



MINUTES

The Holly Springs Town Council met in a workshop session on Tuesday, September 29, 2020 in the Holly A&B Room of Holly Springs Cultural Center, 300 W. Ballentine Street. Mayor Pro Tem Berry presided, calling the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was established as the five council members were present.

Council Members Present: Mayor Pro Tem Dan Berry, Councilmen Peter Villadsen, Shaun McGrath, and Aaron Wolff, and Councilwoman Christine Kelly.

Council Members Absent: Mayor Sears

Staff Members Present: Randy Harrington, Town Manager; Linda McKinney, Town Clerk (recording the minutes); Daniel Weeks, Assistant Town Manager; Scott Chase, Assistant Town Manager; John Schifano, Town Attorney; LeeAnn Plumer, Director of Parks and Recreation; Matt Beard, Parks and Recreation.

Mayor Pro Tem Berry called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Workshop Overview

Staff Resource: Randy Harrington, Town Manager
Mr. Harrington gave an overview of the items on the agenda.

3. Parks, Recreation and Greenway Master Plan Visioning Session

Staff Resource: LeeAnn Plummer, Parks & Recreation; McAdams and PROS Planning Consultants

LeeAnn Plummer, Director, Parks & Recreation, introduced Rachel Cotter and Erich Melville from McAdams, and Leon Younger from PROS Consulting. Ms. Cotter discussed the process of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan revision so far, focusing on the research, community engagement and findings to date. Erich Melville said that the main takeaway from community engagement is that people want more greenways. Mr. Younger summarized the findings relating to programs in the Parks and Recreation department. He said that responses were calling for outdoor community gathering places, as well as fitness and wellness.

The consultants explained the recommended guiding principles of: Balanced Growth, Equity & Access, Health, Connectivity, Financial Sustainability, Environmental Awareness, and Excellence. Ms. Cotter asked for feedback and recommendations based on these guiding principles to achieve a revised Parks, Recreation, and Greenway Master Plan.

Council discussed the desire to have metrics to evaluate different aspects of the Parks & Recreation program, having a prioritized listing of projects and principles, return on investment, pocket parks, and other possible facilities the Town might want. Further potential partnerships were discussed as well as keeping up with maintenance to the level that is expected by residents.

The Consultants gave a preview of recommendations for each of the guiding principles. Council expressed that they were pleased with the direction of these recommendations.

Mr. Melville discussed the difference between greenways - 12-14 feet wide and in more natural settings - and sidepaths – 10 feet wide, off of the road, intended for walkers, bikers, joggers, etc. He discussed connecting with greenway systems in other municipalities, and ideas

on how the proposed greenway map was determined. It was requested that grade separation be marked on any upcoming maps so that developers who are providing greenways will know where they are expected to make a grade-separated greenway.

4. Arbor Creek/Middle Creek Greenway Alignment

Staff Resource: LeeAnn Plummer, Parks & Recreation

LeeAnn Plummer, Director of Parks and Recreation, said that at the workshop on September 8, 2020 Council was presented with various options for the Arbor Creek/Middle Creek greenway design. Council asked that a route through the Bridgewater Amenity Area be investigated, as well as things that could be done to mitigate the impact of the preferred route, and that these ideas be brought to them at the September 29th meeting. Jeff Westmoreland of SEPI, reminded Council of the location of the greenway and the connection that is being considered. Tonight's discussion is centered around the connection. He said he had gone back out to the site and taken measurements and would provide cost estimates at the end of the discussion. The biggest challenge is the topography. The north side is too narrow without using the sidewalk or the parking lot. There is a power easement and a gas easement that are obstacles for the northern route. Crossing the gas easement is at 15% grade, and the maximum allowed is 8%. In order to make that route work, the trail would have to be sunken. The route looks like it works on paper, but it would require cutting the trail down and using retaining walls, and is not feasible. Another challenge is the gas line easement, because crossings are only allowed once and at a 90-degree angle.

There was discussion about where the connectivity should go, how much each possible connection would cost due to crossing Middle Creek and wetlands, and the value of natural scenery as opposed to using sidewalks for connectivity. Long-term plans vs. short-term savings were discussed, as well as whether funding would have to be found elsewhere if this was deferred. Also discussed was which connection or connections would give the most people access to the greenway. Ms. Plummer reminded Council that construction drawings had to be submitted before the bonds could be sold, and therefore the issue was time-sensitive. Mr. Westmoreland said that if other routes that used property that was not already Town-owned were considered there would need to be aquatic surveys and approval from the Corps of Engineers, which would add cost and time.

Mayor Pro Tem Berry said that since there was not unanimity of opinion, he would propose a Motion in order to give guidance to staff.

Action: Motion to table the South route / Bridgewater Connection to be considered at a later time.

Motion by: Berry

Second by: McGrath

Vote:

Yay: McGrath, Villadsen, Berry, Wolff

Nay: Kelly

The motion passed.

Randy Harrington made a quick announcement about the proposed transition of Holiday events, due to COVID. Staff is ready to move forward and those plans will be rolled out next week.

5. Adjournment: There being no further business for the evening, Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Wolff second by Councilman McGrath and passed with a unanimous vote. The September 29, 2020 meeting of the Holly Springs Town Council was adjourned at 8:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted on Tuesday, October 20, 2020.

Linda C. McKinney
Linda McKinney
Town Clerk