

Oct. 23, 2022  
6:00pm  
Lowell City Hall

Attendees: Heather Seay, Jim Kiser, Michelle Sebastian, Jessica Holbrook, Joe Gates, Phil Bonham, Anne Massey, and Cristy Cummings.

Heather called the meeting to order and determination of quorum occurred at 6:00pm. A motion was made to approve the minutes from the September 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. Minutes were approved.

### **Unfinished Business**

Ashton Lamb, a Community Coordinator for the Carolina Thread Trail, shared some historic background information of the Thread Trail and an update on the future plans for the sections of trail that will be impacting Lowell. In all, the Matthew Belk South Fork River Corridor encompasses approximately 1600 miles of trail. The regions between Hickory and Rockhill include some of the most active sections of support and development. The 20-mile section from Spencer Mountain to the South Carolina border was Ashton's main focus during our meeting. This section of trail currently has outdoor art at 3-4 locations, significant overlooks, provides outdoor recreation opportunities, and it links unique mill towns together. He shared a "gap map" for this specific region. Phil inquired about sections in Lowell that may be holding up the completion, and how the areas of new residential development may impact the trail completion. Dialogue with, and partnerships with WBTV (owners of Spencer Mountain), Pulte Homes (new development) and Lowell City Council (sections utilizing city sidewalks) continue to be part of the process. Heather inquired about the projected timeline for the completion of this section, and Ashton indicated that the goal is 4 years. Ways in which the community can get involved with this project include signing up at the Carolina Thread Trail website, subscribe to their newsletter, follow on social media, participate in programs, attend a Trail Forum (Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> in Mooresville), or become a supporter through donations.

Discussion regarding the new posts and banners along McAdenville Rd. continued. Cristy shared that DOT requires the posts to be "breakaway posts" for safety reasons. One quote for the posts has been received but the city is waiting on others. With at least a 40-day lead time required, the posts/banners will not be up for this Christmas season. But the posts may be used for many holidays/seasons, and thus installation of this addition to our streetscape is something to look forward to.

Cristy shared that City Council approved the Master Plans for both Harold Rankin Park and Bob Bolick Park. Jessica inquired about the extension length of the of trail at Rankin Park and the possibility of including a "Storybook Walk". More to come on that.

Cristy shared several volunteer opportunities for residents to help with, and this included Riversweep (Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>), Veteran's Day Luncheon (Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>), Senior Thanksgiving (Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>), and Christmas Parade (Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>).

## **New Business**

Entries for the Halloween Coloring Contest included some amazing pieces of artwork. Four categories, based on age, were evaluated by the LCC, and four winners were chosen. Thanks to all the children who submitted their pieces of work.

## **Staff Updates**

Joe shared updates.

- Contractor bids for the demolition of the chemical dye plant are due by the end of October.
- Kelly Hendrix, a stormwater volunteer through AmeriCorp will be working onsite in Lowell twice a week. She is helping the city meet requirements for the city's MS4 Stormwater permit.

Cristy shared updates.

- Basketball registration is happening now through November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Tweaking of the website continues to fine tune it and make it even more useful for Lowell residents. This will improve the experience that residents have when using online features.
- The city is working with the Art Department and art students from Ashbrook High School to design several murals to be displayed at the concession stand at Rankin Park. The murals will be painted on wood and can be changed out.
- Pickle ball is coming to Lowell! The temporary net and lines fit well on the basketball court behind the Boys/Girls Club. More to come on a start date for this.

## **Member Comments**

A discussion was centered around how the city is planning on decorating for the Christmas season, and if there were other additions that could be considered. The existing plans will be very festive, especially with the addition of the McCord Park where the Christmas tree and lighting ceremony will take place. There's even talk that Santa may make an appearance at the Christmas Parade.

Jim brought up the fact that City Maintenance vehicles look dingy and dirty. And that wouldn't it be a better reflection of the city if they were in better shape. Phil shared that when Public Works moves to their new location (at the former dye plant) there will be a possibility of an area to make this more possible.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Meeting adjourned.

The next LCC meeting will be on November 28<sup>th</sup> at City Hall.