

MINUTES

City Council Parks, Trails, & Recreation Committee

Wednesday, March 16, 2022, 3:30 PM
City Hall Council Chambers

Members Present: Mac Morrow, Chair, Council Member
Aaron Baker, Vice-Chair, Council Member
Steve Harrell, Interim City Manager
Paul Ray, Planning Director
Nancy DePippo, Citizen Member
Matt Christian, Citizen Member
Howie Granat, Citizen Member
Mayor Maureen Copelof, Ex Officio

Absent: David Lutz, Public Works Director
Tim Robinson, Citizen Member
Ryan Olson, At-Large Member

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

Guests: Joan Koperski, Mary Rose & Rosalie Morris, Transylvania Garden Club
Matthew Busche, Resident

A. Welcome & Call to Order

Committee Chair Mac Morrow welcomed everyone 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

Mr. Morrow added Dog Park Update to the agenda. Motion by Mr. Harrell, seconded by Ms. DePippo to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Minutes of February 16, 2022 Meeting

Motion by Mr. Granat, seconded by Mr. Baker to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2022 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Transylvania Garden Club Project

Transylvania Garden Club Members Joan Koperski, Mary Rose and Rosalie Morris presented a design for a birdbath they wish to donate and install inside the Depot garden in memory of the Club's Founding Member and first President, Peggy Boggs. They explained that the birdbath, valued at \$1600, will be a functional work of art made from natural stone with iron branches that will sit on a concrete platform. Motion by Mr. Christian, seconded by Ms. DePippo to approve the birdbath. During discussion, Mr. Ray noted that the birdbath would be considered public art and would require approval of City Council. Mr. Harrell suggested that this could be added to the agenda for the City Council's March 21st meeting. Following discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

F. Community Garden Agreement

Mayor Copelof presented a draft Community Garden Agreement that will be signed by all gardeners. Mr. Harrell explained that the agreement was drafted by Blue Zones and has been reviewed and approved by the City Attorney. A copy of the agreement is attached. Mayor Copelof mentioned that Shelley Heath will serve as the Garden Coordinator and the plan is to start executing agreements and assigning plots at the beginning of April. She also noted the City is planning to plant a tree at the garden for the annual Arbor Day Celebration.

G. Update re Silversteen Playground Phases

Mayor Copelof explained that there are four phases to the Silversteen Playground project. Phase 1 was the playground equipment and Phase 2 was the basketball court. These two phases have been completed with the exception of the ADA accessible pathway from the sidewalk to the entrance.

Phase 3 will be the covered picnic area. We already have a number of picnic tables which were made and donated by the Sherwood Forest Woodworkers. The cost of the picnic shelter is estimated to be approximately \$50,000 and there currently is no funding for that in the budget. Mayor Copelof said she has talked with members of the Rosenwald Community about the possibility of starting some fundraising for this project in order to complete that phase this summer.

Mayor Copelof noted that simultaneous with these phases, we also have the Norton Creek stream restoration project going on. She explained that the stream restoration is a funded scheduled project and we are just waiting for the NCDEQ permits. This project also includes a walkway along the stream.

The desire for Phase 4 is a splash pad for children near the entrance by the stone archway. Mayor Copelof explained that splash pads for children have a lot of requirements, including being hooked into the sewer system and would therefore be much more expensive. She said the cost estimate we obtained last year was over \$120,000. This phase is also unfunded in the budget.

Mayor Copelof added that we have sold a number of memorial bricks and we will need to determine where those will be located within the playground. She noted that we are still are selling bricks for both the playground and for the Mary C. Jenkins Community Center. Finally, she said we want to recreate the Silversteen Playground archway sign.

H. Update re Property Adjacent to Bracken Preserve

Mr. Ray reported that Conserving Carolina has confirmed that we currently have \$89,000 committed toward the \$300,000 we need to purchase that land. He presented a map showing the proposed location of a new loop trail as mapped out by trail builder Todd Branham (copy attached). Aaron Bland mentioned that this proposed trail will require an easement from Brevard Music Center, which they had verbally agreed to a few years ago.

There was discussion about getting a letter of commitment from the seller in order to begin formal fundraising efforts. Mr. Ray will contact Home Trust Bank to inquire about getting a letter of commitment. Mr. Ray will also contact Conserving Carolina to ask if they can help develop a brochure and continue to be the face behind a fundraising campaign. Mr. Granat will reach out to Pisgah Area SORBA as well to see what assistance they can offer.

I. Discussion re Recreational Priorities

Mr. Baker said he requested this item because he wanted to discuss whether a longer-term plan or prioritization of projects would help us focus on certain things before we move onto other things. Mr. Morrow put together a list of all the things he could think of that have been identified as potential projects that could be used as a starting point (copy attached). Mr. Baker said a priority list would be helpful when an opportunity comes, that we cannot turn down, to get something done. Mr. Harrell suggested that it could be formulated like a capital improvement plan, where you indicate which fiscal year you want to be able to accomplish projects. He explained it would be a six-year plan and every year the Council would review that plan and make changes as priorities change. Mr. Baker suggested that this committee should draft a plan with staff and then present it to the public for feedback before finalizing.

J. Dog Park Update

Mayor Copelof reported that the County has agreed to a MOU to allow the City to maintain the other half of the drainage ditch.

We have received a \$6,000 donation of native pollinator plants from Pisgah Forest Rotary to enhance the pollinator garden. They are going to do a Rotary work day on April 20th to put it all in.

Mayor Copelof noted that we have to keep closing the park because of rain to keep the dogs from tearing up the grass. We are trying to do a fundraiser to replace the grass

with sod which should hold up much better. It is estimated that we will need \$15,000. We currently have a little over \$3,000 and the Task Force is working on a plan to raise the additional funds.

K. Set Date for Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Parks, Trails & Recreation Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 3:30 PM.

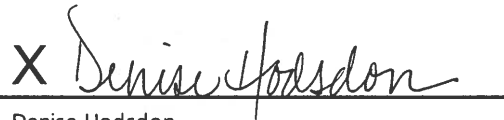
L. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.

X 

Mac Morrow,
Chair, Council Member

Minutes Approved: April 20, 2022

X 

Denise Hodsdon
Executive Assistant

2022 City of Brevard Community Garden Agreement

This Agreement is between the City of Brevard (City) and the Gardener(s) named below for use of a community garden plot located off Silversteen Road in Brevard, NC.

The City of Brevard will provide the following:

1. In ground garden plots of various sizes at a fee set by City Council.
2. Water connections and hoses.
3. Compost bins to dispose of community garden produced organic plant materials.
4. Use of a secure garden shed for storing community gardening tools.
5. Parking space (including handicap and biking).

Gardeners agree to:

1. Follow all applicable City of Brevard Rules and Regulations including but not limited to
 - a. Not consuming any alcohol or using any tobacco or vaping products or illegal substances.
 - b. Using the garden space from sunrise to sunset.
 - c. Damaging other garden plots or common space and equipment.
2. Garden plots are available on a first come first serve basis for one year. Returning gardeners may request the same plot. Plan, plant, weed and harvest your plot during the gardening season (April 1st – October 31st). Gardening plots are to be used for growing vegetables, flowers, or herbs for personal (non-commercial) use.
3. Maintain pathways around the garden plot and contribute, as feasible, at least two (2) hours per month to community workdays scheduled by the garden coordinator. Workday projects may include pathways mulching, weeding, and general clean-up.
4. Provide your own seeds, seedlings, and garden tools. Shared garden tools will be available in the garden shed.
5. Use low impact and sustainable gardening techniques that do not require tilling and minimal or no application of chemicals (pesticides, fungicides, and herbicides, etc.). The garden coordinator and local NC Cooperative Extension office will provide free assistance and guidance.
6. Respect other gardeners and their garden plots.
7. Work to keep the garden a secure and an enjoyable place where all participants can garden, socialize, and have fun.
8. Walk or bike, to the extent practicable, to the community garden.
9. Not share the garden shed lock combination with others.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND HOLD HARMLESS: I understand that the City of Brevard is not liable for any loss or damage to property brought or delivered to the premises by the gardener(s); that the City reserves the right to eject anyone from the premises that violates any applicable law, rule or regulation, or interferes with others' use of the facility; and that I am using this garden plot at my own risk. I agree that neither the City of Brevard nor any of its officers, agents, volunteers or employees shall be held responsible or made subject of any claim for damages or liability arising from personal injury, bodily injury, property damage or loss of any sort to me, my guests or any other person or loss of any other sort arising out of or related to participation at the community garden. I HEREBY AGREE TO RELEASE, INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS THE CITY OF BREVARD ITS OFFICERS, AGENTS, VOLUNTEERS AND EMPLOYEES FROM ANY SUCH CLAIM, LIABILITY OR LOSS.

I/We request one of the following garden plot sizes:

- _____ 5' x 10' at \$10.00
- _____ 5' x 15' at \$15.00
- _____ 5' x 20' at \$20.00
- _____ 5' x __' (handicap accessible) at \$10.00

Request Fee Waiver: Yes _____ No _____

I/We HAVE READ, UNDERSTAND AND WILL COMPLY WITH THIS AGREEMENT concerning the use of the City of Brevard Community Garden.

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------|
| Signature | Print Name | Date |
|-----------|------------|------|

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------|
| Signature | Print Name | Date |
|-----------|------------|------|

| | | |
|-----------------|------|----------|
| Mailing Address | City | Zip Code |
|-----------------|------|----------|

| | |
|---------------|-------|
| Email Address | Phone |
|---------------|-------|

The City of Brevard’s Community Garden’s objectives support Resolution 2021-61 Encouraging City-wide Community Gardens. Just as importantly, this is about promoting fun in the dirt, growing healthy fruits and vegetables, supporting natural movement, and building friendships.

Aspiration: To provide a local source of healthy and sustainable grown fruits and vegetable, educate young people and adults about the benefits of gardening, and cultivate a community of individuals, regardless of age, race, or income. We do this by

1. **Facilitating food security and community involvement:** with initial support from Blue Zone Project – Brevard and Gaia Herbs. We encourage gardeners to give back to the community by sharing their knowledge, garden produce, and dedication with others.
2. **Supporting sustainable gardening** that promotes non-chemical growing techniques to provide healthy food while nourishing the soil.
3. **Providing gardening and cooking educational opportunities** through our partnership with the NC Cooperative Extension Office and other organizations.
4. **Providing habitat for backyard wildlife** such as bees, birds and bats. This is accomplished through native landscaping and supporting the placement of bird and bat houses. We encourage the planting of vegetables and fruits that are native and sustainable in our climate.
5. **Creating common space** that provides gathering space where education, meditation or relaxation is welcomed.

Garden Plot # _____ Total Fee Received: _____ Cash or Check Received by: _____

Bracken Extension Proposed New Trails

Existing trail

New climbing trail.
Intended to be more moderate. Will require additional easement from Brevard Music Center.

Some existing trail to be abandoned.

New loop trail

CITY OF BREVARD TRAILS, PARKS AND RECREATION DRAFT PROJECTS 2021-2024

| FACILITY | PROJECT | PARTNER | COST ESTIMATE |
|----------|---------|---------|---------------|
|----------|---------|---------|---------------|

FRANKLIN PARK

UPGRADE PUMP BUILDING EXTERIOR

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|-------|
| SENIOR CITIZEN PLAYGROUND | Blue zone | \$36K |
|---------------------------|-----------|-------|

FESTIVAL LIGHTS

BRACKEN PRESERVE

USFS AGREEMENT PINNACLE TRAIL UPGRADE

LITTLE HICKORY NUT MT TRAIL/VIEWING PLATFORM

CITY MAIN STREET VIEW TRAIL/VIEWING PLATFORM/ CWMTF APPROVAL

PINNACLE ROAD SR 1350.71 EXTENSION/PARKING LOT

PICKELSIEMER PARK

EDNA GLAZE PLAYGROUND

HAP SIMPSON PARK

FRENCH BROAD RIVER TRAIL KIOSK

PARK EXTENSION TO WILSON ROAD *BRIDGE / ROAD*

CLEMSON PARK

~~PARK RECONSTRUCTION~~

EASTATOE TRAIL

Extension to Bracken / BMC
~~EXTENSION TO WEST MAIN STREET~~

EXTENSION TO TANNERY PARK

TANNERY PARK GREENWAY

EXTENSION US 64 TO BREVARD HIGH SCHOOL *US 64 CROSSING*

GALLIMORE TO FRENCH BROAD RIVER FISHING PIER

FRENCH BROAD RIVER FISHING PIER CONNECTOR TO HAP SIMPSON PARK

TANNERY PARK GREENWAY KIOSK

RAILROAD AVE KIOSK

SPORTS COMPLEX KIOSK

BREVARD DOGPARK GRASS

ECUSTA TRAIL CONNECTOR

DAVIDISON RIVER PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

NCDOT P5800 GREENWAY CROSSINGS (2)

US64 ROSMAN HIGHWAY CROSSING

BREVARD SPORTS COMPLEX

SKATEPARK PHASE III

SOCCER PRACTICE WALL / FENCE / LIGHTS

FRENCH BROAD COMMUNITY CENTER

TANNERY PARK

PICNIC FACILITY

GREENWAY DEVELOPMENT / ACCESS COEB DRIVE

BRUSHY CREEK REVITALIZATION - EASMENTS STREAM BANK RESTORATION

DUCKWORTH AVE BRIDGE - PARKING LOT KIOSK
COMMUNITY GARDEN

RAILROAD AVE PARK

~~DEPOT LANDSCAPE~~

COCHRAN CONNECTOR TRAIL TO NEELY ROAD CROSSING 2024

COMMERCE CENTER CONNECTOR TO TINSLEY ROAD

SILVERSTEEN PARK

~~CHILDREN PLAYGROUND~~ PICNIC SHELTER

SENIOR CITIZENS PLAYGROUND Blue Zone \$36K

PARKING LOT

FESTIVAL LIGHTS

BLACK HISTORY TRAIL

ROSENWALD COMMUNITY CENTER

WILSON ROAD RIVER PARK

ILLAHEE DUMP SITE

~~BEETHOVEN PARK~~

WATERFORD PARK

BREVARD SCULPTURE TRAIL

FOREST GATEWAY PARK

GRAVEL

CATHY'S CREEK BIKE PARKING

HELLBENDER REGIONAL TRAIL SYSTEM (50 year)

DISK GOLF -