



Sanford Parks Advisory Committee  
Depot Park  
106 Charlotte Ave, Sanford NC  
March 20, 2023

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### **The following people were present**

Bob Bridwell  
Chad Spivey  
Mark Lyczkowski  
Joni Martin  
Alyson Cochrane  
John Dean  
Carson Wilson

#### **Non-Voting Attendees**

Nick Fortune  
Charles Taylor  
Kelli Laudate

#### **Call to order**

Meeting was called to order at 4:00pm by Chad Spivey.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Joni Martin to approve minutes from the last meeting, unanimously approved by the committee.

#### **Administrator's Report**

Nick Fortune provided an update on the Parks Master Plan. McAdams conducted a site walk last week and had the first staff meeting. This meeting was a collaboration with different City departments including Finance, Planning, Engineering, and the Manager's office. Next steps would be to conduct focus groups within the Sanford Parks Committee for three elements: greenway including bicycle plan usage, park development, and special events.

Nick also gave brief updates on upcoming events for Sanford Parks. Egg-a-palooza will be held April 1<sup>st</sup> at Depot Park. This event is in partnership with Lee County and some highlights of the event includes a sensory area inside building, egg hunt that will have accessibility for all

children, music, food trucks, visit from the easter bunny, the animal shelter, DSI and TDA will also have booths set up.

Kiwanis Splash Pad opening day is scheduled for Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup>. Activities planned include music (DJ), face painting, food trucks, and giveaways. There will be three other events on the same day in Downtown: Carolina Indie Fest, a music celebration at Depot Park after the dedication of the Piedmont Blues Mural, and Strawberry Jammin'. Nick stated there should be a lot going on and something for everyone that day.

The Summer Concert Series at Depot Park will resume this year. Dates will be in June, July, and August. Still working on schedule and conformations with bands. More information will be posted soon. Chad asked about looking into the possibility of renting some temporary sun sails to provide extra shade during the events. Charles Taylor said he would address it with Council.

Tomorrow night on the Council meeting agenda is the approval of an Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) grant that has been awarded to the City of Sanford. Once the contract for the funding between Lee County and the City of Sanford has been approved, staff will be able to move forward with plans for the Kiwanis sound project. An architect has been contacted with ideas, and hopefully the project will move forward with plans soon. Charles stated that the equipment will need to be ordered as soon as possible to ensure arrival due to possible delays with shipment and the supply chain. Nick agreed and stated a design/concept will help speed that process along.

Chad wanted to apologize for the absence of the County advisory members at the previous joint meeting with the County. Going forward he hopes that more will attend future meetings.

John Dean asked if the City was doing anything to celebrate the Year of the Trail. Kelli Laudate stated that there has been planning for related events including Strawberry Jammin', and an article that will be coming out in the Our State Magazine. John also asked about the Mayor giving a proclamation for Year of the Trail.

### **Old Business**

Joni asked if there was an update on the Rails to Trails program after meeting with DOT. Nick stated that he learned DOT does not own the property, but they have a federal agreement with the railroad to put a trail. The City would have to pay for everything, including the design, and have it approved through DOT. Staff has made a decision for McAdams to make recommendations for design/access before trying to present the idea to City Council since they are already doing the Master Plan update. Adjacent property owners may still be interested in getting the easements back. Chad suggested that there be a public input session to see what the community thinks. Joni stated that the trail would be critical for connectivity to connect the sports complex to the high school and community college. Discussion among the committee about easements.

Motion made by Joni to have Nick ask the City Attorney or City Manager to draft a letter stating the interest of the City of Sanford in acquiring the abandoned railroad properties near Nash St to the new sports complex through DOT. Unanimously approved by the committee.

Joni suggested that someone check with other towns/cities to see what process they have followed to acquire their trails. John stated that the Rails to Trails Conservancy (RTC) would more than likely provide legal guidance if asked. Discussion amongst committee about surrounding towns and trails.

**New Business**

None.

**Next Meeting**

Next meeting will be held April 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm.

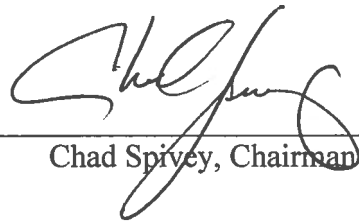
**Comments**

Chad stated he thought the egg-a-palooza was going to be a great event and he was looking forward to it.

**Adjournment**

Motion was made to adjourn at 4:35 by Chad, unanimously approved by the committee.

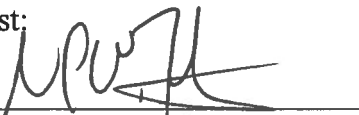
Respectfully Submitted,



---

Chad Spivey, Chairman

Attest:



---

Nick Fortune, Clerk