

Henderson County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 8, 12pm, AAC

In attendance: Jeff Donaldson, Chair, Elizabeth Moss, Virgil McLure, Corum Smith, Jen Hensley, Ralph Freeman, Sue Myers. County staff present: John Mitchell, and Laura Rice. Planning Department staff present: Autumn Radcliff and Stedman Smith. Natalie Berry, county engineer.

Meeting called to order at 12:09pm. The minutes from the June 13th meeting were approved with a motion from Elizabeth, second by Sue.

Public input: Linda Glitz – updated the board on the proposed 280 trail project that will run along 280 from Westfeldt Park to Pisgah Forest.

New Business:

Parks & Programs Update from John Mitchell, and Laura Rice:

- John shared with WLOS that the Greenway area that floods will take continued work to clear. There will be more information later as we look at fixing that entire area.
- Jackson Parks tennis courts rebuild is finished with the addition of pickle ball court lines on the lower court. We will need to purchase outdoor nets in the future.
- Hendersonville High School will be using the AAC field for football practice in wet conditions. All school fields should be completed before 1st football game. We are working on a MOU for school field reservation procedures to help increase field opportunities in the county.
- Edneyville Community Center Programs, Senior Softball Tournament, and Summer short track wrapping up Friday. Adult Softball, Soccer, Eclipse Viewing Party upcoming. The Viewing Party will provide glasses and music. Other places to get glasses locally are Sherman's and the Hendersonville Library, Lowes and a handful of other places. All hotels are booked.
- The decision from Jason Brown to not take the position of Recreation Director was based on several factors, considering the needs of the community and the immediate need for a department director. The job posting is being reviewed and will be posted shortly. We will review applicants and move forward. We will update with any applications.

Greenways and Recreation Master plan update with Autumn, Stedman, Natalie, and John:

Recreation Master Plan: There is a recreation element in the 2020 Comprehensive Plan. Existing community plans that have been developed through the Planning Dept also have recreation and public facilities mentioned. Using a similar process that Planning uses to create the community plans Planning will work to create a Recreation & Greenways Master Plan for the Recreation Department. Plans are developed through working with a local committee that is appointed by the BOC that leads the direction of the plan. Then plan is then compiled and goes to the Planning Board for approval and is finally approved by the BOC. The Recreation Advisory Board will fill the role of the local committee that along with staff from Recreation and Planning will create the plan for Recreation. The Recreation element in the 2020 Comp Plan includes objectives, one of which is a Recreation master plan. The process will require looking at what recreation needs are, as well as gathering info from other groups in the county, objectives from the 2020 plan, and capital improvement plans.

Greenway Feasibility Study: The County applied for MPO funding to look at North/South Greenway portions: Berkeley Mills Park to Westfeldt Park, and heading south to BRCC/AAC through Jackson Park. The grant provided \$50,000 for the southern portion and \$70,000 for northern portion feasibility studies. The Request for Proposals is moving forward for those. The feasibility studies are going to be completed via consultant, separate from the master plan, but will be included in the Recreation and Greenways Master Plan. An outside consultant may be better suited for some of the tasks that a feasibility study includes, such as land acquisition. The MPO/DOT funding allows for the feasibility studies to be completed, along with verbally committed funding from Conserving Carolina (formerly CMLC) and the Blue Ridge Bicycle Club.

A master plan or community plan completed in house allows for the Planning Dept to end up with a plan that the community has bought into and reflects the final product desired.

Elizabeth shared that a master plan could help align all the groups in the county. Jennifer asked for clarification that there was a master plan for parks & rec currently? John clarified that there is a county wide comp plan with a rec component but that component is not a master plan for recreation. There was a Facility Needs Assessment in 2007. The comp plan has been used for regulatory purposes and it required a recreation element. 2020 is approaching and community plans and rec plans may be included in a new comprehensive plan. Autumn added that the community plans cover county land within a given area and there are five areas left to do within the county. Ralph shared that he's been requesting a five year plan and he's been frustrated with the lack of a recreation plan.

John asked that the board help with directing the plan and Planning will attend the next Advisory Board meeting after everyone has a chance to look at the examples provided. Corum shared that there is a need for aquatic facilities in the county, with support from other members on the board.

Youth Sport Organization Policy: Board have reviewed. Policy adopted with a 1st from Jennifer and 2nd from Elizabeth. Staff will meet with all youth sport organizations to review the policy.

Etowah Update: Meetings are moving along and we are working on a Memorandum of Understanding to start reviewing with the Etowah Lions Club and the Advisory Board.

Jeff acknowledged Elizabeth's last meeting on the Advisory Board as she is taking the position of director for IAM. She's put a lot of energy into the board. He presented her with the gift of Parks & Rec branded items as a thank you.

Autumn and others from the Planning Department will attend the next meeting with more info for the Advisory Board and asked that they think about what community involvement looks like and public input, as well as what they like, don't like from examples shared. John asked for patience as the project is worked on, the public input aspect will be the most difficult. Call him, Autumn or the Planning Dept with questions, concerns, etc.

Ralph asked for a Tuxedo Park update, John shared that the ordered equipment is arriving soon. Karen is working on coordinating.

Virgil also stated that he would like to see the county prepared to purchase property adjoining Etowah Park. John said that could be a part of a long term capital plan.

With no further business Jeff adjourned the meeting at 1:15pm.