

**Quarterly Meeting**  
**of the**  
**City of Hickory Bond Implementation Commission**  
**Highland Recreation Center 12:00pm -1:20 pm**  
**June 6, 2017**

A Special meeting of the Bond Implementation Commission was held in the Community Room at the Highland Recreation Center, on Tuesday, June 6, 2017 at 12:00 p.m., with the following members present:

**Staff Present:** Assistant City Manager Andrea Surratt, Assistant City Manager Rodney Miller, Bond Project Manager Kyle Butler, Governmental Affairs Manager Yaidee Fox, Public Services Director Kevin Greer, Planning Director Brian Frazier, Parks and Recreation Director Mack McLeod, and Executive Assistant to the City Manager Deisy Zavala Vazquez, Communications Specialist Sarah Prencipe, City Manager Warren Wood, Deputy City Attorney Arnita Dula.

**Bond Commission members present:** Alan Barnhardt, Alan Jackson, Vice Chair Allison Holtzman, Chair Burk Wyatt, Carolyn Sinclair, Charlie Hayes, Cliff Moone, Clise Johnson Plant, Dana Chambers, David Baldwin, David Roberts II, Ed Farthing, Eloise Bradshaw, Frank Young, Hani Nassar, Jim Campbell, Jason Yates, Jennifer Beane, Jennifer Clark, Katherine Rogers, Kay Schmucker, Kimberly George, Meg Jenkins Locke, Michael Thomas, Mikaela Simmons, Norm Meres, Paige Brigham, Ralph Griffith, Rob Dickerson, Sandi Fotheringham, Stacey Rash, Suzanne Trollan, Will Locke

**Council Members Present:** Mayor Jeff Cline, Alderwoman Jill Patton, Alderman Dave Zagaroli

**Bond Commission members absent:** Ed Farthing (excused), Dean Proctor, Ernie Sills, James Tilton, Nick Walden, Susan Walker, Michael Bell, Patricia Bowman, Jennifer Helton, Anthony Laxton

**A quorum was present for the Bond Implementation Commission.**

**Others in Attendance:** Kevin Griffin Hickory Daily Record Reporter, Michael Wold, Scott Owens, Gavin Mitchell, Charles Archer, and Morgan McIlwain

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Burk Wyatt called the meeting to order at 12:04 pm.

**II. Opening Remarks**

Mayor Jeff Cline made some opening remarks regarding the great work accomplished by the members of the Bond Commission. He talked about the importance of showing leadership in a time of change, especially with the recent passing of Mayor Wright. Mayor Cline thanked Bond Commission Chair Burk Wyatt for his work. City Manager Warren Wood introduced himself and thanked the Bond Commission for their hard work as well. Mr. Wood emphasized the importance of reengaging Freese Nichols. Mr. Wood added that he is seeing a greater sense of

optimism in the community and the Bond Commission is helping add to it. Chair Burk Wyatt talked about how the bond commission cannot dive into every detail of every item but the Bond Commission still plays a very important role nonetheless.

### **III. Bond Commission Roles**

Chair Burk Wyatt introduced Assistant City Manager Andrea Surratt. Ms. Surratt started her presentation by reminding members to sign the sign-in sheet. Her first slide was divided into 3 categories: Visioning, Planning and Implementing.

**Visioning:** Assistant City Manager Andrea Surratt shared with the group that Hickory had been awarded the Marvin Collins Greatness in Planning and implementation award on behalf of NCAPA. The City would be receiving the award in September. Ms. Surratt reiterated the importance of the Inspiring Spaces program and how it ties in to the work the members are currently doing. Inspiring Spaces was the initial vision that jump started the Bond Commission.

**Planning:** The Bond Referendum passed in November of 2014. Assistant City Manager Andrea Surratt reminded everyone that this project needs to be completed by 2021 and they have 7 years to complete it. Ms. Surratt reminded everyone of the process Hickory went through of making sure that every demographic would be represented. Ms. Surratt discussed the process of selecting subcommittees and why they were created.

**Implementing:** Assistant City Manager Andrea Surratt also discussed the process of hiring AMEC and how it tied in to the work done with Planning and Visioning. Ms. Surratt brought up the importance of the work that members have done and how they have overcome a variety of changes and new members such as City Manager Mick Berry Leaving. The project is heading to 60% for the design. Bidding will be coming up this year. Assistant City Manager Andrea Surratt informed the group that they are on track as far as the schedule. Ms. Surratt said the city is in the midst of meeting with Duke Energy, NCDOT, Federal DOT, and other regulatory agencies. The City has a 4-million-dollar grant from NCDOT that must follow federal grant guidelines for city walk. From this 4-million-dollar grant, 3.5 million will be used for the bridge over lake hickory and the 321 bridge.

### **IV. Project Updates**

Andrea introduced Charles Archer from Freese and Nichols. Mr. Archer reminded the members that they have done an excellent job with the bond program because they all seem to have a common sense of unity in the hope of improving the City of Hickory. Mr. Archer talked about the fact that the city is 3 years into the 7-year plan so it is important to stay on track. He emphasized the importance of having the veteran members share information with the new members in order to have continuity. Mr. Archer emphasized the importance of the Scope, budget, and schedule and the 30-60-90 completion percentage.

Mr. Archer recognizes that not everyone is going to think alike but that is important because everyone was chosen for their unique point of view. He stated that the role of the members is to bring what the subcommittees decide on and share it with the full bond commission. Mr. Archer explained that the designers give feedback to the subcommittees, the subcommittees bring that information to the Bond Commission, and the bond commission brings information to the City

Council. He maintained that It is important to keep that chain of command in a functional state as it is counterproductive to have to keep cycling through. The whole process requires a certain level of trust, trust in their ideas and opinions. Mr. Archer believes that communication is an important part of this process as well as community input. The mission of the bond members is to serve as an advisory board to the city on the bond project. They must minimize miscommunications and be advocates for the project while closing the gaps between the city and the community and giving feedback on what would be best for this community. Charles Archer reminded everyone that the River walk and City walk projects were started in the specific order they were started because they have the most requirements to meet and most roadblocks before reaching completion.

Charles Archer reminded the bond members that they are there to give advice on their vision and how they want things to look while remaining within the scope of the designers. The input of the bond members is important as the group gets deeper into the design. Charles Archer proposes that instead of going through plans sheet by sheet, the bond members will be there to go over the bigger pictures instead of the details. The 30/60/90 plans will come to the subcommittees in order for the project to carry on in a timely manner. Mr. Archer stated that bond members must outline what they would like to see by 90%.

Assistant City Manager, Andrea Surratt also wanted to discuss the objectives. She reminded the members that Bond members review and focus community input by coming to meetings and talking to the community about the Project. They communicate accurate information about the bond projects and their respective budgets to the community. Ms. Surratt also informed the members that Mayor Jeff Cline will now have an insert in the Hickory Daily Record in which he will discuss the Bond project as needed and will provide guidance on communication to the community.

Council members Jill Patton and David Zagaroli were recognized by City Manager Warren Wood for attending the meeting. Assistant City Manager Andrea Surratt was also recognized by Mr. Wood for her work with the bond commission while also taking on the role of Interim City Manager.

Bond member David Baldwin said he was very happy that Freese and Nichols was back on board with them. He wanted to know if Hickory Daily Record's commentary will also go on the website. Assistant City Manager Andrea Surratt replied that Communications Specialist Sarah Prencipe will make sure this is done.

Bond Commission Chair Burk Wyatt reminded bond members of the need to stay on track and streamline the process. He would like to have one voice being represented in the community.

Assistant City Manager Andrea Surratt said the City walk is moving closer to 60% completion and staff members will receive new drawings on July 10<sup>th</sup> that will be presented to the Bond Members by late July or early August.

Ms. Surratt informed the members that the Streetscapes and Gateways committee members have several options for signage that will be chosen after the meeting is adjourned.

Ms. Surrat also notified the group that Park 1764 now has a committee that is reviewing the project. They are working with 170 acres and are looking at the extension of sewers and formation of roads.

**V. Closing Remarks**

Bond Member Will Locke asked about vacancies on the bond commission and claimed that he has been asked by several people about this. Ms. Surratt reminded the members of the terms limits and offered to send the information back out.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m. Bond members separated into their City walk and River walk groups for brief subcommittee meetings.

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Frank B. Wyatt II, Chair

Hickory Bond Commission

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Deisy Zavala Vazquez

Executive Assistant to the City Manager