

Town of Woodfin
Parks and Greenways Advisory Committee
March 31, 2021
3:00 p.m.
via ZOOM

1. Introductions – Town Administrator Eric Hardy asked for each member to introduce themselves. The members present participated in introductions and included Walt Brewer, Chris Bubenik, Lucy Crown, Coral Darby, Gerald Green, and Bryan Messing. Members pending appointment who were present also participated including Anne Kaltreider, Uta Brandstatter, and Kennedy Young. David Tuch representing Equinox, Rose Keyes representing RiverLink and Linda Giltz who is handling grant administration also introduced themselves. Karen Cragolin, founder of RiverLink, introduced herself and provided background information on previous river initiatives.
2. Woodfin Greenway and Blueway Project Overview – Town Administrator Eric Hardy stated the Woodfin Greenway & Blueway (WGB) project partners include the Town of Woodfin, RiverLink, and Buncombe County. He explained the town is taking the lead for parks development including Riverside Park, Silverline Park and the Whitewater Wave. He discussed Riverlink aiding with communications and fundraising for the WGB project and shared appreciation from the town. Mr. Hardy stated Buncombe County was primarily the lead for greenways development.

Mr. Hardy discussed the various elements of the WGB. He stated construction has begun at Silver-Line Park with just a few bumps in the road including permitting and vertical construction delays, with the train platform planned to be the first vertical structure to be built. Mr. Hardy stated the driveways and parking areas had all been graded. Mr. Hardy said future decisions about the building at Silver-Line Park continues to be a work in progress. Ms. Karen Cragolin suggested the building include historical information about the Town and reminisced on conversations with the former Town Manager Jason Young. Mr. David Tuch explained the pirate ship was part of the project because of the influence of Mr. Young.

Mr. Hardy shared the budget for Silver-Line Park is currently \$2.9 million. A donation from the Silver family, who previously owner Silver-Line Plastics, was a catalyst for the park's construction. He explained the timeline would include Phase I of the park opening in mid-summer and Phase II opening by the end of the year. Mr. Hardy stated Phase I includes the playground with the sunken pirate ship, Craggy Mountain railroad boarding platform and the wetlands while Phase II will include the picnic shelters, boat ramp, and riverbank restoration. Mr. Walt Brewer asked about issues with the building being located in the floodplain and Mr. Hardy explained staff was working on identifying possibilities for floodproofing the existing building, or other options to meet requirements.

3. Riverside Park Expansion and Whitewater Wave Design Process- Mr. Hardy explained the budget for Riverside Park improvements is \$3.4 million, and while the design is fully funded, there is a \$1,050,060 funding gap for construction. Mr. Hardy stated there were some opportunities for grants and Ms. Linda Giltz added as we move further into the year, additional opportunities will be available. Mr. Hardy also discussed fundraising possibilities. Mr. David Tuch, Equinox, provided an overview of the features of the park and explained Phase I includes the parking area, entrance plaza and restroom facilities, referred to as the Grand Pavilion. He explained the elevation of the park would be lowered for better access to the river and some grading for the

boat ramp would also take place. Mr. Gerald Green stated his preference was not to create parking areas in greenspace. Mr. Tuch responded that low impact development was included in the overall plan. Mr. Brewer asked about the timeline for relocation of the bridge and Mr. Tuch responded the timeline keeps moving, but is likely at least five years out. NCDOT is aware of the parks project and has committed to minimizing the impact

Mr. Hardy discussed the plans for the Whitewater Wave. He stated the budget was \$2.14 million with a current funding gap of \$1,157,000. He mentioned the design and construction would coincide with that of Riverside Park. Mr. Hardy discussed fundraising opportunities and discussions with grantors. Mr. Hardy continued with a discussion about the greenways and explained Buncombe County was the lead through design and construction. He explained the project is combination of three separate segments and the engineering and design contract are under final review. Mr. Hardy discussed the budget and explained NCDOT and Buncombe County are the primary funding partners for a \$10.3 million dollar budget with a funding gap of \$1,443,261 and fundraising and grant opportunities were being discussed. He stated the estimated timeline for construction was twelve months. Mr. Tuch provided an overview of plans for Riverside Park and the Wave with information about the project team and design process. He stated the public input and stakeholder process would include development of a video with an overview of the project and design, a presentation to the committee on the initial project design and two presentations to the board of commissioners. The committee had general conversation about how to achieve public input, target audiences and information venues.

Ms. Giltz asked for the committee to approve a resolution of support for the project. Gerald Green made a motion to approve a resolution of support and Lucy Crown seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Committee Business – Mr. Hardy briefly discussed open meetings law and procedural requirements of the committee. He explained a doodle poll would be provided to each member with potential dates for the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00.