



GREENWAYS COMMISSION of BOWLING GREEN and WARREN COUNTY MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES

July 10, 2017

ATTENDANCE

Commission Members

Jennifer Tougas, Felicia C. McLean, Jason Marshall, Nellie Franz, Senad Veletanlic, Linda Dickerson, Phil Lienesch, Jeff Stein

Not in Attendance

Tim Robinson, Chip Winger, Johnny Johnson, Tom Lawrence

Ex-Officios

Deneatra Henderson

Staff

Miranda Clements, Greenways Coordinator

Guests

Angie Alexieff, Operation Pride Executive Director
Eileen Arnold

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 seven (7) Commission members in attendance. Jeff Stein arrived after roll call making attendance eight (8) members.

II. APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES, June 12, 2017

Chair Tougas asked the Commission members for comments or edits on the minutes of the June 12, 2017 Commission meeting. With no corrections, she asked for a motion.

ACTION: A motion to approve the June 12, 2017 Minutes of the Greenways Commission Meeting was made by Nellie Franz and seconded by Jason Marshall. With no further discussion, Chair Tougas asked for a roll call vote. Senad Veletanlic and Phil Lienesch abstained. The remainder of the members approved. The Summary Minutes were APPROVED.

III. REPORTS/PROJECT UPDATES

NEW BUSINESS

- Upcoming Staff Changes

Chair Tougas announced that the Greenways Coordinator position is ending on September 29, 2017. Miranda Clements reported that Executive Director Ben Peterson and Financial Officer, Megan Mooney, notified her that the Planning Commission Personnel Committee voted to eliminate the Greenways Coordinator position

due to budget issues effective September 29. She reported that the Planning Commission is in need of a Code Enforcement/Zoning Compliance position and it was decided that Greenways is not part of the core services of the Planning Commission. Due to this, Ms. Clements will be leaving her position on that date. Board members thanked Ms. Clements for her service acknowledging progress on adoption of the Greenways Master Plan, award of several grants for greenways projects and public education, and participation in the Multimodal Plan.

- Adopt-A-Trail

Eileen Arnold attended the meeting to report and discuss with the Greenways Commission the ongoing problem of trash on the greenway that runs adjacent to the Kroger shopping center on US31W. Ms. Clements showed photos of the trash along the greenway, the majority of which consists of the plastic Kroger bags and sale newspapers that blow across the parking lot to the fence. She showed maps of the subject property with ownership noted. She said that two organizations have adopted the trails and do periodically clean this area up under the Adopt-A-Trail program. The Bowling Green Road Runners often extend their clean up to include this area and are planning a clean up this coming Saturday. In summary, Ms. Clements said that many volunteers, including Ms. Arnold and her friends, have spent many hours trying to keep this greenway clean.

Eileen Arnold added that as a resident of Mt. Ayr, she often likes to walk along the greenway from Kereiakes Park to the riverfront. She said that the greenway behind Kroger is also very trashed. In response, she gathered some friends and collected about five bags of trash but less than four days later, it was trashed again. She said that as a citizen it is very demoralizing. She feels that most of the trash comes from the Kroger parking lot. She said when she spoke to Kroger about it, they said that the trash is not on their property. Since the majority of trash is from Kroger, Ms. Arnold is wondering what the rules are concerning the source of trash or if a good neighbor/business program could be encouraged. She said that it is very discouraging to volunteers if they clean up a trail and then a few days later it is trashed again. She said that she did use the Literati App, photographing each piece of trash.

Jeff Stein mentioned that once a greenway is built, the maintenance, including trash pick up, is done by the City Public Works and Parks & Recreation. There was some discussion about the city focusing mostly on brush and mowing work, rather than trash pick up. It was noted that there is a need for more trash cans around Bowling Green. Jeff Stein mentioned that trash is picked up regularly by staff at city parks such as the Lovers Lane Soccer Complex and that the City needs more manpower, even if it means raising taxes, to keep the greenways free of trash also rather than relying on volunteers. Fence – parking lot is issue

JT Corporate sense of community

DH Silk fence on their side to let it collect on Kroger side, ask Kroger to go digital instead of having them in the carts; wipes; empty carts;

Angie Alexieff then showed a Ted Talk titled “This App Makes it Fun to Pick up Litter”. Ms. Alexieff said that Operation Pride is embarking on a public awareness campaign which will include developing a structure for implementing a “Literati” program. She said that the program provides an opportunity to track the trash through photographic documentation. There was much further discussion and suggestions, such as using social media to document trash and specific locations of trash, creating a litter public awareness campaign through PSAs & publicizing through the city, county and state Adopt A Highway program, raising taxes, reprioritizing tax revenue, drug paraphernalia that ends up on the trails, installing a temporary silt fence along the edge of the Kroger parking lot, etc.

- West End Tap Grant

Ms. Clements reported that the City is in the beginning stages of implementing the \$500,000 TAP grant to do work to enhance pedestrian safety and accessibility at intersections and connect the greenways on the riverfront to the greenway at the Boatlanding/Hobson Grove through the West End. She said that the grant request was for \$900,000 and that the remaining \$400,000 will likely be awarded if the first phase is completed successfully and expediently. Currently, the City is working with the State on procurement procedures and that a consultant for design and preliminary engineering will be selected, likely from the State’s approved list.

Ms. Clements reviewed the project showing maps and photographs.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Ms. Clements reported that the MPO Multimodal Implementation Plan, which includes recommendation and planning for greenways, will be reviewed and approved by the MPO TAC at their meeting on July 24.
- **SWKY MBA Low Hollow Trail Fest**
Ms. Clements reported that Chip Winger was unable to attend the Greenways meeting tonight but wanted her to report that the Low Hollow Trail Fest was a great success. She showed some photos taken by Johnny Johnson. The Fest is located at the Weldon Peete greenway and grows every year.

Phil Leinesch mentioned that the Weldon Peete park area has become a safe place to enjoy. Just a few years ago it was considered to be dangerous and not comfortable to visit.

Ms. Clements reported that BGMU has adopted the greenway on the riverfront closest to their building and that she has not had any more complaints of problems on the riverfront near Hobson Grove.

She also contacted all Adopt-a-Trail organizations to ask if they are willing to continue and will prepare a status report before leaving.

VI. ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.