



MECKLENBURG COUNTY

A Meeting of the Focus Group for the proposed 5K Natural Surface Trails

MINUTES

July 21, 2011

McAlpine Creek Park and Greenway
8711 Monroe Road

CITIZENS

Ben Hovis
Kurt Niedenzu
Mike Weiss
Sara Downing
Lamont Hayes
Joe Vignolini
Dick Winters

STAFF PRESENT

Patricia Poteat – General Manager South Park Region
Gwen Cook – Capital Planning
Jay Higginbotham – Project Manager
Preston Buckman - Recreation Coordinator and Supervisor (Athletics)
Sarah Bergen – Capital Planning Intern

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:33PM.

EVENTS OF THE MEETING

Gwen Cook welcomed all present and began with a recap from the February 7, 2011 public meeting. Gwen discussed the future sewer construction and how it will affect the proposed 5K trail and greenway. The County would like the new natural surface trail opposite Boyce Park to be completed (including replacing four weirs with bridges) before the sewer construction begins if funding is available. Charlotte Mecklenburg Utilities has delayed construction to, most likely, 2013 due to funding. As part of their easement agreement to the County, they are committing to avoiding the 5K cross country course from August 1- December 15 each year of construction.

The County is planning on paving McAlpine Creek Greenway. The reason for the paving would be to allow the greenway to be accessible to all greenway users, in addition to reducing the environmental impact from the existing granular surface. There are no plans to pave James

Boyce trails.

The proposed natural surface trail would be a complementary system of new natural trails to satisfy walkers and non-competitive runners, approximately 3 miles in length. A map of the overall McAlpine Creek Greenway system and a map of the proposed natural surface trails were handed out before the group walked portions of the Greenway from Sardis Road until McAlpine Creek Greenway becomes Campbell Creek Greenway. After the group finished walking the portion of the greenway, they regrouped to discuss any comments or suggestions about this proposed natural surface trail and the 5K cross country course.

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS

1. Trails need to be a minimum of 10' wide
2. The trails need to be careful of “pinching” in certain areas to allow for runners ease of access during the run
3. New markers need to be displayed for the 5K trail (preferably 200M markers)
4. Place the paved greenway as close to the creek as possible
5. Remove dirt pile near start line and replace it with a multipurpose field
6. The start area for the 5K should be granular

ADJOURNMENT

Gwen Cook thanked everyone for being willing to spend the time on the greenway and provide valuable input on such a warm day. Any further comments can be submitted directly to her at Gwen.Cook@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov or 704.432.1570.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45 PM.