

Haywood Greenway Advisory Council Meeting
May 23, 2023
2:00 – 3:30 pm

MAY 23 2023

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3. Review March 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes
4. At-Large Council Seat
5. Master Plan – Pilot Projects Update
6. Greenway Volunteer Event Recap and Future Planning
7. Member Updates

2023 Meeting Schedule
4th Tuesday, Bi-Monthly, 2:00 – 3:30 pm
Lake Junaluska Welcome Center
January 24
March 28
May 23
July 25
September 26
November 28

MAY 23 2023

Haywood Greenway Advisory Council Meeting
March 28, 2023
2:00 – 3:30 pm

Council Members Present: Ian Smith, Marc Miller, Megan Hauser, Kathy Odvody, Rob Roland, Kay Kirkman, Amy Russell, Dave Nicholson, Kaitland Finkle, Elizabeth Teague.

Coordinating Agencies Present: Jodie Ferguson (Haywood County Development Services), Luke Kinsland (Waynesville Parks & Recreation).

Public: Wanda Brooks, Trudy Schmidt, Beth Justice, Don Smart, Terry Ramey, Janet Presson, Melinda Davis, Monroe Miller, Mark Liverett, Linda Liverett, Lois Hollis, Joseph Lipari, Paula Morrill, Pat Parton, Holly Parton.

1. **Call to Order-** Ian Smith called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.
2. **Review January 24, 2023 Meeting Minutes**
 - a. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Marc Miller. This received a second by Dave Nicholson. The minutes were unanimously approved.
3. **Council Seats and Terms**
 - a. Members discussed moving Marc Miller to the bicycling seat due to Jackie Moore's program ending. This will open an at-large seat. Amy Russell made a motion to move Marc to this seat and Kathy Odvody seconded. Members unanimously approved this motion.
 - b. Several seats are expiring: Town of Maggie Valley, Resource Conservation and Development Council (RCDC), and Lake Junaluska. Dave plans to renew his Lake Junaluska seat. Ian will check with Matt Settlemeyer about continuing to serve as the RCDC representative; his term expires on May 31.
 - c. At-large seats- These have term limits and are appointed by commissioners. This is Kathy's second term.
 - d. Other seats include municipalities, Haywood Community College, Haywood Health and Human Services, Soil and Water, RCDC, and at-large seats. The council receives applications and makes recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners.
 - e. The council typically does not receive enough applicants. Interested individuals may apply through the county website and applications are submitted to the clerk.

- f. Greenway Advisory Council meetings are open to the public.

4. Master Plan Updates and General Discussion

- a. The Master Plan was adopted on February 6. Ian thanked the council for their work.
- b. The Master Plan is a long-term planning document for county greenways and does not contain set building plans. These are ideal goals for the greenway and focus on greater connectivity. Kaitland shared that greenway maps are now shown through county GIS. The plan contains recommendations and acknowledges that further planning is needed.
- c. The Master Plan was adopted publicly with the opportunity for comment. Mark added that there were several public comment sessions around the county. Ian referenced the public survey.
- d. A guest recommended security for the greenway, such as bike patrolling. Security was addressed in the plan.
- e. A grant to fund the plan came from the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization. Elizabeth explained that the MPO is a federally designated planning organization. Including Haywood Tourism Development Authority match funding, the grant was worth \$120,000. Elizabeth explained where TDA gets funding. A point was clarified about funding; we would need to apply for more funding to continue work. Sufficient funding is needed to maintain paths.
- f. A question was asked about funds for plan implementation. With plan, it is more feasible to get the state to install sidewalks and access funding opportunities. Plan is a tool to get further funding. A lot of this is linked to municipalities. Most areas are outside of municipalities, which were not identified as short-term goals. We are not linking to other states, but there are examples such as the East Coast Greenway.

5. Comments and Concerns

- a. A guest showed an image from another greenway area (Seattle) that contained garbage and does not want the same issue to occur here. Concerns were

expressed about proceeding with greenway development prior to addressing other issues. Greenways members expressed support.

- b. A guest mentioned several parts of the greenway not being maintained. Clarification was provided that sidewalk sections are not part of the greenway.
- c. A suggestion was made to update the greenway map by the Waynesville Recreation Center. Now that plan is adopted, we may be able to focus some on signage.
- d. Concerns were received about a very wet area by the new parks and recreation bridge.
- e. Maintenance of the Howell Mill/Industrial Drive section is handled by the county.
- f. Varying thoughts were expressed about conditions and comfort levels of the greenway and connecting paths. Concerns were also shared about the potential for paths in the more rural areas and possible impacts on farmland. The greenway will not go through any private property unless that property is donated.
- g. Amy remarked that the council will review information and make feasible changes. She expressed understanding for the concerns of trash and trespassing. We can take concerns to the Board of County Commissioners.
- h. Luke expressed the common goal of maintaining the greenways, working together, and moving forward.
- i. A question was asked about using inmate labor. This took place under the previous recreation director and Ian was not clear on the process. Another guest mentioned speaking with the Sheriff about this idea. Unfortunately, it is not feasible.
- j. Members and guests agreed that they don't want to see areas with litter. Several encampments underwent cleanup in the recent past.
- k. A guest communicated the importance of showing mutual respect. Several expressed concerns about not becoming like Asheville.
- l. A concern was shared about trespassing in yards on an area of 209 (Ball Creek).
- m. A comment was shared about the importance of following plans.

6. Greenway Volunteer Planning

- a. Opportunities include April 22 (Saturday/Earth Day) from 9-12, which focuses mainly on litter cleanup. Grabbers and other supplies are available. Due to the Altrusa Fundraising Concert in Sorrells Creek Park, we will need to find another location for this event (along Pigeon River in Canton), On September 9, the countywide Big Sweep will take place to address trails and public parks. Events need 15-25.
- b. Ian spoke with Jim Geenen about securing youth volunteers. Luke will meet with Jim tomorrow to tour areas that may need work.
- c. Maggie Valley will conduct townwide cleanup with Haywood Waterways, not limited to parks and walking paths. Their sidewalks are highly utilized.

7. Member Updates

- a. Ian Smith
 - i. Recreation and Parks is partnering with HIGHTS, which includes children with referrals from the justice system. Upcoming programs include hiking, fly fishing excursions.
 - ii. Senior games registration ends tomorrow.
 - iii. May 20 is bike repair day at the Waynesville Recreation Center. Rolls Rite still now offers mobile repairs.
- b. Dave Nicholson- DOT will adding cross walks connecting the lake to the Greenway (Golf Course Rd and Holston Village Rd). He has not received the timeline. Dave was asked if crossings were in response to pedestrian deaths. Amy expressed the importance of community safety.
- c. Luke Kinsland
 - i. He mentioned the bridge dedication on 3/30 at 4 p.m. All are invited. Kay asked about opportunity for education and greenway plans. Luke may be able to mention something during the event.
 - ii. Elizabeth mentioned adding another bridge crossing this summer. There will be picnic areas and exercise equipment. She added that the master plan is available on the county website.
- d. Kay Kirkland- She mentioned e-mails of those at public interest sessions. Katiland suggested reaching out to these individuals and encouraging them to

review the plan. Raccoon Creek and Jonathan Creek sections were removed based on public comment.

- e. Kaitland Finkle- With the exceptions of landscaping, DOT crossings should be in place by August. The area will receive new islands, with some islands being refurbished or lengthened.
 - f. Amy Russell- There are new flashing lights in Clyde. They added a fence around Lynn, removed some bushes, and planted flowers. Other steps include removing and replacing trees. Also, remodeling is in progress at the town hall.
 - g. Megan Hauser- She mentioned the Year of the Trail, a statewide program. We can register events as YOTT and bring positive attention to the community. Ian mentioned multiple hikes per month, which he has registered with YOTT.
 - h. Marc Miller- Bike Haywood submitted a request for 'Share the Road' signs.
8. **Dismissal-** Amy Russell made a motion to end the meeting and received a second from Elizabeth Teague. The meeting ended at 3:24 p.m.