

Hickory Bond Commission Meeting Friday, April 24, 2015, 8:30 A.M.

A meeting of the Hickory Bond Commission was held on Friday, April 24, 2015 at the Old Piedmont Wagon Building (Cornerstone United) at 1020 Main Avenue NW.

Members Present: Alan Barnhardt, Michael Bell, Patricia Bowman, Paige Brigham, Dana Chambers, Julie Chang, Jennifer Clark, Rob Dickerson, Charlie Dixon, Tom Dobbins, Ryan Edwards, Ed Farthing, Charlie Hayes, Jennifer Helton, Allison Holtzman, Alan Jackson, Anthony Laxton, Will Locke, Norm Meres, Hani Nassar, Shauna O'Brien, Dean Proctor, Stacey Rash, Katherine Rogers, Gayle Schwarz, Carolyn Sinclair, Vernon Tarlton, Mike Thomas, James Tilton, Nick Walden, Susan Walker, Bee Watts, Burk Wyatt, and Frank Young.

Members Absent: Jennifer Beane, Norm Cook, Jerisha Farrer, Jeff Hale, Mike Holland, Andrew Howard, Adelia Parrado-Ortiz, and David Roberts, II

Elected Officials Present: Alderman Danny Seaver

Others Present: Multiple City Staff and Department Heads

City Manager Mick Berry opened the meeting at 8:35 A.M. He thanked Cornerstone United for allowing the city to use their facility and commented on the excellent renovation of the building. He recognized Alderman Danny Seaver and noted that City Council members are engaged in the process of the projects, but trust the commission to do important work. Mr. Berry opened the floor and had the commission members and staff members introduce themselves.

Mr. Berry briefly reviewed the agenda items that would be discussed during the meeting. He reminded everyone that the Bond Commission meetings are open to the public and that minutes will be taken. He then introduced Deputy City Attorney, Arnita Dula.

Ms. Dula discussed Ordinance No. 15-01, which sets the terms for the implementation of the Bond Commission. She explained that members will serve terms of three years. However, the initial class of commission members have staggered terms of one, two, or three years to prevent all members' terms from expiring simultaneously. Those who roll off of one or two year terms are eligible to serve another three years term. No member can serve more than six years. Representatives from other boards and commissions, as well as the Chamber representative, serve a term of one year but can be reappointed. If a member needs to vacate his or her position a mechanism is in the ordinance for that position to be replaced.

Ms. Dula went on to explain that the ordinance requires that the chair and vice chair be elected at the first meeting. The chair and vice chair will serve a one year term. The chair can appoint subcommittees and call special meetings beyond the required quarterly meetings. The vice chair serves in the absence of the chair.

Ms. Dula explained that each member gets one vote but none by proxy. The ordinance requires at least ten members to create a quorum. Attendance is an important aspect of membership and two consecutive unexcused absences will result in terminated membership. Ms. Dula encouraged everyone to let Ms. Surratt know if they plan to be absent so that staff can be prepared.

Mr. Berry added that the Commission's role is advisory. City Council has the final decision but they are looking to the commission for input on public amenities. The Bond Commission is the core of public input. The commission should be able to project information out to the community as well. Citizens may ask commission members questions about the bond projects. Members should be able to answer their questions or direct them to the appropriate city staff. Members should also offer their design ideas and thoughts about the projects. The projects should reflect the best and brightest ideas in the city.

Ms. Dula expanded on two key statutes: open meetings law and public records law. All official meetings of public bodies are open to the public. Official meetings are meetings where business is conducted, deliberations take place, or votes are taken. All meetings are open to general public. The Bond Commission is a public body and an extension of City Council and is subject to open meetings law. Public records consists of any documents created by this body, such as minutes, information, or presentations. These have to be available and accessible to the public by law. Additionally emails are public record, as well as commission members' information and applications submitted to be considered for the commission.

Assistant City Manager, Andrea Surratt approached the podium to discuss the bond projects. She explained that the bond referendum consisted of the following project categories: Citywalk, Riverwalk, Streetscapes & Gateways, and the Park 1764 business park. The Bond Commission will not focus on the business park, due to its individualized designed based on interested clients. Additionally, Catawba County and the EDC will be involved in the business park process.

Ms. Surratt first discussed the Citywalk. She referenced two conceptual master plan drawings created by Land Design. She explained the drawings as a flavor of the type of plan they are considering. The current concept is to link LRU west to the West side of the Square. But ultimately it could even connect to the riverwalk and baseball stadium. Additionally the Citywalk will include pocket parks and places to stop and rest.

She moved on to the Riverwalk, which is less conceptualized. She referenced a map showing the proposed area for the Riverwalk. Staff anticipates that it will run southwest from the top end of Rotary/Geitner Park, where the Lackey family is working on a project, to under the Hwy 321 bridge and then to the baseball park. She explained that the Lackey project will be woven into the work that the commission will be doing. The Lackey project includes a lake house, a public event space, a performance dock suspended over water, a conservatory with an indoor/outdoor garden, and a second event space. They are also planning a new boat launch and kayak facilities, as well as great trails and revised parking. TSW out of Atlanta is the

architecture firm that designed the lake house and conservatory. She also referenced photos from Canada that offer an idea of what the Riverwalk could look like.

Moving on to Streetscapes and Gateways, Ms. Surratt alluded to maps hanging on the walls throughout the room. She pointed out seven streetscapes sections and five gateways where upgrades are needed. She explained that a finite amount of funding is available and the commission would need to tackle the highest priority first.

Ms. Surratt explained that the concepts she had just discussed were only a starting place. She introduced Mr. Charles Archer, of Freese and Nichols, to discuss the process.

Mr. Archer introduced himself, as well as Mike Wayts, who is also with Freese and Nichols. He explained that they are excited to be involved in the process. He began by explaining a bit about project management and the tasks they would be handling.

Mr. Archer referenced a flow chart that helped explain the steps his firm will handle, noting that supplemental funding and stakeholder engagement would be an ongoing process. He explained that the initial pre-engineering phase is broken into seven tasks: Pre-Engineering, Riverwalk Concept Rendering, Supplemental Funding, Development of Project and Program Parameters, Programs Coordination and Management, PMIS (Project Management Information Systems), and Economic Development.

After detailing the tasks listed above, Mr. Archer opened the floor for questions and brief discussion.

Ms. Surratt came back to the podium and opened the floor for the selection of Chair and Vice Chair.

A motion was made by Alan Jackson to elect Burk Wyatt as Chair, seconded by Dana Chambers. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Frank Young to elect Allison Holtzman as Vice chair, seconded by Mike Bell. The motion passed unanimously.

An intermission was taken at 9:50 A.M. to allow members to mingle and sign up to join the subcommittee of their choice. There are three subcommittees: Citywalk, Riverwalk, and Streetscapes & Gateways. Each subcommittee had fourteen vacancies of which the members could fill.

The meeting reconvened at 10:07 A.M.

Ms. Surratt addressed the issue of branding and adopting a name for the bond projects. She reminded everyone that at the previous bond social informal discussions had taken place regarding the name and staff has determined to move forward with the concept of "Crafting Hickory." North Star will flesh out this concept.

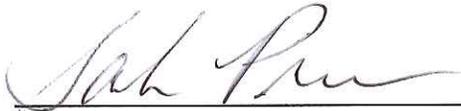
She added that the next social will be joint meeting with the Parks and Recreation Commission on July 14 at the Crawdads Stadium. Dinner will be held at 5:00 in the Winkler building. Members' families are welcome to join after the meeting and stay for the Crawdads game.

A brief discussion between several members took place regarding scheduling details and the best time for everyone to meet. There was no consensus on the best time for everyone, so it was determined that a Doodle Poll will be used for each meeting that is scheduled.

The meeting adjourned at 10:21 A.M.



Burk Wyatt, Chair
Hickory Bond Commission



Sarah Prencipe, Deputy City Clerk
City of Hickory