

2017-11-06

Falls of Neuse Confirmation Group Meeting #5

Durant Nature Preserve – Campbell Lodge

Staff present: Jason Hardin, Bynum Walter

Members present: Bob Fry, Randy Ray, Robert Wilson, Leon Cooke, Kerry O’Sullivan, John Purves, Andi Curtis, Mary Lou Young, John Toller, Linda Monaghan

### **Opening remarks**

- Project Manager Jason Hardin opened the meeting and discussed the goals for the meeting and the next steps for the project. Revisions will be made to the draft project report based on public comments. Following the publication of a revised report, a second comment period will be held, opening later in the month. At the conclusion of that comment period, a revised report could go to City Council.

### **Discussion of public comments**

- The group discussed each of the 16 public comments received during the comment period, along with three comments provided by other city departments.
- Several comments simply supported the plan in general.
- One comment advocated removing a recommendation for pedestrian improvements at the Falls of Neuse/Durant Road intersection. The group agreed that the recommendation was in aligned with the themes of the plan and supported by public input and therefore should not be removed.
- Two comments recommended making clarifications to the project report language regarding the market study. Hardin provided potential language adjustments. The group agreed the adjustments provided clarification.
- One comment recommended reducing the residential density envisioned by the plan at the intersection of Raven Ridge Road and Falls of Neuse Road. Group members agreed that the plan’s recommendations had been thoroughly discussed and that a change would not align with overall input.
- One comment involved a plan recommendation that any office uses at the intersection of Falls of Neuse and Raven Ridge Road be located within 150’ of the road. The comment suggested that the recommendation be changed to provide a 150’ distance between any office uses and any residential uses. Hardin stated that code requirements provide for transitions between commercial and residential uses and that the recommendation had been presented at a public meeting and online. The group agreed that a change was not warranted based on public input.
- The group discussed a comment that walking across the Falls of Neuse Road bridge is uncomfortable and unsafe. Hardin stated that staff is exploring possibilities for creating more separation between cars and people walking, and that an improvement would be in keeping with the plan’s theme of creating improved pedestrian networks. The group agreed that adding the recommendation would be in line with public input.

- The group discussed a comment recommending a study of a historic overlay district in the Falls Community area. Hardin stated that while an overlay district was not specifically considered during the process, there was discussion about preserving the qualities of the area, and the plan included a policy that reflected that discussion. The group agreed that including an action calling for an inventory of historic structures would be a means of implementing that policy.
- One comment involved the plan's recommendation for a public street connection linking Raven Ridge Road and Dehijuston Court. The comment was that the recommendation should either be illustrated, showing the path, or removed. Hardin stated that showing a specific alignment would be misleading, as the exact path would depend on topographic factors not study and would likely take place as part of a development, which also would shape the final alignment. He stated that retaining the provision is still warranted, as it does provide more information about the future transportation network in the area.
- The group also discussed three comments from the city's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources. Two involved revisions to the estimated timeline for actions, with both moved back to the 2-5 year range in order to allow for bond funding to be available. The third involved a recommendation to include a sidewalk along Raven Ridge Road from Falls of Neuse Road to the main entrance of Awls Haven Drive. As a main theme of the plan and public input was the desirability of sidewalk connectivity, the group agreed the inclusion of the action aligned with plan input.

### **Meeting Adjournment**

- Hardin stated that once revisions are made, the revised report and a document listing all comments and responses will be published. Following publication, a second public comment period would open and allow for input on the changes or other elements of the plan.
- The group discussed whether another meeting would be held. Hardin stated that a meeting would be held following the second comment period, in order to allow for discussion of any additional comments.