From: Jack Igelman
To: Rachael Sawyer
Subject: Friends of Hominy Creek Greenway Open Space proposal
Date: Friday, August 2, 2024 10:29:30 AM
Attachments: CoA LOS for Bunc Co Grant.pdf
WLE Letter of Support - Hominy Phase 3.pdf

Dear Rachael -

If possible, I would like to share with the evaluation committee the following two letters regarding our application for open space bonds funds to restore the trail and ecology of the Hominy Creek Greenway.

I'm grateful for the transparency of the evaluation process and appreciate the commitment of the passive recreation lands subcommittee. I watched the discussion regarding our proposal during the July 23 meeting. I wanted to address Matt Fusco's concern that we have yet to raise design funds. That's a valid concern, of course, so I wanted to share our current fundraising capacity prior to the committee's project decisions later this month.

1. The FOHCG's volunteer board has been successful raising funds in the past. Over an 8 month period in 2023, our board raised over $50,000 to support our Sand Hill trailhead restoration efforts through grants and private donations.
2. To aid in our fundraising capacity, Connect Buncombe awarded the FOHCG a $3,000 mini grant in July to be used for professional fundraising consultation to help leverage our focus on raising design funds.
3. The administrator of the Pigeon River Fund has given us the thumbs up to apply for $35,000 to be used for the design of our proposed project. In addition, the TDA has screened us favorably in order to apply for LIFT funds. We have also identified additional grant sources that we believe would be a good match in order to raise design and administrative expenses.
4. Finally, I have attached two letters. One from Lucy Crown of the City of Asheville's transportation department. The City has committed resources, including surveying the project area to support the design work. The second letter from Jake McLean of Wildlands Engineering has committed to beginning the project design in January that would include in-kind donations of work.

I also support Rachael Sawyer's suggestion of a contingency plan in order to award the funds within a reasonable deadline. That seems like a thoughtful approach that allows us the opportunity to deliver this public project while being thoughtful stewards of public funds.

Thank you all for your time and your consideration.

Sincerely,
Jack Igelman
Trustee, Friends of Hominy Creek Greenway

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Jack Igelman
828-216-0888

THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

:

City of Asheville
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
P.O. Box 7148
Asheville, NC 28802
Phone: (828) 259-5805
www.ashevillenc.gov

The Friends of Hominy Creek Greenway
c/o Mr. Jack Igleman
80 Shelburne Rd.
Asheville, NC 28806

August 1, 2024

Dear Jack,

I am writing to express my support for the grant proposal the Friends of Hominy Creek Greenway are submitting to Buncombe County for the last phase of the trail restoration project. This 0.4-mile stretch of the greenway will be the final section of the Hominy Creek Greenway your organization has confidently achieved in the past years.

As a staff liaison for the Friends Of the Hominy Creek Greenway for nearly a decade, I have had the privilege of witnessing the exceptional collaboration and grassroots organization in your group. It has been a pleasure working with you on the first phases of the trail restoration of this greenway. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed and are greatly appreciated. I am confident this phase will be executed as the rest were: professionally engineered with increased protection of the the environmentally sensitive areas of Hominy and Buttermilk Creeks.

The City will provide survey work for the project when you are ready to proceed. I also have commitments from the Parks Department to provide the labor needed to clear trees and shrubbery in the project area when you are prepared to proceed.

I sincerely hope the Friends of the Hominy Creek Greenway receive the funds to conduct the final phase of the Homny Creek Greenway trail restoration. Once this final phase is complete, the final product will be a more accessible and resilient natural surface trail that we all know and love as the Hominy Creek Greenway.

I would be happy to respond if the county needs further information about this project from me as they make their final decisions on awardees.

Sincerely,

Lucy Crown

Lucy Crown

WILDLANDS
ENGINEERING

July 27, 2024

RE: Letter of Support for
Asheville GreenWorks and Friends of Hominy Creek
Open Spaces Bond Fund Request for
Hominy Creek Improvements – Phase 3

Dear Open Spaces Bond Reviewer:

The Friends of Hominy Creek (FOHCG) is requesting funding from Buncombe County for its third major project to improve stormwater runoff, riparian management and trail safety and access along Hominy Creek and the Hominy Creek Greenway. These grassroots-led efforts have been extremely successful and will continue to leave a legacy for Buncombe County for decades to come. I offer my sincere support for this project and efforts to improve these important environmental and community resources and believe it would make an excellent investment of Open Space Bond funds. Furthermore, I am committed in heart, mind and pocketbook to ensuring that the design, permitting and construction oversight tasks are completed in a timely and effective manner whether additional grant funding can be obtained for these tasks or not.

The middle section of greenway proposed for Phase 3 will create a connection from the Sand Hill Road entrance to the Shelburne Road entrance along the full length of the Hominy Creek Greenway. Prior phases of work have been successful at managing stormwater runoff, erosion and flooding; improving water quality and habitat; and enhancing the quality and accessibility of the trail. An integral part of those phases and the proposed 3rd phase is improving the ecological value of riparian buffer assets along the trail through the treatment of non-native invasive species and planting and of native woody and herbaceous plantings.

Wildlands Engineering, and I personally, have been and will continue to be integral supporters of this project. We have completed both phases of the project with less than $3,000 in consulting fees for survey, design and permitting assistance, donating over $20,000 in in-kind services and additional cash donations along the way. While we plan to pursue and successfully obtain design funding for this phase in a timely manner, the two existing phases have been completed almost solely with in-kind contributions from the City of Asheville, Wildlands Engineering, and the diligent efforts of the Friends of Hominy Creek and support of GreenWorks. Wildlands and I are committed to implementing this project regardless of whether grant funding can be obtained for design. **Wildlands is committing to provide $5,000 of in-kind design services at the onset of the project and I am personally committing to provide an additional 30 hours of my own personal time so that planning, assessment and preliminary design work may commence in a timely fashion in early 2025.** We are also prepare to make any additional contributions, as necessary, to ensure that the project is built in a timely manner and to the high standard of design and construction implementation that has been set through existing work.

Sincerely,

Jake McLean, PE, CFM
Senior Water Resources Engineer