houses and a hummingbird sculpture that will all soon be added to the Depot park.
4. Skate Park – Mr. Ray reported that the benches, bike racks and trash cans have arrived for the Skate Park. The bronze plaque is here as well and will be recessed into one of the large boulders along the sidewalk.
5. Ecusta Trail – Ms. DePippo was happy to report that Henderson County Board of Commissioners approved the bridge loan for the Ecusta Trail today. She said Henderson County has already secured grants to start construction of their part of the trail. She is hoping that Transylvania County and possibly the Blue Zones Project will become partners in the project.

G. Set Date for Next Meeting

In lieu of a regular meeting in December, committee members will join the Mary C. Jenkins Community Center Task Force at the kickoff party for Silversteen Playground once the playground equipment has been installed. The proposed date for that is December 12th.

H. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:37 pm.

X 
Mac Morrow,
Chair, Council Member

Minutes Approved: January 20, 2021

X 
Denise Hodsdon
Executive Assistant