

Henderson County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 10th, 2018, 12pm, AAC

In attendance: Jeff Donaldson, Ralph King, Corum Smith, Phillip Ellis, Jennifer Hensley, Katie Breckheimer

Staff present: Carleen Dixon, Erin Hendrix, Logan Rowe, Autumn Radcliff, Marcus Jones, Steadman Smith

Meeting called to order at 12:17pm. Minutes taken by Erin Hendrix

Phillip would like to amend the minutes from June to reflect his ire with the gates. He would like to state his forthright opinion that the gates should not be on the Greenway. Jenn makes a motion to approve the minutes once that change is made, Phillip second to approve, all agree.

Public Input

Ken Wise thanks the Recreation Department for the softball and baseball tournaments that we have been able to facilitate this year.

Appointment of TDA Member to the Greenway Committee – Carleen Dixon

The Greenway Committee has been meeting regularly as planned. However, in the meantime, discussion came about that we should probably have someone from Hendersonville Tourism Development Authority on that board as we move forward so that they are involved in it and can bring it back to the TDA as needed. The TDA currently has a committee of 9 and they will be meeting this week to determine interest and possibly appoint someone. We are seeking approval from the board to appoint a new member to the Greenway Committee from the TDA. Carleen explains that because the Greenway Committee was Advisory Board-

appointed, the Board must approve additional members. Phillip says that he votes in favor of appointing a new member from the TDA, Jenn Seconds this. All approve.

Greenway Challenges – Marcus Jones

The first challenge is that the County's section of the Greenway is on a lower plane than the City's portion. The trail is also right next to a creek and there is little to no fall between that section of the trail and the creek. When it floods, there is no place for the water to run. All the drainage from the surrounding areas tend to head towards this section of the Greenway.

Marcus states that he does not believe our greenway should be considered an all-weather trail. He says that, when organizations build a Greenway, they don't typically go out and purchase easements just for that Greenway. Rather, they piggyback on right-of-ways for other structures like sewer lines and railroad tracks. Rail road tracks are different because they are built with the intention of keeping water away from the tracks. With sewer system right-of-ways, they do not spend money to accommodate for drainage. The problem is that sewer right-of-ways are much more available than rail roads and the cost for building up such areas is exorbitant. The county started managing flood measures and runoff in 2008. However, that only applies to a certain level of rainwater, a large rainfall simply cannot be accounted for.

Another part of the flooding comes from the berms on either side of the trail, which has interfered with the natural drainage in the area. And it seems as though these flood events are occurring more often, mostly likely from the development of the area. A worker from the city suggested to cut channels near the path for drainage because that had worked for the city's side. Because this was a low-cost solution, we decided to try it. We cut three channels into the berms to try to increase drainage. However, this just made the flooding worse. We ended up closing the berms shortly thereafter. For whatever reason, the success that the city has had

with that solution did not work for us. With the berms closed, the water still has nowhere to go and just sits there until we come in with a pump to clear it out.

Our plan to fix it is first to understand that this trail will not be open every single day of the year. It is not an all-weather trail and our maintenance staff have other demands on their time other than just trail maintenance. Which is why we have installed the gates. In the winter, the section under the Four Season's bridge is slick with ice. If someone goes back there and falls, they would have had to go around the gates, which protects them and protects us in the event of a lawsuit.

The other fix that we are looking at is an installation of a one-way valve that we can place in the berm. It will allow water to drain out of the area but will also not allow more water from the other side of the berm to flood us even more. The best fix, of course would be to relocate the trail or elevate the trail. Which is under consideration by the Greenway Committee because whatever they decide is the best fix for this situation, that section will be eligible for the same funding as the new sections of trail that they will be adding. The trail would need to be raised at least three feet to keep it out of the floodplain. As of three years ago, the cost to elevate the trail just in the portion of flooding would be \$350,000. Marcus states that there has been an urban legend that says that this was not done originally because that portion of the trail is in a floodplain and they could not get permitting to do so. However, this legend is false, and they have made sure there they were able to get a permit to build up that portion of the trail. Phillip asks if that legend is similar to the legend that someone will sue the County if they slip on the Greenway. Marcus would like to emphatically state that there is a huge danger to the public when this trail floods. Phillip asks if we close it every time it ices. Marcus answers that we close it every time there is standing water and covered in silt and every time it is covered over with ice. Marcus says that there will always be risk with trails and what we need

to do I mitigate those risks in any way that we can. Phillip says that we need to put a sign up. Marcus says that we can place a sign on the gate. Phillip says that he requests a lawyer to tell him why a gate is necessary to prevent a law suit. Jen says that she has been escorted out of the arboretum because she crossed a gated trail. She says that it happens everywhere and that she understands the safety concerns.

Phillip says that he believes that we have created a situation where we hear less from the public because they see the gate and then choose not to enter the trail and can't see the damage or the care taking of the Greenway. He thinks that we should keep the public informed of the status and let them see the damage and provide their feedback. Marcus responds that all of our parks have gates. When Jackson Park floods, we close the park. Jen suggests that we could have someone come in to talk to the board about risk management. Phillip says that he will speak to them on his own time.

Budget Statistics – Logan Rowe

Some things to consider before looking at these numbers is that some counties do not have a Parks and Recreation Department. Some have city-only run programs and some counties have both County and City funding, which will alter the numbers and make it more difficult to do a comparison. There is also no standard for how the budget is presented, so you can't always tell where the money is going. Logan reviews the budgets of Henderson County, Transylvania County, Polk County, Haywood County, Davison County, Pueblo County, CO, and Merced County, CA.

Greenway Master Plan Update – Autumn Radcliff

Autumn says that they are still working on the Master Plan and that the committee has had five total meetings. They are trying to really hone in on what they want from the Greenway and trying to set expectations. They plan on having a public input meeting in October and the studies completed by the end of this budget cycle. The feasibility studies are ongoing. They are state-funded, so it typically takes longer to get contracts written and approved. The feasibility studies will give us something to present to the commissioners once the budget cycle opens up in January, we will ask them to move forward with this plan.

Recreation Update – Erin Hendrix, Carleen Dixon

Erin presents a slide of current activities and the programs over the past month. Disc gold tournament, Explore the Outdoors camp, Picking on the Square, Camp Tekoa scavenger hunt, and Fourth of July.

Director Update – Carleen Dixon

The recreation coordinator position has been filled. Brittany Williams will start on July 23rd. Farm City day meetings are underway. Jason was attending these and now Keith is attending in his absence. We are helping them with logistics and the County is providing the same funding as in years past to support this event. Youth Baseball finished up mid June. Movies in the Park starts this Friday. We have a new sponsor this year, Blue Ridge Orthodontics sponsored all three movies this year, \$500 each. Bridgette did a great job securing these sponsors. In your binder you will find a list of all of our current program offerings including out contracted programs. Registration is ongoing for Fall soccer. I asked Erin to pull up our current website. This is what it looks like to the public. These are the classes, basic information, and descriptions of all of our offerings. If people need to register or reserve a shelter, they can do

so right here. There has been a lot of transition recently, but we believe that this will be a great addition to our department.

Member Comments:

Meeting called adjourned at: 1:34pm

Motions:

Motion to amend the June minutes and approve once amended

Phillip says that he votes in favor of appointing a new member from the TDA, Jenn Seconds this. All approve.