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Waynesville, NC 28786  
May 24, 2023

**Subject:** Greenway Advisory Council Meeting on 5/23/2023. What Happened?

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Greenway Advisory Council Meeting was held at the Lake Junaluska Welcome Center yesterday by **Ian Smith**.

There were significant alterations to the meeting format since the last meeting held on 3/28/2023. See the new agenda + the minutes from the previous meeting on [www.haywoodtp.net](http://www.haywoodtp.net)

[Agenda for 5/23/2023 Greenway Advisory Council Meeting, + Minutes from the 3/28/2023 meeting. 5/23/2023. 5/24/2023...](#)

<https://www.haywoodtp.net/pubII/230524GreenwayAgendaAndPastMinutes.pdf>

It would appear that **Ian Smith** was not going to get snake bit again, so the general public was greeted with a sign-up sheet if they wanted to make a public comment.

If you remember at the last meeting, many tables were arranged with loads of chairs, and the general public took seats at this table, and were able to interact with council members at the last meeting, as indicated by the minutes of the last meeting. Not so for this meeting! There were fewer tables, fewer chairs, and the general public was ordered not to sit at the table, but sit in chairs lined up against the wall (like a firing squad).

**Ian Smith** must have attended "How to run a meeting 101" and completely ignored any of the general public during the entire meeting, by strictly adhering to his new agenda.

I took some hand written notes, which follows.

It would have been nice to have been served some bologna and cheese sandwiches, because that is that this meeting seemed like.

The only thing that **Ian Smith** could point to as an accomplishment of this esteemed council was that a voluntary clean up was conducted on April 22 (Saturday/Earth Day), and due to inclement weather, there were a total of three (3) volunteers that showed up, and collected three (3) bags of garbage.

The rest of the meeting was boiler plate.

**Elizabeth Teague** lamented that there is no municipal agreement to clean the greenway along the Howell Mill Road, which she indicated is in the EJT. She suggested the Town of Waynesville get together with the county commissioners and figure out who is going to manage this cleanup responsibility.

There was nothing discussed at this meeting related to:

- "Plan" to properly Patrol, Police, and maintain this Greenway

### 3/28/2023 Minutes.

It is worthwhile to look at how the past minutes were written up. Recall that the secretary is **Megan Hauser**, the needle queen from DSS [re: see past reviews of precious Greenway Meeting on [www.haywoodtp.net](http://www.haywoodtp.net)]. The one interesting set of comments by a council member, presumably identified as Amy Murphy, was that there was nothing about the bucket full of used needles picked up in a single park in Clyde. What would you expect from the needle queen?

Find attached, along with my handwritten notes for this meeting, various sections which I have encircled and highlighted, indicating flagged areas of this meeting. They include:

- Security was addressed, but not brought up in yesterday's meeting,
- These people and council have no funding. The only thing they can do is organize volunteer clean-ups.
- Greenway's outside municipalities are addressed as "long-terms" goals,
- Sidewalks **are not** part of the Greenway,
- Maintenance of Howell Mill Road is handled by the county [Not so, apparently, per **Elizabeth Teague**],
- Greenway will not go through any private property unless that property is donated.

### Stop the presses !!!!

How does this work?

- Are people promised a reduction in property taxes if they allow this greenway to pass through their property?
- Is this reflected on the property owners deed, at the register of deeds office?
- How is this official in any way, shape or form?

Continuing with the analysis of the minutes -

- Amy expressed concerns about trash and trespassing. Attempt to pass this responsibility to county commissioners?

This council seems to have no authority to do anything, has no money, and people apparently unwilling to recognize issues with developing any "Plan" to properly Patrol, Police, and maintain this Greenway.

There was discussion whether to even have a meeting in July, but it was argued that they have another big volunteer clean up coming up in September, called a "Big Sweep" or something, so it was decided to go ahead and have another regularly scheduled meeting.

Can't wait.

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.  
Haywood County Taxpayer.

MAY 23 2023

Greenway Meeting

5/23/23

2P

No Public Comments

8 members of Public

13 Committee members.

2:10 ⑤ Master Plan - Pilot Project Update

Clean Up - Landscaping / Trash } other side of Bridge .  
Haywood Water ways.  
Formal path to river  
Local Volunteer group - pull out invasives .

⑥ Volunteer Clean Up. (Weather a factor?)

3 people showed up. 3 Bags of Trash  
More Trash @ Ball field rather than greenway.  
Future Planning. Sept BIG EVENT? Another Clean Up.  
BIG SWEEP?

**Teague** - No municipal agreement to clean greenway along ETJ.  
Get Town and County to gether. Howell Mill Road, Sidewalk.

2:26 ⑦ Member Update

2:45 End.

The meeting Format was changed, evidently Based on the last meeting. A Public Comment was inserted into the agenda. NO one from the Public signed up to speak.

IAN SMITH then ignored any of the ~~public~~ members of the Public! ☹️

This Councils only achievement for the Post two months was to have 3 people collect 3 Bags of garbage on the entire green way system.

This appears to be a useless waste of time.

Monroe Miller  
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Waynesville, NC 28786





*Review Copy - Nothing about Amy Murphy  
gallon Bucket of needles.*

**Haywood Greenway Advisory Council Meeting**

**March 28, 2023**

**2:00 – 3:30 pm**

**Council Members Present:** Ian Smith, Marc Miller, Megan Hauser, Kathy Odvody, Rob Roland, Kay Kirkman, Amy Russell, Dave Nicholson, Kaitland Finkle, Elizabeth Teague.

**Coordinating Agencies Present:** Jodie Ferguson (Haywood County Development Services), Luke Kinsland (Waynesville Parks & Recreation).

**Public:** Wanda Brooks, Trudy Schmidt, Beth Justice, Don Smart, Terry Ramey, Janet Presson, Melinda Davis, Monroe Miller, Mark Liverett, Linda Liverett, Lois Hollis, Joseph Lipari, Paula Morrill, Pat Parton, Holly Parton.

1. **Call to Order-** Ian Smith called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.
2. **Review January 24, 2023 Meeting Minutes**
  - a. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Marc Miller. This received a second by Dave Nicholson. The minutes were unanimously approved.
3. **Council Seats and Terms**
  - a. Members discussed moving Marc Miller to the bicycling seat due to Jackie Moore's program ending. This will open an at-large seat. Amy Russell made a motion to move Marc to this seat and Kathy Odvody seconded. Members unanimously approved this motion.
  - b. Several seats are expiring: Town of Maggie Valley, Resource Conservation and Development Council (RCDC), and Lake Junaluska. Dave plans to renew his Lake Junaluska seat. Ian will check with Matt Settlemyer about continuing to serve as the RCDC representative; his term expires on May 31.
  - c. At-large seats- These have term limits and are appointed by commissioners. This is Kathy's second term.
  - d. Other seats include municipalities, Haywood Community College, Haywood Health and Human Services, Soil and Water, RCDC, and at-large seats. The council receives applications and makes recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners.
  - e. The council typically does not receive enough applicants. Interested individuals may apply through the county website and applications are submitted to the clerk.

- f. Greenway Advisory Council meetings are open to the public.

#### 4. Master Plan Updates and General Discussion

- a. The Master Plan was adopted on February 6. Ian thanked the council for their work.
- b. The Master Plan is a long-term planning document for county greenways and does not contain set building plans. These are ideal goals for the greenway and focus on greater connectivity. Kaitland shared that greenway maps are now shown through county GIS. The plan contains recommendations and acknowledges that further planning is needed.
- c. The Master Plan was adopted publicly with the opportunity for comment. Mark added that there were several public comment sessions around the county. Ian referenced the public survey.
- d. A guest recommended security for the greenway, such as bike patrolling. Security was addressed in the plan.
- e. A grant to fund the plan came from the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization. Elizabeth explained that the MPO is a federally designated planning organization. Including Haywood Tourism Development Authority match funding, the grant was worth \$120,000. Elizabeth explained where TDA gets funding. A point was clarified about funding; we would need to apply for more funding to continue work. Sufficient funding is needed to maintain paths.
- f. A question was asked about funds for plan implementation. With plan, it is more feasible to get the state to install sidewalks and access funding opportunities. Plan is a tool to get further funding. A lot of this is linked to municipalities. Most areas are outside of municipalities, which were not identified as short-term goals. We are not linking to other states, but there are examples such as the East Coast Greenway.

#### 5. Comments and Concerns

- a. A guest showed an image from another greenway area (Seattle) that contained garbage and does not want the same issue to occur here. Concerns were



expressed about proceeding with greenway development prior to addressing other issues. Greenways members expressed support.

- b. A guest mentioned several parts of the greenway not being maintained.

Clarification was provided that sidewalk sections are not part of the greenway.

- c. A suggestion was made to update the greenway map by the Waynesville Recreation Center. Now that plan is adopted, we may be able to focus some on signage.

- d. Concerns were received about a very wet area by the new parks and recreation bridge.

- e. Maintenance of the Howell Mill/Industrial Drive section is handled by the county.

- f. Varying thoughts were expressed about conditions and comfort levels of the greenway and connecting paths. Concerns were also shared about the potential for paths in the more rural areas and possible impacts on farmland. The greenway will not go through any private property unless that property is donated.

- g. Amy remarked that the council will review information and make feasible changes. She expressed understanding for the concerns of trash and trespassing.

We can take concerns to the Board of County Commissioners.

- h. Luke expressed the common goal of maintaining the greenways, working together, and moving forward.

- i. A question was asked about using inmate labor. This took place under the previous recreation director and Ian was not clear on the process. Another guest mentioned speaking with the Sheriff about this idea. Unfortunately, it is not feasible.

- j. Members and guests agreed that they don't want to see areas with litter. Several encampments underwent cleanup in the recent past.

- k. A guest communicated the importance of showing mutual respect. Several expressed concerns about not becoming like Asheville.

- l. A concern was shared about trespassing in yards on an area of 209 (Ball Creek).

- m. A comment was shared about the importance of following plans.

## 6. Greenway Volunteer Planning

3 people!  
3 garbage bags!

- a. Opportunities include April 22 (Saturday/Earth Day) from 9-12, which focuses mainly on litter cleanup. Grabbers and other supplies are available. Due to the Altrusa Fundraising Concert in Sorrells Creek Park, we will need to find another location for this event (along Pigeon River in Canton), On September 9, the countywide Big Sweep will take place to address trails and public parks. Events need 15-25.
- b. Ian spoke with Jim Geenen about securing youth volunteers. Luke will meet with Jim tomorrow to tour areas that may need work.
- c. Maggie Valley will conduct townwide cleanup with Haywood Waterways, not limited to parks and walking paths. Their sidewalks are highly utilized.

#### 7. Member Updates

- a. Ian Smith
  - i. Recreation and Parks is partnering with HIGHTS, which includes children with referrals from the justice system. Upcoming programs include hiking, fly fishing excursions.
  - ii. Senior games registration ends tomorrow.
  - iii. May 20 is bike repair day at the Waynesville Recreation Center. Rolls Rite still now offers mobile repairs.
- b. Dave Nicholson- DOT will adding cross walks connecting the lake to the Greenway (Golf Course Rd and Holston Village Rd). He has not received the timeline. Dave was asked if crossings were in response to pedestrian deaths. Amy expressed the importance of community safety.
- c. Luke Kinsland
  - i. He mentioned the bridge dedication on 3/30 at 4 p.m. All are invited. Kay asked about opportunity for education and greenway plans. Luke may be able to mention something during the event.
  - ii. Elizabeth mentioned adding another bridge crossing this summer. There will be picnic areas and exercise equipment. She added that the master plan is available on the county website.
- d. Kay Kirkland- She mentioned e-mails of those at public interest sessions. Katiland suggested reaching out to these individuals and encouraging them to



- review the plan. Raccoon Creek and Jonathan Creek sections were removed based on public comment.
- e. Kaitland Finkle- With the exceptions of landscaping, DOT crossings should be in place by August. The area will receive new islands, with some islands being refurbished or lengthened.
  - f. Amy Russell- There are new flashing lights in Clyde. They added a fence around Lynn, removed some bushes, and planted flowers. Other steps include removing and replacing trees. Also, remodeling is in progress at the town hall.
  - g. Megan Hauser- She mentioned the Year of the Trail, a statewide program. We can register events as YOTT and bring positive attention to the community. Ian mentioned multiple hikes per month, which he has registered with YOTT.
  - h. Marc Miller- Bike Haywood submitted a request for 'Share the Road' signs.
8. **Dismissal**- Amy Russell made a motion to end the meeting and received a second from Elizabeth Teague. The meeting ended at 3:24 p.m.