



GREENWAYS COMMISSION of BOWLING GREEN and WARREN COUNTY MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES

August 14, 2017

ATTENDANCE

Commission Members

Jennifer Tougas, Senad Veletanlic, Felicia C. McLean, Jason Marshall, Nellie Franz, Phil Lienesch, Chip Winger, Johnny Johnson, Tom Lawrence, Jeff Stein

Not in Attendance

Linda Dickerson, Tim Robinson

Ex-Officios

Deneatra Henderson
Greg Meredith

Staff

Miranda Clements, Greenways Coordinator
Karissa Lemon, MPO Coordinator
Ben Peterson, P/Z Executive Director

I. CALL TO ORDER / DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

With the arrival of enough members for a quorum, Chair Jennifer Tougas called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

A quorum was determined with eight (8) Commission members in attendance. Jeff Stein and Nellie Franz arrived after role call making attendance ten (10) members.

II. APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES, July 10, 2017

Chair Tougas asked the Commission members for comments or edits on the minutes of the July 10, 2017 Commission meeting. With no corrections, she asked for a motion.

ACTION: A motion to approve the July 10, 2017 Minutes of the Greenways Commission Meeting was made by Jason Marshall and seconded by Phil Lienesch. With no further discussion, Chair Tougas asked for a roll call vote. Johnny Johnson and Tom Lawrence abstained. The remainder of the members approved. The Summary Minutes were APPROVED.

III. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Clements announced that this is her last Greenways meeting since she will be at the America Walks Summit in September and the Greenways Coordinator position is ending on September 29, 2017.

Ms. Clements announced that the 2018 TAP grant cycle has been announced with applications due on September 30, 2017. She reported that she talked to Nick Cook, City of Bowling Green Grants Administrator, who said that he will be organizing a meeting next week to discuss possible applications.

Greg Meredith, City of Bowling Green Public Works Director, discussed the idea of submitting an application for the walkway/greenway under the Old Louisville Road Bridge with Nick Cook. He said that the City has already paid for design for the work and that the TAP grant may be a way to fund construction of the project. He said that he feels that it would be a good project since it would link two parks.

Ms. Tougas said another idea would be to choose a project from the ranked list in the recently completed MPO Multimodal Implementation Plan.

IV. PROJECT REPORTS/UPDATES

Ms. Clements stated that the Recreational Trails Grant application submitted for a greenway trail in Durbin Estates is still pending. She said the project was one of the connectivity links recommended in the West End Walk & Ride Study. She shared a letter of support from State Representative Jim DeCasere that Rodney Goodman, Director of Habitat for Humanity, requested.

Ms. Clements provided an update on the West End TAP grant project, stating that the City is waiting for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet to select a consultant for preliminary design and engineering from the state approved list of contractors.

Ben Peterson (who was talking to Mac Yowell at a meeting recently) stated that they are planning to submit the revised design for the Middle School TAP grant project to the State this week (linking the trail to the new elementary school). Deneatra Henderson added that Mr. Yowell submitted a revised project description to her office.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Tougas asked Ben Peterson what his plans were for Greenways moving forward as far as staffing since Ms. Clements is leaving. Mr. Peterson said that Karissa Lemon will take the lead as far as the Planning Commission staffing. He said he doesn't see any immediate changes as far as staffing or operations with the Greenways Commission, but he does anticipate discussion regarding the board's role with the City, County and Planning Commission. He feels that it is time to evaluate the role of the board and the interactions between the agencies. He views the board as an advisory board and he would like to see the City and County take a more active role in greenways, especially in maintenance. Mr. Peterson views the greenways as being part of the parks system and that they should be maintained just like any other asset of the City. The Planning Commission, nor the Greenways Board, have public works staff for maintenance so he sees the board playing an advocacy/liaison role to make sure maintenance is addressed. He said he sees the board playing a role in the grants and advocacy. Staff wise he sees spreading the duties among all the Planning staff, rather than only one person. He sees planning staff including a multimodal aspect to all developments that pass through the office. As far as funding, he said that 85% of the duties are covered by the MPO and 15% was not so the Planning Commission was absorbing the other 15% without any additional funding. He said with record high development in the community and record low number of planning employees, it is time to address those issues. He said that the 15% needs to be reviewed, as far as programs like the Adopt a Trail and that he would like to see how the entire office could become involved in public advocacy events. He said that the Planning Commission will support greenways and continue the momentum forward.

Ms. Tougas reflected on the strengthening presence of the bike/ped voice in the community in the last several years and that this 'voice' may not be represented outside Greenways meetings but that it sounds like from what Mr. Peterson said, the approach is to incorporate that voice in the overall work of the Planning Commission. There was further discussion of elevating greenways up in the view of the City and the importance of identifying funding. Ms. Tougas also mentioned that Ms. Clements has been very active with the public education aspect of greenways and that the board, being a volunteer board is not able to participate in those activities as much as staff. Mr. Peterson said that further discussion will need to be had to determine how to work with public awareness. He said maybe other groups could become more involved, such as the league of bicyclists. On that note, Ms. Clements said that Parker Bennett Community Center under the direction of Omar Rogers, has 'adopted' the Bike Rodeo kit and will be conducting more skills events in the West End.

Jeff Stein asked if adding a representative to the City of Bowling Green Parks Commission and vice versa should help with maintenance and collaboration. Mr. Peterson stressed that he views the Greenways Commission as an advisory board.

There was further discussion about the greenways and maintenance responsibilities between the City Public Works and Parks and Recreation. Greg Meredith mentioned that ongoing maintenance of the greenways has not been arranged for and that he requested that maintenance costs be included in the multimodal plan so that the City Commission will understand the ongoing costs and budget for them. He said as far as trash, outside of the parks which are maintained, there is not enough staff to keep things picked up. Ms. Clements stated that public works responds to complaints and that if an issue is reported, they usually address it promptly. Mr. Meredith said that it is resource and priority based and that the City Commission has not made greenways a priority yet. Ms. Tougas summed up that the City, County and Greenways need to work together to request funding to maintain the greenways adequately and that the multi-million dollar investment in the community needs to be maintained. Mr. Peterson also suggested that the Adopt-A-Trails program should only apply to trails outside the parks since Parks and Recreation are responsible for park maintenance.

Ex-Officio/MPO/CCPC Updates

Karissa Lemon updated the board on MPO work, including the Plano Road study, stating that there will be a public meeting on August 22 at Plano Elementary School focused on land use rather than transportation. She said the transportation study being conducted by Neal Sheaffer is proceeding and that a public meeting will be held late September at which recommendations will be presented. She added that development is strong in that area so a plan is very much needed.

Greg Meredith reported that a consultant has been hired to assist with the external services, such as design and construction, of the FY18 sidewalk program in order to improve timeliness of the projects. The priorities this year for sidewalk construction include a portion of Magnolia Street and Lee Street. A "rectangular rapid flashing beacon" will be installed at the crossing between the apartment complex and the curbside ministries on Lee Street. Tom Lawrence added that there is a great need for sidewalks in that area. Mr. Meredith reported that the Smallhouse Road project with the multiuse path is proceeding and should be completed in a month or so. They have a bid out for street work including ramps for sidewalks and sidewalks around the medical center will be repaired.

Ms. Henderson reported that she has been working with Ms. Lemon to allow for approval of federal funding to allow design to proceed for the section of US31W Bypass between the roundabout and Campbell Lane, which has been the number one project in Warren County for quite some time. She said that sidewalks and a bicycle lane will be included. She said that the final scores and priorities in the SHIFT process have been presented to the state for Warren County and that we may have to wait until the full budget session next spring to know how much funding is available. She expects that we will not have any state funding available, and that all projects will be dependent on federal funding. She said the portion of the Bypass between Louisville Road and Fairview, near the hospital, is a priority that KYTC has been pushing for design which will hopefully be funded before next July. Ben Peterson added that the transportation study for Fairview between the Bypass and Hayes Lane should be starting soon.

VI. ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.