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Bond Commission Meeting

Minutes

Wednesday, July 17, 2019 at 5:00 pm
SALT Block
Keiser Community Room
243 3rd Ave NE
Hickory NC, 28601

A quarterly meeting of the Bond Implementation Commission was held in the Keiser Community Room at the SALT Block, on Wednesday, July 17 2019 at 5:00 p.m., with the following members present:

Bond Commission members present: David Baldwin, Alan Barnhardt, Jennifer Beane, Michael Bell, Eloise Bradshaw, Eric Brandon, Paige Brigham, Jim Campbell, Jennifer Clark, Rob Dickerson, Ed Farthing, Sandi Fotheringham, Kimberly George, Alan Jackson, Clise Johnson Plant, Matthew Maulding, Cliff Moone, Meg Nealon, Rachel Nichols, Stacey Rash, Jim Rogers, Katherine Rogers, Kay Shmucker, Dan Shabeldeen, Walter Smith, Mike Thomas, James Tilton, Burk Wyatt, Jason Yates, Frank Young

Bond Commission members absent: Lori Alala, Allison Holtzman, Emma Lail, Anthony Laxton, David Roberts II, Ernie Sills, Nick Walden, Susan Walker, Bob Warmuth, Virginia Wright

Staff Present: Communications and Marketing Manager Dana Kaminske, Communications Specialist Sarah Killian, Assistant City Manager Rick Beasley, Assistant to the City Manager Yaidee Fox, Public Services Director Kevin Greer, Planning Director Brian Frazier, Morgan McIlwain Freese and Nichols Consultant, Charles Archer Freese and Nichols Consultant, Dave Leonetti, Mack McLeod, Rodney Miller, Steve Miller, Cal Overby, Rick Patton, Shawn Pennell, Sarah Prencipe, and Executive Assistant to the City Manager Deisy Zavala Vazquez

I. Welcome – Chair Burk Wyatt

Chair Burk Wyatt called the meeting to order at 5:08 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes from March 26, 2019

Chair Burk Wyatt moved, seconded by Paige Brigham approval of the minutes from the March 26 Bond Implementation Committee Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Introduction- Chair Burk Wyatt

Chair Burk Wyatt welcomed the group and thanked them for their time. He added that he was thankful for all of the work City staff had done and for keeping the Bond Commission updated on everything happening.

IV. Bond Project Update- Morgan McIlwain, Freese and Nichols Consultant

a. Book Walk

Freese and Nichols consultant, Morgan McIlwain welcomed the group and shared the order in which everything would be discussed. She introduced Ms. Yaidee Fox, Assistant to the City Manager. Ms. Fox shared an update on the Trivium Corporate Center. Trivium is nestled between Startown Rd and Robinwood Rd and construction is currently in process. The Trivium Board is very excited about all of the companies this corporate center will attract. City manager, Warren Wood added that the newest company at Trivium, ITM Isotopen Technologien München AG (ITM), was hard at work and making progress, regardless of the rain they had experienced recently.

Public Services Director, Kevin Greer provided an update on the Book Walk. He shared that they should be ready for designs by October and by this time next year, the project would be going out to bid. The total budgeted for construction was 6.5 million with 80% of the total coming from grants and 20% coming from the bonds.

b. Riverwalk

Ms. Morgan McIlwain shared that they had received the latest set of plans for the Riverwalk last week. They acknowledge that working with

regulatory agencies takes a little longer, which is why they broke the project down into two bid packages. City staff had also been in in contact with the Lackey family, NCDOT, the Mountain Bike Alliance, and multiple permitting agencies. They are still working on a schedule and timeline for the project, but they are progressing steadily.

Assistant City manager/CFO Rodney Miller shared that the City Had been in contact with TSW Design, which is the designer that Mr. Bob Lackey chose for the project. They received the contract from them on Monday. Mr. Cliff Moone asked if the City would be likely to purchase canoes for public use. Mr. Rodney Miller clarified that this particular location would only be recreational, but the City may find another place to do something like that. Mr. Kevin Greer added that the Riverwalk would be connected with the northbound bridge and may extend up to MDI. This would give MDI employees and customers an opportunity to enjoy the Riverwalk. Mr. Warren Wood added that there is a lot of potential in this area. They were working on a study to find out how to get the most of the location.

c. Union Square (City Walk)

Assistant to the City manager, Yaidee Fox shared that there was a lot of progress happening on Union Square. Mr. Kevin Greer added that they had just poured the concrete pavers. The project was moving rapidly and was on schedule to be completed in September.

Mr. Warren Wood shared that the City of Hickory and the Bond Projects were featured on the front page of the Charlotte Business Journal where

they highlighted the bond projects and the progress being made in Hickory.

d. City Walk Multipurpose Path (“Spine”)

City Manager Warren Wood shared that they were ready to break ground on the City Walk Multipurpose Path. They would schedule the event and sent out an invitation to the Bond members.

V. Call to Action- Yaidee Fox, Assistant to the City Manager

Assistant to the City Manager Yaidee Fox asked the Bond Commission members to share all City updates on social media whenever possible. By doing this, they are helping the City spread information among the citizens. Chair Burk Wyatt requested that an email with the City’s social media handles be sent out to the Bond Commission members for their reference

Ms. Morgan McIlwain shared a video rendering of Union Square. She pointed out the new amenities, a night time view, rocking chairs, lights and the multi-purpose structure. They are also working on getting Wi-Fi through all of Union Square. They are also working with the downtown businesses to get matching furniture throughout Union Square. Local business seemed very excited about this partnership. Mr. Kevin Greer added that they will also be coordinating the benches throughout the Multipurpose Path as well. Mr. Cliff Moone shared that he would like for the group to make sure that they should also include coordinating trash and recycling cans throughout the projects.

Mr. Warren Wood reminded the group that while it has felt like the projects were taking a while to get started, they now had double the original amount of money

for the project and a much longer trail. He added that there would be a lot of construction happening in the next 5 years.

Mr. Kevin Greer shared that they Old Lenoir Rd. now had a street diet but they are not sure if it will have a positive impact on the speeding. They will be having a stakeholder's meeting with the Old Lenoir Road community to identify any concerns.

Mr. Rodney Miller shared that they sold the first 15 million round of bonds, so they are ready for the second round this September. The final round would be in 2021. They are aiming for a score of AA+ and would be traveling to get their new ratings in the fall.

Mr. Warren Wood reminded the group that as the projects move along, there would be new expenses being incurred. All of the amenities would need to be cleaned, which would require more staff and perhaps different equipment. At some point they will have to discuss naming the walkways and trail systems so they can get some recommendations.

Mr. Warren Wood shared that he was very excited about the work Hickory was doing to attract jobs and younger citizens. The City's single-family construction is the best that we have had in years, meaning that the City was seeing more and more young families move into the area. Ms. Clise Johnson Plant added that she is seeing great progress with this. They will learn more about these demographics in the 2020 census.

VI. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:58 pm.



Frank B. Wyatt II, Chair
Hickory Bond Commission



Deisy Zavala Vazquez
Executive Assistant to the City Manager