



MECKLENBURG COUNTY
A Meeting of the Greenway Advisory Council

MINUTES

February 11, 2013

6:00 pm at Newell Presbyterian Church
1500 West Rocky River Road

GREENWAY ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ed Barnhart, Chair
Aubin Guinness
Dick Winters
Bob Carter
Doug Burnett
Roy Alexander
Gordon Clark

GREENWAY ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mark Loflin
Kevin Walsh
Brian Malec

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Gwen Cook, Planner
Karen Weston-Chien, Project Manager, Asset and Facilities Management
Greg Clemmer, Park Superintendent
Chris Hunter, General Manager/North Region

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

1. Proclamations and Awards – none

2. Presentations – Toby Creek Greenway Phase 2 - Community Workshop #1

Ed Barnhart opened the meeting by introducing Park & Rec staff, the Greenway Advisory Council members present and the role they will play in the Toby Creek Greenway - Phase 2 project.

Gwen Cook made a PowerPoint presentation describing the history of the project and the preliminary route. She invited public comments from approximately 42 citizens who attended. The project extends from Town Center Plaza to Blue Rock Road. The following is an enumeration of questions and comments discussed at the Workshop:

- **How will people be affected having a greenway behind them?** Gwen stated the County's experience has been that concerns regarding environmental impacts are not realized. Greenway users are often found birding and deer are prevalent along existing greenways. The design of the greenway alignment takes into account topography, existing vegetation and proximity to neighboring houses to minimize negative impacts. One citizen, who lives off Clark's Creek Greenway who was once against the greenway, stated he now loves having access to the greenway behind his house, had similar concerns but has had no negative experiences from it being there. In fact having the greenway has been wonderful and he uses it daily.
- **How do you keep people from leaving the trail and cutting through private property?** Gwen stated there will be clearly marked neighborhood access trails that will be indicated on greenway wayfinding signage which would discourage cut-through traffic from occurring. This experience is consistent with other existing greenway trails in the system.
- **How do you keep the public from parking on the neighborhood streets?** Dedicated parking areas will be clearly indicated on the greenway maps such as Kirk Farm Fields and other locations along Clark's and Mallard Creek Greenways. Gwen will investigate getting permission from appropriate retail centers to allow public parking for the greenway for users that do not live in the neighborhood.
- **Why is the trail located on the side of Toby Creek closest to Tryon Street instead of the other side?** Gwen stated the location of the trail alignment is dictated by property owned by Mecklenburg County.
- **How do you handle crime and unsavory characters using the greenway?** Chris stated the greenway signage clearly indicates "No Loitering" on the greenways between dusk and dawn. The greenways are open 24/7 and are not lit. The typical greenway users at night are cyclists with headlights commuting to/from work or early morning joggers and runners. Greenways are as safe or safer than the neighborhoods they serve based on a 2004 UNCC crime study of greenways. Chris stated from his experience managing the greenways in the North Park Region, he has not had any problems with crime on the greenways. Greg stated Park Rangers and CMPD patrol the greenways and citizens are encouraged to report any suspicious activities by calling 311.

At the close of the Workshop, there were several positive comments regarding the upcoming greenway project. One citizen mentioned he lived on a greenway in California and his property

values increased \$10,000. Another citizen stated they are excited to see the Toby Creek Greenway project becoming a reality. She can access a greenway from her home without having to drive to another greenway. With access to UNCC, retail centers and important community amenities, the greenway cannot be built soon enough.

When the Crabtree neighborhood was designed they knew the greenway was going to be an integral component of that development as part of the subdivision/rezoning review process. Ed stated to contact the Park and Recreation Commission and the Board of County Commissioners if there is very positive support for Mecklenburg County Greenway System.

CONSENT ITEMS

None

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS AND REQUESTS

3. None

STAFF REPORTS

4. None

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, March 11, 2013 at 6:00 PM – Mahlon Adams Pavilion at Freedom Park – 2435 Cumberland Avenue

Monday, April 8, 2013 at 6:00 PM – Toby Creek Greenway – Phase 2 - Community Workshop – Newell Presbyterian Church – 1500 Rocky River Road West.

Monday, May 13, 2013 – No Meeting, Greenway Tour in celebration of Bike Week (Please hold May 13, 2013 as a possible meeting date for Little Sugar Creek Greenway in lieu of a tour)

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at approximately 8:00 pm.