

Haw Creek Community Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Via Zoom
Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2020, 7 p.m.
Minutes

Attending Board Members

- Holly Arghiere
- Wyndy Bonesteel
- Patrick Gilbert
- Barber Melton
- Susan Michael
- Georgena Millar
- Chris Pelly
- Renate Ridders
- Elizabeth Matthews
- Bruce Michael
- Kelly Phillips

Absent

- Wayne Robbins

1) Welcome and introductions

President Chris Pelly welcomed the board back.

2) Approval of minutes from Sept. 8th, 2020 meeting of board of directors -- Patrick Gilbert

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the September meeting.

3) Treasurer's report --Bruce Michael

- At the end of October, there was \$3,838.97 in the checking account. and \$32.50 in the PayPal account.
- There were 150 people/households on the membership list, with 101 paid up in 2020, the rest paying in 2019 but not since.
- We have addresses for most of the people who have paid, but very few email addresses or phone numbers. There was discussion about whether we could respond to people when they pay thanking them, but right now that is difficult and/or very time consuming to do

4) Emergency Food Preparedness Planning -- Wyndy Bonesteel

- Wendy said Asheville-Buncombe Food Policy Council's Emergency Food Preparedness Program is holding a meeting and planning session early 2021 to discuss current food needs in our communities, and suggested HCCA be involved.
- Hawthorne Village teamed up with Spruce Hill Apartments to create small food pantry,

need help for donations to help feed 15 families for Thanksgiving.

- Wendy will writing article for newsletter on this.
- Board voted to donate \$100 from budget for Thanksgiving dinners at the Spruce Hill Apartments. Holly Arghiere said she would personally match that donation.

5) Parking needs at Masters Park -- Renate Ridders

Renate gave an assessment of the parking lot associated with Masters Park

- Lot is a mess with cars often getting stuck in the mud and said situation needs addressing
- Elizabeth Matthews called the City's Park and Recreation Department three months ago about the condition of the lot; she was told no money in budget for making improvements.
- Renate said the Board could find someone in community who could make recommendations for improvements, provide a cost estimate of several loads of gravel and labor.
- Chris suggested that HCCA could raise half the cost of paving the lot, if the City would pay the other half.
- Board agreed to put the issue on the website as a community need and post it on NextDoor. Chris and Renate said they would work on communications about the need for parking lot improvements.

6) Mission statement update -- Holly Arghiere

- Holly asked for feedback on a proposed HCCA mission statement:

“We inspire engagement and mobilize resources to enrich lives, protect our natural beauty and promote safety in the Haw Creek Valley of Asheville, NC.”

- Chris said he would like the Board's approval and get the missions statement on the website.
- After some discussion, the Board voted to approve the mission statement.

7) Tree replanting at Haw Creek Elementary School -- Patrick Gilbert

Patrick gave an update on discussions between Buncombe County Schools, the City of Asheville Urban Forestry Commission and Asheville GreenWorks on reforestation plan for Haw Creek Elementary School (see attached plan).

- The tree canopy coverage provided by the plan would equal the coverage lost from construction, plus about 30 percent more.

Gave update on discussions between City staff and the Coalition of Asheville Neighborhoods on changes to the Unified Development Ordinance, related to neighborhood notification of impending development projects.

8) Updates & Reports:

New Haw Creek Sidewalk

- Chris reported that the City has reviewed 90 percent of the design plan.
- The City is planning for an online community engagement process to review sidewalk design plans for New Haw Creek Rd.
- Chris noted that City voters passed bond referendum in 2016 for sidewalk funds and that the City has until 2023 to use bond money.

Bike Pump Track Proposal at Haw Creek Park

- Chris noted that a meeting about the proposal is scheduled for 11 a.m., Nov. 21 at Haw Creek Park encouraged board members to attend the meeting and suggested the association help with publicity for the meeting.
- He noted that a lot of lots of younger parents have indicated interest in the project to build the dirt bike path.

Pedestrian Bridge at Beverly Rd

- Chris said the owner of the Creekside Tavern owners has long sought a pedestrian bridge over Haw Creek, connecting the parking lot with the commercial strip.
- AT&T owns steel structure across the creek on which a bridge could be built. for its lines way and needs a liability waiver agreement from the City to build the footbridge.
- He and other meet with Mayor and City staff and was told the City need to conduct a flood-plain review. A meeting with City staff responsible for the flood-plain review was positive.
- Business owners have agreed to pay for the bridge.

Arco Rd Greenway

- Chris noted that Lucy Crown, the City's Greenway Coordinator, said that City capital works staff indicated that a culvert spanning a feeder that empties into Haw Creek that the greenway would have to cross would be cheaper than a pedestrian bridge
- City considering three citywide projects, including the Haw Creek greenway, that would be paid out of the Transportation Bond Fund. .
- Not a clear timeline for completion of the greenway, but that it could happen between winter and spring of 2021.

Food Trucks

- Renate said food truck event, which spanned nearly every Saturday for seven months during 2020 is coming to end for the year, with the last one appearing on the Saturday before Thanksgiving.
- She said that she told vendors that the food truck event should end on a high note now, and revisit the event next spring.
- Local musicians expressed interest in participating in future food truck events.
- Board congratulated Renate for the project's success and for her hard work. .

Signage Litter

- Renate and Georgena Miller took down about 70 campaign and business signs at the entrance to Haw Creek on New Haw Creek Road. Most were placed there by business. advertising signs, and creates unsightly litter.
- She said the signs are illegal because they are in the NC DOT right-of-way, and on utility

- poles, or violate the City's ordinance governing signs.
- The board agreed to put a notice on the HCCA website about the issue, along with photos, noting the signs are illegal and encouraging local business not to post them. The notice would also ask that temporary signs, such as for yard sales, be removed immediately after the event.
- The Board also agreed to reach out personally to some local businesses, such as Rendezvous and PennyCup, and remind them that the signs are illegal.

Community News for HCCA Website

- Renate encouraged more news and information to make the website more relevant and interesting to community residents.

Food Box

- Renate brought up the food box that was mysteriously erected along the pull of just west of the New Haw Creek Road entrance, and asked if anyone knew who might be responsible for it.
- An adjacent landowner has complained about homeless hanging out on his property because of the free food in the box.
- Renate said she would make further attempts to find out who erected the food box.

9) New business

None offered.

10) Closing and adjournment

- The Board voted to schedule the next Board meeting for 7 p.m., Jan. 4, 2021.
- Chris adjourned the meeting.