

**Members Present**

Randy Smith

Richard Smith

Virginia Hart

Priscilla Russ

Rod Cury

Gaynelle Thompson

**Staff Present**

Tim Taylor

The meeting was called to order by chairman Randy Smith. Richard Smith opened with prayer and Rod Cury led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1) Chairman Smith welcomed guest, Rick Barton, from Adventure Tourism as the commission continued the discussion from the last meeting on the Clinch River Pedestrian Walkway Extension in Richlands and other outdoor tourism initiatives in the area. The following initiatives were discussed, and action steps defined for each:

- Clinch River Pedestrian Walkway Extension:

1. Tim Taylor has information on a grant available from RTP for such projects. He will send the link to the grant to the members who are asked to review it and provide feedback by Friday, July 20.
2. Reach out to David Woodard from the Tazewell County Community Development to get his input on possible grant funding available.
3. Recontact the staff at Virginia Tech who assisted with the initial plan to see about extending/updating/renewing the plan.
4. Contact Jennifer Wampler with the DCR about grants as well.
5. Explore the possibility of partnering with CVMC for funding for trail maintenance once it's completed.

- Spearhead Trail:

1. CNX has given their consent for extending the trail.
2. The trail representatives are exploring terminals (access points) to the trail in and around the town of Richlands.
3. A member of the Spearhead Trail group will be invited to our next meeting on August 7, 2018 to give us more information on their progress.
4. Contact Friends of SW Virginia (Ida Walker) to give us an idea of what to expect when the trail riders begin to come through town once the access points are established.

2) Other new business:

- Tim Taylor gave an overview of The Rally Grant. This is a community grant of \$3000 that involves a competition to advance and revitalize downtown districts.
- Tim Taylor also gave the commission an overview and update on the timeline and specifics of the natural gas lines project in the town. His updates included detailed specifics of dates, contacts, studies, and new state regulations all the way back to 2010 when the process began. The information was presented to keep the commission abreast of all aspects of the process and how it relates to the town since the commission is involved in the strategic planning of the town in relation to zoning.

3) Minutes from the <sup>May 1st</sup> ~~April 3~~, 2018 meeting were distributed. Gaynelle Thompson made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Priscilla Russ. All members voted "aye" to approve the minutes.

4) There were no other business or members' concerns. Rod Cury made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Virginia Hart seconded the motion and all members voted "aye". Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by: Virginia Hart, Secretary

Virginia Hart 8/7/2018

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