MINUTES
City Council Parks, Trails, & Recreation Committee

Wednesday, November 20, 2024 - 3:30 PM
City Council Chambers

Members Present:	Aaron Baker, Chair, Council Member Lauren Wise, Vice Chair, Council Member Howie Granat, Citizen Member Wyn Birkenthal, Citizen Member JD Powers, Citizen Member Reba Osborne, Citizen Member Nancy DePippo, Citizen Member
Absent:	Mayor Maureen Copelof, Ex-Officio
Staff Present:	Wilson Hooper, City Manager David Todd, Assistant City Manager Wesley Shook, Public Works Director Paul Ray, Planning Director Becky McCann, Communications Coordinator Aaron Bland Assistant Planning Director Stephanie Holland, Planner Selena Coffey, Assistant to the City Manager
Guests:	Gary Lowden

A. Welcome & Call to Order

Committee Chair Aaron Baker welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:31 pm.

B. Certification of Quorum

Quorum was certified by Assistant to the City Manager Selena Coffey.

C. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Granat moved, seconded by Ms. Osborne, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Minutes - September 18, 2024 Meeting

Mr. Wise moved, seconded by Mr. Granat to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2024 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Bracken Preserve Update

Mr. Hooper started the conversation updating the Committee about negotiation regarding access to properties for the trails in Bracken Reserve. Mr. Granat then provided a more in-depth update on the Bracken Preserve regarding clean up after storm Helene by Pisgah Sorba Team. Mr. Gary Lowden was then asked to provide an update on volunteer hours for trail maintenance. Mr. Lowden noted that there were 15 volunteers and 40 hours of work pre-Helene and approximately 20 volunteers post-Helene. He noted that they worked on clearing paths and drains.

Mr. Granat then began updating the progress in achieving tasks of the general project plan for the Bracken Preserve. He noted that the Pisgah Sorba team and Conserving Carolina have both been very helpful in maintaining and planning improvements for the Bracken Preserve. Mr. Granat did note that he had spoken with Bill Christy from Waterford Place and Mr. Christy gave an emphatic "no" that the City could not have emergency access through Waterford Place due to mountain bikes. Mr. Christy stated that he was ok with hikers coming through this area, but not mountain bikes. The Committee discussed this issue further, with no resolution. Mr. Granat and Mr. Hooper discussed going back to Mr. Christy and further discussing this topic.

The Committee then discussed the TDA funding and Mr. Wilson suggested that the Committee should look at spending these funds on the near-future projects.

F. Shade Structures at the Skate Park

Mr. Baker asked Mr. Ray to update the Committee on the request from a young City resident who had asked if the City could install a shade structure at the park. Mr. Ray asked that Planner Holland provide an overview of the options, which were all under $10,000. Ms. Holland distributed copies of the various options. The options, distributed via a handout to the Committee, included the following:

1. Carolina Shade Sails, which is a pre-engineered kit of powder-coated steel, high quality fabric, and a single cantilever design for $7,141 excluding installation.
2. Atlantic Coast Shade, which is a pre-engineered kit of powder-coated steel, high quality fabric, and two post cantilever design for $8,950 installed.
3. Shade Sails with pre-engineered sails and hardware kits of high-quality fabric, for $1,900. There could be a need to purchase 4 of these to cover the 4 areas within the park. With this option, the City would need to pay for the structure posts because they are not included in the estimate.
4. Shade Sails, which offers fabric sails and hardware a la carte without engineered drawings. This option is only for the purchase of the sails and hardware kit.

Ms. Holland shared options regarding using wooden posts versus powder-coated poles or utility poles.

After Ms. Holland's presentation of options, the Committee discussed the various options, including the pros and cons for each. Mr. Granat also brought up the possibility of using cantilevered carports as shade structures instead of the purchase of shade sails. They also mentioned a pergola to be installed for the requested shade structures.

Mr. Baker noted that the budget for this project should not exceed $10,000. The Committee then asked Mr. Shook and Mr. Todd their opinions about whether some of the work could be done in-house. Both provided pros and cons to in-house installation and gave their professional opinions regarding the longevity of each of the options.

Upon completion of the Committee discussion, Mr. Baker asked that staff further review the options and bring back their recommendations on providing shade structures for the park.

G. Public Comment – None.

Mr. Baker asked if any of the Committee had additional questions or items they wished to discuss. He then noted that he had a couple of items to discuss.

Mr. Baker noted that he felt that the City should work towards developing a plan for the skate park/soccer park, similar to a master plan. Mr. Todd suggested that the Committee consider two options in this regard: 1) a master (design) plan, or 2) a 10-year repair and maintenance plan for all the City's recreation amenities. Mr. Hooper agreed to bring back options in this regard in the upcoming budget process.

H. Set Date for Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Parks, Trails & Recreation Committee was scheduled for Wednesday, December 18, 2024 at 3:30pm.

I. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:48pm with a motion by Ms. DePippo and second by Ms. Osborne and all in favor.

Minutes Approved: 12/18/2024

X _____
Aaron Baker
Chair, Council Member

X _____
Selena Coffey
Assistant to the City Manager