

Huntersville Greenway, Trail, and Bikeways Commission

Summary Minutes: 2/20/18

Members Present: Jason Pauling (Chair), Todd Steiss (Co-Chair), Roger Diedrich, Frank Gammon, Diane McLaine, Lori Russell, Drew Varnado, Tim Sanborn

Members Absent: Skye Jaundoo

Town Staff Present: Tracy Houk, David Peete, Michael Jaycocks, Gwen Cook, Meck Co.

Town Commissioners: Nick Walsh, Brian Hines

Guests: John O'Brian, Karen Brown

Call To Order: Jason Pauling

Approval of Minutes: January Minutes- Approved Unanimously

Business:

- 1) BYLAWS Review. RE: Jan 18 Commission Minutes "...Committee to review and bring suggested changes to the Feb. meeting...". David Peete requested that the bylaw review be tabled until March meeting since no Park & Recreation representative is present. Paper copy of Frank Gammon's recommendation's for bylaw changes were passed out for review and comment. Members were directed to send their comments to Michael Jaycocks or Tracy Houk. Frank Gammon requested that comments be sent to all members for review.
- 2) Discussed the 2008 bonds that were approved for greenways/bikeways – In Huntersville there was a bond for parks and rec that was approved – not sure if any money is left there. Believe that the county bonds from that timeframe have been spent. Also discussed that when the Soccer Stadium fell through, the county increased Parks and Rec/Greenway spending that included Huntersville greenways
- 3) Community member John O'Brien asked about the \$2 million dollars he understood to be earmarked for bike lanes in Huntersville (believe he heard this in the Huntersville 101 class?). David was not sure what this might be, although discussed that Huntersville has control over town maintained roads only, and that although this may be earmarked, it may not have been allocated to be spent. Explained that for state maintained roads, DOT will add bike lanes if there is extra money, and that this committee works to ensure bike lanes designated on the master plan get added when roads are updated.
- 4) Discussed the response to our request for reconsidering the Gilead/21 intersection bike facilities design - Staff replied that there would be \$100K increase to design costs and expected construction cost increase, so they recommended to leave as is. The committee understands there could end up being limitations due to timing, cost, etc, and the primary concern is just to explore options given the current situation so that whatever is built gives the community the best chance at having a safe bikeway at some point at that intersection. Although just one option, the thought is that something like a cycle track design could be much safer, and that construction could end up being cheaper (b/c not industrial grade surface) which could possibly cover the design increase. There are other options worth considering if it is just too late for that. Jason is planning to speak at the next town board meeting to request that other feasible options be considered further, keeping cost and timing in mind.

- 5) Discussed the 73 plan - the committee will be reviewing and discussing this so they can make a recommendation to the board. The board will then consider this along with staff recommendations and will eventually take a final recommendation to the state. There is a lot to consider including the limited space in the Birkdale area. There is a deadline of 3/16 for initial comments, and we discussed that committee members could individually email wstroud@ncdot.gov, cc-ing the town board, with statements about the importance of having bike facilities considered as part of this project. Jason will provide some talking points to the committee to help as input to those emails.
- 6) Discussed Clarke Creek and a goal of increasing the priority of greenways east of 77.
- 7) Discussed that in order to put more focus on resources for greenways and also encourage more county investment in Huntersville greenways b/c of a shared approach, the committee should consider:
 - a) Working with the Huntersville Ordinance Advisory board to consider the benefits of an ordinance requiring developers to build a percentage of greenways as part of any new development (other nearby communities have ordinances like this today) – committee to discuss approach to this in our next meeting and Drew will then take this to the Ordinance Advisory board meeting (first Thursday of the month) to ask them to consider it
 - b) Getting a bond referendum for greenways/bikeways added to a Huntersville ballot - David to check with Michael to help us understand timeline, next steps, and next opportunity for doing this, and recommended we add this to the next agenda to consider further
 - c) Working with the town board to create a line item in the budget that addresses greenways/bikeways more directly

Action Items

- 1 Review the bylaw changes and send any suggested updates to Tracy (full committee)
- 2 Recommend to the town board that feasible bike facility options continue to be explored at the Gilead/21 intersection (Jason)
- 3 Provide talking points to the committee regarding importance of considering bike lines as part of 73 improvements (Jason)
- 4 Individually email wstroud@ncdot.gov, cc-ing the town board, with statements about the importance of having bike facilities considered as part of this project. (full committee)
- 5 Understand timeline, next steps, and next opportunity for adding a bond referendum to the ballot (David)

Items to add to the next agenda:

- 1 73 plan
- 2 Recommendation to ordinance committee about requiring developers to build greenways
- 3 Bond referendum
- 4 Review of By-Laws

Motion to Adjourn: Approved Unanimously