



Buncombe County Open Space Bond: Passive Recreation Lands Subcommittee

Minutes 20 August 2024

Subcommittee Members in Attendance: Kevin Conrecode, Lena Richards, Bob Gale, Matt Fusco, David Burdette, Bob Turner

Staff in Attendance: Allison Dains, Angelica Tyler, Angelyn Johnson, Jennifer Harrison, Nnweyna Smith, Rachael Sawyer, Robert Brown, Sara Joss, Thomas Gull

Buncombe County Administration: The August 20, 2024, meeting of the Buncombe County Passive Recreation Lands Subcommittee was called to order at approximately 12:01 pm. Six subcommittee members were in attendance.

Some members of the public were provided the direct zoom link for today's meeting due to the technical problems that have occurred during the last two meetings. Angelica Tyler from the Communications and Public Engagement Department reminded members of the public to remain on mute and not participate with the meeting chat until the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The Subcommittee voted to approve the agenda for the August 20 meeting and the minutes from the August 13, 2024.

Four items were added to the meeting documents. These documents were emailed to subcommittee members today and also published online. The items were:

- Funding Recommendations
- Funding Scenarios
- Follow-up Info Woodmen Trailhead
- Public Comment Weaverville Watershed

Review of Map of Proposed Projects

Rachael Sawyer briefly reviewed the map of the proposed projects.

Discussion of Projects for Funding Consideration

Rachael Sawyer reviewed the funding recommendations submitted by subcommittee members. The number of subcommittee members who recommended to fund the project fully, partially fund the project or not fund the project and all subcommittee comments were included in the review. Bob Gale requested to change his vote on the Town of Black Mountain Ridgecrest



Connector project from yes - fund partially to yes - fully fund the project. The subcommittee discussed if the goal is to award all available funds and what the subcommittee's role will be going forward.

The subcommittee began working on their funding scenario. They decided to remove the known disallowed costs (\$75,000 admin costs for the Camp Grier project). Initially, there were four projects that the subcommittee felt they need more information before the funding recommendations can be made for those projects. Those included: Balsam Gardens, Friends and Neighbors of Swannanoa, Town of Weaverville and Town of Woodfin. Bob Gale made a motion to approve full funding for the other 7 projects, except for the disallowed \$75,000 administrative fees for Camp Grier. David Burdette seconded the motion. The committee unanimously voted to approve the motion.

1. Asheville Greenworks – Hominy Creek Greenway Trail Improvement and Ecological Restoration: \$312,834
2. Camp Grier (with the disallowed \$75,000 administrative fees deducted and having a contingency on aligning to state funding): \$675,000
3. Haw Creek Community Assoc – Haw Creek Park Greenway: \$102,182
4. RiverLink – Gateway Park \$200,000
5. Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy – Deaverview Mountain \$1,000,000
6. Town of Black Mountain – Ridgecrest Connector: \$705,000
7. Warren Wilson College – Improving Public Access and Passive Rec Use of Warren Wilson College Lands: \$141,580

After discussion, the subcommittee decided:

- Friends and Neighbors of Swannanoa project, they would consider approving their revised option 2, which is \$544,500 and have it contingent upon appraised value.
- Balsam Gardens, the subcommittee would be comfortable considering an award up to \$990,000 (based on \$30,000 per acre) and have it contingent upon appraised value. Staff will get clarification for the appraisal process.

The subcommittee feel they still need additional information and more discussion for Town of Weaverville and Town of Woodfin before they can approve the recommendation for those projects. The subcommittee would like to know if they required one project to include an engineer design, would they have to require it for all applicable projects.

The subcommittee will continue the discussion and vote on funding recommendations during the September meeting. The current plan is for Board of Commissioners to be briefed on subcommittee recommendations on October 1, and then they will vote on funding awards during their October 15 meeting.

Public Comment

Mark Hunt, Emily Boyd, Jill Raymond and Tony Motola participated in Public Comment.

Next Regular Meeting Date: September 17, 2024, at 12 PM

Meeting Adjourned: 1:37 pm