



Quarterly Meeting
of the
City of Hickory Bond Implementation Commission
City Hall Council Chambers 5:30 pm-7:30 pm
November 2, 2017

I. Dinner- 5:30 pm

II. Call to Order- 6:05 pm

Chair Burk Wyatt called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

III. Approval of Minutes

Chair Burk Wyatt called for the approval of minutes. He mentioned that there was an edit in the minutes from the meeting in June.

IV. Program Update

Yaidee Fox introduced herself to the group as the staff representative and Assistant to the City Manager for the bond commission. She also thanked the group for serving on the board, especially those who have been here for as long as they have.

Yaidee introduced Mike Wayts, Freese and Nichols Consultant.

Mike went over the agenda and outlined the topics being covered tonight. He also went over the flow chart that talked about the overall process. He reminded the group of their role in the process and how they are involved in the process.

Mike moved on to the financial aspect of the project. He reminded the group of the 40 million dollars worth of bond funds and praised the city for their great work with claiming several grants.

He also went over all of the improvements on the projects. Mike said that the city has been keeping track of the bond budget and is looking forward to adding more grants such as the TIGER grant to this total.

V. City Walk 60% Completed Design Presentation

Frank Young went over the process that they have been through to get to the 60% design that they are at now. He shared that he believes that the process is going very well and he is very pleased with how the designs are going. He mentioned that there wasn't much feedback for the designs they have seen since everyone seems to be very pleased with the projected designs. He expressed his excitement for the project and looks forward to its completion.

Frank introduced Morgan McIlwain, Freese and Nichols Consultant.

She started by inviting the commission up to the front to see the map of the city walk so people can see where everything will be located. The group gathered around the map.

The first recommendation was the lighted blocks in the Mill District. She shared that these items were for kids to climb and play on and people to sit and rest. The next item shared was the retaining wall and the iconic pedestrian bridge. Morgan shared a picture of the retaining wall. A bond member asked what it is made out of and Morgan shared that it is made out of stone work. This wall would be located near Transportation Insight. Morgan moved on to the hand rails for the iconic pedestrian bridge. She shared that it would be made from metal.

Next, she shared the dog park near the Transportation Insight area.

Someone asked if they had parking for this park. Kevin Greer, Public Services Director, interjected and shared that there is a joint use agreement with transportation insight's parking lot.

Morgan moved on to several of the city walk recommendations.

Kyle shared several of the details of the road. He went through and shared several aspects of the road and new additions. Discussion ensued around the table.

Frank Young added that the recommendations on the screen are all the results of the voting that took place during the last subcommittee meeting. Morgan returned to the podium and the group returned to their seats. She proceeded with sharing the seat walls and shared that they would also have medallions with a bit of Hickory's past on them. She then moved on to the benches. She reminded the group that the art benches would remain throughout the city.

The next slide showed the Wayfinding signs. She reminded the group that these would be lit and would be an addition and would not replace the wayfinding signs already in place.

Next were the kinetic spirals. These structures turn with the wind and are lighted from within. They will be all throughout the city walk. Meg Jenkins Locke asked how big they were in comparison to the models shown on the renderings. Morgan replied that they will vary in size.

Ernie Sills thinks that they may look too fragile and be subject to vandalism. Morgan added that the designer will be looking into making them as durable as they can be.

Burk asked how fast they would spin. Morgan reminded them that it will vary and they would look into it further once they are at 90% completion.

Morgan went on to the restrooms. She added that they would have storage in the back. They will also add built in benches and planters on the outside of the building.

Clise asked if there was natural lighting. Morgan replied that there would be natural lighting included to reduce lighting costs.

She also asked if they would be able to name any part of the project after Mayor Wright since he played a big part in starting the bond project and was very passionate about it. Morgan agreed that that was a great idea and they would return to that once the project nears completion.

Yaidee added that there is a process for this and they would submit it at a later date.

Morgan shared the veteran memorial and mentioned that the City Walk Bond members had not seen this design yet.

A veteran bond member, David Roberts mentioned that they may need to make some edits to this design to make sure that every war is represented, and not just world war II.

Morgan added that this was brought to their attention by the rotary club and a local veteran association but they would look into it and see what they could come up with.

Morgan moved on to some renderings of the art work. One of the picture showed a piece of art that she described as a light spinner. A Light spinner can be manually spun and is internally lit.

Next, she shared the human kaleidoscope. A bond member asked what reinforced grass meant. Kyle replied that this grass was designed so that a fire truck could cross this grass and the grass would not be damaged by its weight. Ernie added that the trees were specifically chosen so people could still see the stage.

There were also some concerns about what the accessibility would be like for the steps near the stage.

Frank Young added that they wanted to maintain the grassy area since it was a unifying piece on the square.

Jim Powers asked if there were any safety features to prevent cars from driving into the crowd. Mike added that they would have security measures put in and Kyle added that there are 42 bollards that will be added to the design to prevent this from happening.

Jennifer Beane mentioned that she liked the perennial gardens and wondered where they would be placed. Kyle added that they had been swapped.

Morgan moved on to a different point of view image. She showed where the human kaleidoscope would be placed.

Meg Jenkins Locke asked if they had talked to the store owners about the art work location.

Morgan mentioned that they are strategically placed the human kaleidoscope in a place that didn't block the merchants.

One of the Bond Members asked if the trees would fit well without having to constantly trim them in order to view the stage. Dr. Dana Chambers added that the group has probably already looked at every season and every angle and roots, so there will be no need to question the plants chosen.

Morgan McIlwain moved on to a few more images that showed a night time perspective of the union square art.

Morgan moved on to the polling concepts.

Mike added that he had noted all of their recommendations and would bring them back to the designers to work with.

Morgan asked if they had any objections to the project as they were shown.

David Roberts reminded Freese and Nichols that they are here to represent the city and they should be able and willing to listen to the bond commission on their suggestions. David Roberts also added that they would need to make sure they had more safety features available to them and the artwork was safe for children to use and play around without being injured.

Mike Mentioned that he had written several of their suggestions down and had captured naming something after Mayor Wright, Safety to prevent cars from driving through things, adding the perennial gardens, and fixing the veteran's monument.

Burk Wyatt added that this city walk would be the spine and if they receive the grant, the book walk and rib project would be the next connection.

One of the Bond Members asked why the extension from 4th to 9th street would be constructed before the rib project.

Yaidee Fox added that this was part of the TIGER Grant and they were very excited about the Rib Project. She mentioned that they went through the tiger

grant submission a little differently this year and they had done a lot of the work in house. They made sure that they had really focused on the book walk because of the conditions of the sidewalk in the area. They are very hopeful and passionate about it is very high on their list.

Mike asked if anyone had any more questions. He proceeded to call for a motion to approve the recommendations as presented in order to present them to City Council. David Roberts moved to approve the recommendations, Paige Brigham Seconded the motion. Mike asked if there were any objections. The group consensus was in favor of the motion, objection was made by Meg Jenkins Locke.

The group took a break to refresh and prepare for the Riverwalk Presentation.

VI. Riverwalk 30% Completed Design Presentation

The meeting began at 7:09 pm. Alan Jackson came forward to introduce the Riverwalk concepts. Alan reminded the group that there are several great ideas but some of them were not very practical so they may need to keep that in mind.

Morgan came back to the podium to go over the Riverwalk 30% design. She reminded the group that since the project was only at 30%, a lot of the designs were still only conceptual. She went over the design goals and let the group read over them so they could keep that in mind while they look at the designs.

Morgan went over a map of the design so they could see where everything would be located. She would then be going over the actual details of the Riverwalk.

The first design concept they discussed was the iconic bridge.

Will Locke how many people would fit on the bench. The bench measures 5 feet long and people can sit on both sides,

Morgan went on to the image of the design at night.

Morgan went over the proposed paved path. Kyle added that this would be a separate project.

There was another view of the entrance area and they showed the parking area and driveway. Morgan added that they wanted to make the entrance grand so people would know they are entering the dock.

Will asked if they would have access to the dock. However, the dock pictured would only be accessible by city staff.

Carolyn Sinclair asked about the area near 321. Kevin Greer added that it would be a part of the sewage system. Morgan added that they are only at 30% and would look into several aspects of it once they progress.

Someone asked about the lighting and if people would have access to the area all day. Morgan mentioned that they would need to go over hours as they got closer to project completion.

Another bond member asked about the parking and questioned the amount of parking.

Morgan reminded them that there would be plenty of parking near the Lackey Project.

One of the Bond members added that the trees did not look attractive and felt that the trees would allow for more parking spaces.

Jennifer asked about the 15 million dollar grant and if that was the reason that the bridge would be on water. Morgan replied that it was ultimately cheaper to build it over the water.

Ernie Sills asked if the bridge concept went through the whole Riverwalk. Morgan clarified that the iconic bridge was only part of it but it would not run through the whole trail.

Jennifer added that she is very pleased with how they are progressing.

Alan Jackson reminded the group that the grants are all part of the process.

One of the Bond Members asked if they would use any of the railing for the Riverwalk from the iconic bridge on the City Walk.

A few of the members added that they liked that concept.

Alan added that the masts reminded people of the sails uptown.

David Roberts asked what the projected use volume would be. He was worried that they may need to add more parking spaces. Mike added that the designer has done the research and they would share this information at a later date.

Morgan moved into the recommendations and with the following notes: Can the Riverwalk be used at Night, potentially reconsidering the trees in parking lot, and making sure certain features form the River walk and the City walk Tie in. They would also share the research on volume of usage, look up parking locations, and public bus stops being added.

Cliff asked when they would use their suggestions. Morgan reminded the group that they were looking at the plausibility of each suggestion.

Burk reminded the group that they also talked about changing the light colors based on seasons and special events.

Meg asked if they would have the ability to use food trucks in the parking lot. Freese and Nichols said they would look into it closer to completion.

Will asked where and how large the extra grassy area would be located.

Mike wasn't sure at the moment since it was still early on in the project.

James Tilton asked if the iconic bridge would add an extra million to the project. Morgan said that it would.

Will asked how large the lookout area would be located. Morgan answered that it would be 12 feet across.

Morgan called for a motion to approve the Riverwalk to present to City Council. The motion was inaudible, Cliff Moone seconded the motion. The Group voted to unanimously pass the recommendations as presented

Kyle reminded this group that these recommendations would go before council at the November 21st council meeting.

VII. Adjourn- 7:30 pm