



## County Council Committee Minutes

### Livability Committee April 20, 2020

The Livability Committee of Spartanburg County Council met on Monday, April 20, 2020, in County Council Chambers of the County Administrative Office Building. In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, notice of this meeting was provided in advance to the local news media and other interested parties. The following were in attendance: Honorable Jack Mabry, Chairman; Honorables Manning Lynch and David Britt, Committee Members; along with Honorables Michael Brown, Whitney Farr, Bob Walker, and Roger Nutt, Council Members. Also attending were Cole Alverson, County Administrator; Earl Alexander, Deputy County Administrator; John Harris, County Attorney; and Ginny Dupont, County Attorney.

#### I.

Chairman Mabry called the meeting to order.

#### II.

- A. Ms. Laura Ringo, Executive Director, Partners for Active Living, presented information in reference to a **BUILD Grant for Trail Development**. (Slides included in backup) The US Department of Transportation (USDOT) announced a large federal infrastructure funding program called BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development). Multi-mobile projects, like bicycle and pedestrian transportation, fit within their outline criteria. In order to move significantly faster in implementing new trails in Spartanburg County, Partners for Active Living asked Spartanburg County to apply for this funding. The application must come from a governmental entity. Thanks to financial support from OneSpartanburg, Montgomery Development, and Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System, Partners for Active Living has hired Alta Planning and Design to write the grant. They have worked on more than a dozen of these types of grants, many of which were successful. Ms Ringo thanked Kevin Stiens, Director, Spartanburg County Parks Department, and Sherry Dull, Spartanburg Area Transportation Study, for their assistance on grant preparation.

This proposal will include approximately 14 new miles of trail and 2 large pedestrian bridges, one over Southport Road and the other over I-26. The proposed conceptual route was shown on a slide. The route is flexible and can be shifted. They have not had a chance to talk to all the property owners because of the current coronavirus situation. Ms. Ringo presented a quick overview of the map. The route will connect Woodland Heights Elementary, R.P. Dawkins Middle School, and Anderson Mill Elementary. In addition, the project will include a four mile loop at the Downtown Spartanburg Airport and connect into the old Anderson Mill that is being revitalized, the Anderson Mill Road side path project, and earlier phases of the Wadsworth Trail. The termini of the project are planned along Highway 290 and Highway 29 near Upward. Photo simulations were shown of the existing conditions at Highway 296 at Woodland Heights Elementary and I-26 at Old Anderson Mill Road and the proposed improvements at both locations.

The project application request is \$17.4 million. Typically, communities must apply for these grants more than once to be successful. Ms. Ringo stated that they hope this is not the case for this application, but they also wanted to sight realistic expectations. This request is for Spartanburg County to submit the application, manage the financial reporting, oversee bridge construction, and Partners for Active Living will handle the trails work.

This grant does not require a match. Spartanburg County is able to apply as a rural community, so we can ask for 100% of the needed funds. Mr. Walker asked if there are any restrictions around the Downtown Airport, and if we have talked to the people at the Airport. Ms. Ringo stated the City of Spartanburg is supportive of this project. There are restrictions on how close they can get to the runway. There is room for a trail within the existing property that the City owns in the Downtown Airport area. The trail would be on the outside of the fence. Partners for Active Living raised private funds to pay for the grant writer. The costs for the County, if granted, would be personnel costs for County Staff to help manage the grant.

Mr. Britt thanked Ms. Ringo for what she has done in the past and her vision for the future, and he also thanked John Montgomery for his commitment to it and his support. Mr. Britt stated that he will wholeheartedly endorse this request. Mr. Lynch agreed. Motion made by Mr. Britt to approve submittal of the grant application. Motion seconded by Mr. Lynch and carried.

B. Information received regarding activities of the Parks Department.

Meeting adjourned.