

**Joint Meeting of the Hickory Parks and Recreation
Commission and the Hickory Bond Commission
Tuesday, July 14, 2015, 5:30 P.M.**

A joint meeting of the Hickory Parks and Recreation Commission and the Hickory Bond Commission was held on Tuesday, July 14, 2015 at the Winkler Activity Center at 2500 Clement Boulevard, Hickory.

Bond Members Present: Alan Barnhardt, Jennifer Beane, Patricia Bowman, Dana Chambers, , Rob Dickerson, Charlie Dixon, Ryan Edwards, Ed Farthing, Kimberly George, Jeff Hale, Charlie Hayes, Mike Holland, Alan Jackson, Anthony Laxton, Will Locke, Norm Meres, Hani Nassar, Dean Proctor, Katherine Rogers, Gayle Schwarz, James Tilton, Nick Walden, Susan Walker, Bee Watts, and Burk Wyatt

Bond Members Absent: Mike Bell, Paige Brigham, Jennifer Clark, Norm Cook, Tom Dobbins, Jerisha Farrer, Jennifer Helton, Allison Holtzman, Shauna O'Brien, Adelia Parrado-Ortiz, Stacey Rash, David Roberts, II, Carolyn Sinclair, Vernon Tarlton, Mike Thomas, and Frank Young

Parks Members Present: Joyce Beard, Lloyd Coley, David Crosby, Junior Hedrick, Jim Powers, Dean Proctor, Susan Sigler, Landen Wood, and Lanie Wood

Parks Members Absent: Allen Mitchell

Others Present: Freese and Nichols Staff, Multiple City Staff and Department Heads

Parks and Recreation Chairman Lloyd Coley called the meeting to order at 5:37 P.M. He welcomed everyone and turned the floor over to Bond Commission Chair Burk Wyatt. Mr. Wyatt welcomed everyone and reminded them that the meeting would end at 7:00 P.M.

Mr. Wyatt asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes from the last Bond Commission meeting on May 6. A motion was made by Ed Farthing and seconded by Dana Chambers. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Rob Dickerson, Chair of Streetscapes and Gateways, gave the subcommittee report. He recapped the last meeting and reviewed the ideas that had been brainstormed. He noted specifically the ideas that had received the highest prioritization, which were to create a seven to ten year plan and to focus on improvements on Old Lenoir Road since it serves as a main artery, yet has no sidewalks.

Ed Farthing spoke on behalf of the Citywalk Subcommittee. He summarized Citywalk as a connector of Lenoir Rhyne Boulevard to the Old Piedmont Wagon Building. He briefly discussed the last meeting and highlighted the objectives of enticing people to come downtown and utilize the Citywalk by creating spaces that are visually stimulating (sculptures, etc.) and somehow connecting the SALT Block to the Ridgeview Library. He also briefly mentioned the possible TIGER grant funds that could help to fund the Citywalk project.

Mr. Charlie Dixon, Chair of Riverwalk, gave the subcommittee report. He spoke about Lake Hickory and what a great asset it is to the community. In recapping the last meeting, he acknowledged that work needed to be done with Duke Energy, the railroad, and NCDOT to move forward with the project. He also noted that the subcommittee agreed that adequate lighting and available emergency services were of utmost importance to the Riverwalk Subcommittee.

Mr. Wyatt turned the meeting over to Mr. Charles Archer of Freese and Nichols.

Mr. Archer introduced his staff and explained that they would be presenting the conceptual plans for the Riverwalk. He also added that the budget numbers were not yet available and that they planned to provide a cost estimate at the next subcommittee meeting.

He introduced Matt Milano who presented the Riverwalk design. Mr. Milano explained that they had looked at the Inspiring Spaces plan and identified the site for the Riverwalk. The existing conditions consist of steep terrain, heavily wooded area, limited access to the water, limited vehicular access, as well as the location of the water treatment plant. Some opportunities for the site are scenic existing trails, connectivity to park space, upgrades to existing facilities, and waterfront views.

Mr. Milano showed project examples on a PowerPoint presentation that included greenways from Asheville, NC and Greenville, SC among others with high architectural character.

He explained that the design goals are to create a comprehensive waterfront trail system, increase connectivity, and establish a destination space on the southern portion of the Riverwalk. He went on to show the conceptual plan drawn out as part of the PowerPoint presentation. It was a map that included recreation and facilities area, a boardwalk, parking area, a boat ramp and kayak launch.

Mr. Chuck Hansen interjected the importance of working around the drinking water plant and detailed some of the water plant operations.

Mr. Milano went on to discuss the concepts of the walkway. He offered three possible designs that will be determined by further engineering and permission from Duke Energy in regard to how close the walkway can be to the water. He also discussed the design features including decorative decking and railing, lighting, and benches.

Discussion ensued regarding the kayak and boat launches, diameter of the overlooks, and comments on the overall design.

Mayor Wright commented that he was excited about the project and reiterated the need for additional funding through grants, donations, and private partnerships. He shared that he and some staff would be going to Washington DC to lobby for the TIGER grant. He encouraged everyone to email and call their legislators to encourage the city's receipt of TIGER grant funds.

Ms. Andrea Surratt gave a brief update about the TIGER grant and added that she would be going to Washington DC to share why Hickory should be at the top of the list of recipients. She

also encouraged everyone to contact their legislators. She also noted Jessica Martin Lane's exceptional work in grant writing and submitting the city's application for the TIGER grant. She added that as additional conceptual plans and cost estimates develop, there will be opportunities to apply for more grants.

Additional group discussion took place regarding lobbying legislators and opportunities for additional grant funding.

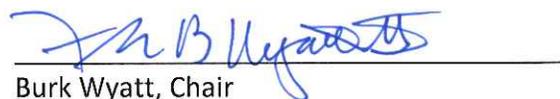
Mr. Mack Mcleod reminded everyone about the baseball game immediately following the meeting and to see him for tickets.

Ms. Surratt discussed the dates for the next subcommittee meetings, which will be on August 24 and 25. She also explained that the next full Bond Commission meeting will likely be scheduled mid to late October.

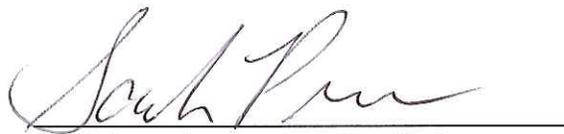
Ms. Surratt went on to update the group on the Deidra Lackey Memorial Park that is currently being planned as a redevelopment of Geitner Park. She shared a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted the conceptual design for the park, including the Lake House and Conservatory. She also explained that a conservancy group was being formed to partner with the city and detail all aspects of the park. There was some group discussion regarding limited parking in the area and the need for shuttles for large events held at the park. It was also noted that some of the design elements would be mimicked throughout the Riverwalk, which will connect to the park.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 P.M.

Lloyd Coley, Chair
Hickory Parks and Recreation Commission



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Sarah Prencipe, Deputy City Clerk
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