

Minutes from the July 17 Meeting:

7-15-04 Bike / Ped Task Force

Present: Tom Redinger, James Latimore, Joseph Viola, Mrs. Joseph Viola, Terri March, Bette Jackson, Elizabeth Teague, and Claudia Nix.

Steven Lee Johnson, Landscape Architect with the Asheville Parks & Rec. came to update us on several of the Greenway projects. Asheville's first Greenway is the Glenn Creek Greenway, which follows Weaver Blvd. running past UNCA from Merrimon to Broadway. Steven informed us that they hope to have it connect to the Kimberly neighborhood. The city has applied for one of the Recreational Trail Grants to run the connection through Weaver Park. They are still waiting to hear when this money will be released.

On the other end will be the Reed Creek Greenway which will eventually run from Riverside Drive to downtown Asheville. The Reed Creek has a 2003-acre watershed in the city of Asheville and is a very polluted watershed in the city. The project offers many challenges, which were shown in his slides. The variety of the grade is one of the many challenges with which they will have to deal. The Greenway Commission conducted their fundraiser this past May for this project and should begin breaking ground in November of this year on Phase I. This section will go from Weaver Blvd. toward town to Catawba Street where the old leaf dump was. The next section from Catawba to Cauble Streets encompasses the property where the Health Adventure will be built. The Health Adventure has agreed to develop the trail with the cities' assistance. The off road Greenway will continue to 5 points, the Chestnut Rd. intersection. From there into town will be an on road facility which will be down when the NC DOT changes that section. UNCA, the Botanical Gardens and the City of Asheville have joined a coalition to study how to deal with the section from Weaver Blvd to Riverside.

The French Broad River Park Phase 4 has gotten a new name. This encompasses the old speedway. It will be the Carrier Park, named after the man who owned the airstrip that was originally on this piece of property. The section in front of the junkyard is being condemned so the connection between the sections can be paved. This is still in process at this time. There will then be a bridge crossing both directions of the small creek and a crosswalk at the States St. light. There will also be a sidewalk and probably a crosswalk on Michigan Avenue. The State has allocated money to connect this trail to Hominey Creek Park but the dates have not been set for this construction yet.

The Azalea Park covers 188 acres. There will be a trail on the road to connect to the Mts. to Sea Trail and to connect to the Beverly Hills Community. There has been discussion but no decision yet on whether to change Azalea Road from being a through street. It is the hope of many to close the through traffic except for bikes in an effort to control the traffic. There are 5 partials of land from Azalea to the Beverly Hills development going up toward Hwy 70. The city will be contacting these property owners to see about getting right-of-way easements for a trail. Money for this connection will come from the NC DOT.

Elizabeth had several announcements. The MPO will begin developing a long-range transportation plan and we want bicyclist to be represented. Tom Redinger agreed to be our representative to this committee.

We still have around 20, 2-bike racks to be put up around the city. Jeff Burns has not had time to determine where they need to go and to paint the spots on the sidewalks. He needs a couple volunteers to assist him so he can put in the work order. Tom Redinger and James Latimore volunteered for this job.

We have \$25,000 that has been earmarked to repair the RR tracks on Riverside Dr. but will not have to spend it there as Southern Railroad has finally agreed to upgrade this section of track and put in flange way fillers. Their customer Silverline Plastics has requested the track upgrade. This means we have this money which we can spend on other bike hazards. We ask you each to look around for the most pressing hazards that need to be improved upon for cyclists.

We also have available to us some drain grate improvement moneys. We need to identify drain grates, which need changing and improvements. We identified several in the Riverside bike lane, one at the intersection of Lodge and Biltmore. Please come to our next meeting or email ET with your suggestions. We had several name suggestions: BiPeds, Greater Asheville Transport, Buncombe Co. Area Transportation Authority.