

## Huntersville Greenway, Trail, and Bikeways Commission



Summary Minutes: 5.20.19

**Members Present:** Diane McLaine (chair), Drew Varnado (co-chair), Robin Underwood, Roger Diedrich, Christopher Boyd, Geoff Steele, Maria Reese, Tim Sanborn

**Members Absent:** Lori Russell,

**Town Staff Present:** Tracy Houk, David Peete

**Town Board Present:** Commissioner Walsh

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**Call To Order:** Drew Varnado (co-chair) – 6:31 pm

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion to table approval of April Minutes till June Mtg – Chris Boyd,  
Second – Roger Diedrich / March Minutes - Approved Unanimously

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS, REQUESTS, OR PRESENTATIONS**

Lisa Sumpkins: Stonegate Farms / dirtway is not funded at the moment

#### **Business:**

- **Communications/ Marketing:**

- Update on plans for the greenway naming contest
  - Add Thread Trail to examples
  - Send out next week and kickoff at LaLaCaboosa
  - Look at Survey Monkey Submittals
    - All can just be sent to Tracy
- Saturday bike ride along north-south routes from Bryton to Davidson (Tim / Robin)
  - Mayor's Comments on Bike ride takeaways:  
I enjoyed our bike trip Saturday. Tim thanks for coordinating.  
Next steps:
    1. Church street between Holbrook and Dellwood should be a first priority for bike, pedestrian and car traffic.
    2. Determine what the County is considering if anything between Bailey Glen and North Meck Rec Center as well as Cornelius. Bring this connection down to side street at Mayes road.
    3. Is NCDOT considering crossing bike travel on HWY 73 near Hwy 115.?
    4. What improvements are planned for bike/pedestrian travel in Huntersville on HWY 115. This area is probably the most difficult to build a greenway adjacent to the railroad tracks.
    5. Consider Seagle Street as the area to cross Ramah Church or swing over to improved sidewalk/bike lane on HWY 115.
    6. Ole Meck Brewery Is their a connection into Davidson from the back of their property?
    7. How can we connect to Brighton east of the railroad south of Commerce station?John
  - Review the Mooresville to Charlotte Trail:  
<https://www.mecknc.gov/ParkandRec/Greenways/Pages/RedLineTrail.aspx?redirect=charmack>
  - Get elected officials to join the push
  - Communities & Staff work together for grants
- Communications to the Town Board
  - Nothing new to report
  - A little push back
  - Talk about Road/Transportation "enhancements"
  - Do another presentation to TB, update on where we are
    - Maybe quarterly or 2x's/year

- Funding/Investment\*\*\*

- Present objectives and progress report – Priorities get from Drew
- Grant research status – Put findings into spreadsheet ([Funding Strategies Matrix](#))

- Project/Planning

- Underpass 73 – Has never been on Map
  - County 1.5 Million not to exceed
  - Who can put in money if more is needed?
  - Who does the plan?
  - Does the GTBC Commission need to do anything?
    - Yes – show continued support!
- Chilgrove to 73 - NCDOT doc says municipality is responsible for 600k
  - Per Bill Coxe, Transportation Planner

*The page out of the North Carolina Board of Transportation's April 4, 2019 agenda that shows the award of project funding for the McDowell Creek Greenway Trail can be translated as follows:*

    - 1. The project is estimated to cost approximately \$3.1 M and is to be implemented completely by Mecklenburg County, subject to reporting and plan review requirements of the funding source.*
    - 2. At the direction of the Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CRTPO) which controls certain federal discretionary funds, the North Carolina DOT will reimburse Mecklenburg County up to approximately \$2.48 M of these federal funds. This amount represents 80% of the estimated cost, the County supplies the match.*
    - 3. Any project cost above \$3.1 M is 100% the responsibility of the County UNLESS they request and receive more funds at the direction of CRTPO.*
    - 4. Should the project cost less than \$3.1 M, the State will reimburse the County no more than 80% of the actual cost.*
    - 5. The word "Municipality" should have said "County" The Town of Huntersville is not participating financially in the project. "Municipality" is likely to be a generic term from the title of the written contract between the State and the County which is typically called a "municipal agreement"*
- How to lay out/show financials of our priorities
  - Get priorities into design phase
  - Questions asked to Bert Lynn
    1. Help us understand county protocols for approaching companies for greenway funding – sponsors I am not aware of Park and Rec pursuing private entities for funding partnerships. Those that I am aware of were initiated by the private organization. We received \$50k for a bridge on Little Sugar Creek Greenway from Blue Cross Blue Shield, which was initiated by BCBS. We have received other smaller donations through Partners for Parks for various projects. We have also had a few small donations to name trail segments for people.
    2. Brief explanation on how projects get "bumped" up on the list if town puts in x amount of dollars. Best timing for this and when the money should be secured Our assessment criteria for greenway prioritization takes a number of items into consideration (see below). Projects would move up the list if any of these items changes for the good, like a project partnership. We have just re-assessed all undeveloped greenway trails and are in the process of verifying the results before we share.
      - a. Connection to existing greenway
      - b. Destinations (schools, parks, libraries, transit, etc.)
      - c. Number of parcels needed
      - d. Environmental justice

- e. Geographic equity
- f. Project partnerships
- g. Major barriers
- Layout full priorities in addition to what Michael is doing
- Work with County

#### **UPDATES/COMMENTS**

- Projects
  - Met with CMS on 5.30.19 – Concerns they had:
    - Wanted to know how we are benefiting the school
    - They don't like the idea of introducing public to property
    - Safe Route to School?
    - Barrier between Trail & School
    - If county is involved might be easier to persuade School Board
      - MOA between town and County
    - Subdivide off with Town/County
      - Loss of Land
    - Lighting?
      - Street Side: Urban vs. Suburban
- Bike Master Plan – Sent 2 consultants Alta & Gresham Smith
  - Staff Reviewed – Gave Alta as our recommendation, waiting to hear back.
- Can we use the money in the Partners for Parks fund for marketing (David/Tracy update)
  - Still haven't heard back from PTFP
- Responses from Bert Lynn – See Above
- Other

\*\*\*Please see attached for additional items to support the minutes\*\*\*

**Motion to Adjourn:** 8:20 pm - Motion – Drew Varnado , Seconded – Tim Sanborn  
Approved Unanimously