

**Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting
May 15, 2024**

Location: Parks & Recreation Office – 964 East St. Suite 100, Pittsboro, NC 27312

Attendees: Tracy Burnett, J. Stamey, Caitlin Murphy, Ben Rippe, Jason Leonard, Tony Sabbagh, Keith Shea, Guadalupe Perez, Joy Hewett, Tammy Phillips, Megan Lynch, Kent Barlow, James Fogleman, Will Sparrow

Welcome

- Tracy welcomes everyone

Approve Minutes

- Megan motioned to approve minutes from 3/20/24
- Joy seconded the motion

Presentations from Applicants

- Jason Leonard with Sprott Youth Center:
 - Board Treasurer for Sprott Youth Center
 - Runs full-court basketball gymnasium & community center for the Moncure area
 - Open gym program for basketball 3 hours a day
 - Most participants are middle & high school age
 - New proposed Pickleball Open Gym Program
 - Requesting a total of \$7,550
 - Pay for basketball open gym attendant
 - Pay for pickleball open gym attendant
 - Pickleball supplies (nets, paddles, balls, for two courts)
 - Building improvements/repairs (window screens, window glass, plumbing for old toilets, emergency lighting in the gym, any excess funding will go towards miscellaneous repairs at the facility)
- Tony Sabbagh with Pittsboro Skatepark:
 - Formed in 2011 as a 501c3
 - Was able to obtain land through Town of Pittsboro
 - Skatepark's have grown in popularity
 - Total cost to build skatepark is \$295,000
 - They have raised \$264,000
 - Contract with Artisan Skateparks & Town of Pittsboro
 - About \$30,000 short in funds
 - Will attract people from other areas to come skateboard
 - Downtown Pittsboro location at McClenahan Park
 - Open to the public dusk to dawn
 - All concrete with steel piping, less maintenance

Trails and Open Space Presentation

- Ben Rippe, Trails & Open Space Planner
- Started January 2023
- Update on the many projects that Ben is working on
- General Chatham County trails
 - Expand trails at all parks
 - Northeast: George Pauly Nature Trail
 - Have an agreement with HRA to fund the construction of the trail
 - Trail is flagged out and ready for contractor to bid and build
 - PABC: Pokeberry Creek Tributary Trail
 - Hydrological and geotech surveys underway to inform bridge and boardwalk foundations
 - Trail is flagged out and ready for contractor to bid and build
 - Packaging these two trails projects together into a single bid
 - Earl Thompson: Haw River Connector Trail
 - Intention is for this project to be volunteer built.
 - Trail is flagged
 - Stream buffer authorization approved by DEQ
 - Flood Plain development permit in process with county
 - NC Division of Parks and Rec needs to approve the connection with the SNA. They want to wait until improvements are complete before reviewing the project.
 - Northwest District Park: Parkwide trail network
 - Conceptual map developed
 - Planning to meet with walking group to discuss and get input in June.
 - Trail maintenance workdays with staff
 - A few already conducted, more to be scheduled soon at SW and NW district parks
- State Trails
 - Haw River State Trail
 - Feasibility study
 - Recent meeting with NC State Parks to discuss recommendations
 - Identified potential projects to apply for funding in September (Great Trails State grant program). All are located in the Pegg tract, north of the 15/501 bridge
 - Improve the paddle access
 - Develop a natural surface trail network above the flood plain
 - Trail head relocation and restroom installation at the parking lot
- Steering committee
 - Subcommittees

- Land and Easement Acquisitions
- Landowner Outreach
 - Developed a draft trail easement example
 - Developed an FAQ sheet
 - Trail Corridor Rendering
 - Developed online map for internal use to track properties, land owner contact and trail and easement progress.
 - Contacted a few land owners regarding easements, waiting to hear back
- Grants and Funding
 - Identify funding sources and match them with projects
 - Local funding options for trails
 - Presentation given to BOC on May 6th
 - Next steps: Refine list and consult with managers office and budget team to work out pros and cons, population effected and projected revenue from these approaches
- Construction and maintenance
 - Training workshop held in February
 - 6 CCPR staff, 3 volunteers
 - Built around 300' of trail to reroute a bad section of scout trail at NW
 - Did some basic drainage work on same trail to learn techniques
 - Developing GIS Hub site to coordinate outreach and track volunteer hrs.
 - We now have a cache of trail tools, thanks to Lowes providing a 15% discount.
 - Projects to include Earl Thompson connector trail and new trails at NW.
- Haw River Safety Collaborative
 - Bridge signage for paddler wayfinding, printed and will be installed in the coming months. Will coordinate with NCDOT to be on site for photos. Will put out a press release.
 - Digital Safety signage at 15/501 and 64 paddle accesses – applied for 3 grants – 2 denied so far
- Deep River State Trail
 - Feasibility study for land trail in Chatham county highest priority
 - Plan to apply for Great Trails State program grant
- Greenways
 - Lower Jordan Lake Greenway Corridor
 - Looking into ATIIP federal grant to fund feasibility study
 - Met with USACE & NCWRC
 - Greenway cannot go on game lands, extremely difficult for it to go on USACE lands
 - Need to reconsider proposed corridor, feasibility study will need to explore alternative routes

- Open Space Planning
 - River bank erosion at South Bynum River Access park
 - FNI engineers conducted site visit recently
 - Will develop proposal for a study looking into 3 alternatives for addressing erosion and repairing the banks
 - One solution may include relocating the paddle/river bank access location
 - Johnson Heirs Property
 - 0.7 acre parcel adjacent to South Bynum River Access. Has approximately 350' of river frontage. Entire property is in the floodplain
 - Tax office located heirs to the property after Ben inquired with them
 - One of the heirs reached out and expressed interest in the county making an offer to buy property
 - Hired an appraisal of the property
 - Assistant county manger will be presenting a proposal to the BOC on the 20th of May to make an offer
 - Disc Golf Course at Northeast District park
 - Working with Andrew to lay out and plan development of the course
 - Developing the course requires significant tree removal, recommending approach that will minimize soil disturbance via forestry mulcher and other low impact approaches

Nominate Chair and Vice Chair

- In effect at the next meeting
- Chair does the end of year report to the Board of Commissioners
- Megan nominates Guadalupe Perez for Chair
 - James seconded the motion
 - Guadalupe is the Chair
- Megan nominates Kent Barlow for Vice Chair
 - James seconded the motion
 - Kent is the Vice Chair

Adjourn

- Megan motioned to adjourn the meeting
- James seconded the motion
- Meeting adjourned at 7:33pm