

Recreation Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

Attendees: Ann Alston, J. Stamey, Tim Mounce, Tracy Burnett, Megan Lynch, Franklin Gomez Flores, Joy Hewett, Anne Geer, Tammy Phillips, Andrew George, James Fogleman, Marie Gomez-Flores, Kent Barlow

Tracy Burnett welcome new member-Kent Barlow

Minutes approved -Megan Lynch, James F second

- Corrections to Marie and add Joy Hewett last name to the minutes
- Vote on vice-chair
- James Fogleman voted in as Vice Chair

Haw River Steering Committee update-Tracy

- A feasibility study is needed for the Haw River corridor. In the meantime, the Haw River Steering Committee will bring in speakers pertaining to sustainable trail planning, designing, and trail building to keep everyone engaged.
- Approval needed to apply for grant (EDA). This is an item on the Commissioners agenda to approve.
- Money from the grant would include the feasibility study for the corridor.
- Gretchen with the Friends of the Lower Haw River State Natural Area will give a report from the steering committee to the commissioners in September.

Questions and Discussions

Time frame- try to submit the EDA grant in October.

Is there a Plan B- not discussed yet.

Who is writing the grant-different county department staff are helping to write the grant.

Can we use ARP Funds- we want to apply for the EDA grant so ARP can be used towards other projects.

A lot of requests for ARP grant money. There has not been any discussion about consultant fee to come out of ARP Funds.

Some members expressed urgent needs for land acquisition for parks and conservation.

Future Parks and trails plan-Tracy Burnett

Haw River corridor plan is part of the park phasing plan but not part of the (CIP)seven-year plan for the county yet. Once the feasibility study is completed, then this project will be revisited for discussion as part of the CIP plan.

Parkers Ridge phase 1 is being requested in the CIP.

PARTF is a grant opportunity. You can have up to three years to close out the PARTF application.

End of year report objectives, challenges, and barriers-

Tim will present to Commissioners

Some information has been complete based on prior feedback received.

Last year goal was complete. Still working on objective from last year. (Find funding for master plan)

Short term goals would be better (Joy)

- Investigate Haw River and Paddle trail
- Inquire land for easement
- Investigate the process for bonds

Highlights from the discussions on the goal and objectives

- Comment about the number of homes that will be built and take advantage of that (James)
- Bond referendum (Ann G.)
- Tracy-Monthly meeting, she will have conversation with assistant County Manager about the process for bond
- The goals should be specific, meaningful and time bound
- Preserve natural resources.
- Some of same challenges still apply from last year.
- Preserve Chatham natural resources

Final comments- Tim will reach out to the committee members and fine tune the goals and objectives. Tim pulled up last year's presentation and staff was big challenge.

Town's requested projects

Tracy went over the town projects that will be used with the Funds to Towns allocation.

Additional items

No Community Center Director-position not filled (Tim will add to his presentation to the commissioners)

Tracy said she will be requesting the position in the upcoming budget

Adjourn

Tim made motion- James and Megan second