

Lowell Community Committee
Nov. 16, 2020
6:00pm
Lowell City Hall

Attendees: Alisa Frye, Candy Funderburk, Michelle Sebastian, Travis Smith, Cristy Cummings, Scott Bates, John Cantrell and Scott Attaway.

Alisa called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Travis made a motion that the minutes from the September 28 meeting be approved, it was seconded by John. Minutes were approved.

Old Business

The committee discussed, and were updated on, the progress made on new signage possibilities for the city. Replacing/removing "Welcome" signs at the five entrance points to the city are likely to be a priority. Additional "Way Finding" and "Parking" signs were also discussed. Scott A. will request proposals from vendors for various designs and sizes of signs. The new signs also need to be DOT approved. More discussion to follow.

River Sweep 2020, November 20th, was a huge success. Volunteers cleaned, removed, and recycled items along the Southfork River. Nearly 500 pounds of trash, including 140 pounds of rubber (tires) and 45 pounds of metal, were removed. Many thanks to S and L Creations and Fryeday Coffee Roasters for supporting the event, and thanks to the twenty-three volunteers who got "down and dirty" cleaning our river green space. The River Sweep is part of the city's best managing practices which include public involvement and education.

Mark your calendars for Freedom Festival 2021 which is scheduled for March 20, 2:00pm – 10:00pm. This annual festival will include rides, food trucks, live music and more! Quality and affordable events, such as Freedom Festival, are possible in part because of the businesses and organizations that sponsor the event. Sponsorship information may be found on the Lowell website or by contacting city hall.

New Business

The Lowell Community Committee welcomed new member John Cantrell. John is a longtime resident of Lowell and brings a history of dedicated service and knowledge to this group. We all look forward to working with John!

Updated by-laws for this committee were adopted by City Council. The changes included a name change, membership requirements, and duties. The Community Improvement Advisory Committee will now be the Lowell Community Committee. The purpose of the LCC is to perform studies, to make recommendations on community improvement and recreation policies, to make recommendations on grant activities and to offer advice and assistance to the Parks and Recreation Department and/or City Council, and others, as

necessary or as requested on economic development, infrastructure, parks, greenways, facilities, beautification and city programs and grants within the City of Lowell. Membership shall consist of up to eight members but not less than five members for a term of three years. Three members must be present to vote on any items.

A drive-through Christmas lunch is offered to Lowell senior citizens residents on December 10th with pick up between 11:45am and 12:15pm at the Lowell Community Center. The cost of the lunch is \$3.00. You may place your order by contacting City Hall (704-824-3518) by Dec. 4th. Volunteers will be available to deliver the meal for those in need of this service.

The City of Lowell and Gaston Co. Parks and Recreation will be hosting the first ever "Reverse Christmas Parade" on December 12, 3:00pm – 5:00pm at Poston Park. The parade participants will be stationary, and the parade revelers will drive through. As is common for the Christmas Parade, Santa will also be making an appearance. Volunteers for the event will be needed for various time slots between 12:30pm and 5:30pm. More information regarding volunteering may be found on the Lowell website or by contacting City Hall.

The LCC established it's meeting calendar for the 2021 year. Meetings will occur on the fourth Monday of each month, with adjustments in November and December in consideration of holidays during these months.

Member Comments

Scott A. updated us on the Community Development Block grants. The Infrastructure grant which is for the rehabilitation or replacement of aged water/sewer pipes along specific roads/areas in Lowell is moving forward. Also, there will be a new mapping of the water lines in the city to replace an outdated version. The Revitalization Program Grant which is designed to rehabilitate approximately 14 qualifying low-moderate income owner-occupied homes in a specific area will be moving forward soon.

Cristy shared that the mobile mammogram at Rankin Park in October was a huge success.

Cristy met with members from the Parks and Recreation Department at North Carolina State University, and they have offered to provide support and advice on the development of a master plan for the Parks and Recreation for Lowell. We look forward to the collaboration opportunity as our sights are on the future and the recreational opportunities that may be available for our community.

Christy has been in communication with the North Carolina Outdoor Heritage Advisory Council regarding one of it's GO Grants. Specifically, the interest is around developing a bee pollination garden to be potentially used as an outdoor classroom. More to come on this as she is in the early stages of the process.

Christy is also in the application process for Lowell to become a "Tree City U.S.A." member.

Alisha shared that there will be blood drive at Fryeday's in January. There will more festivities around the event and more details to come.

Scott A. shared that City Council adopted the I-85: Exit 22 Gateway Master Plan which includes a 20-year vision for the general area along Main St. between I-85 exit 22 and the railroad.

A motion was made and passed to adjourn the meeting.

The next LCC meeting will be in December at City Hall with the date to be yet determined.