

Special Meeting, April 17, 2017, 6:45 p.m.
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in Special Session on Monday, April 17, 2017, at 6:45 p.m., in the Robert E. Hibbitts Meeting Room of the 1924 Courthouse, 30 North College Avenue, Newton, North Carolina. The purpose of this Special Meeting was the consideration of a Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) Grant Application.

Present were Chair Randy Isenhower, Vice-Chair Barbara G. Beatty and Commissioners Katherine W. Barnes, Sherry E. Butler and Dan A. Hunsucker.

Also present were County Manager Mick Berry, Assistant County Managers Dewey Harris and Mary Furtado, County Attorney Debra Bechtel, Assistant County Attorney Jodi Stewart and County Clerk Barbara Morris.

1. Chair Randy Isenhower called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m., noting a quorum was present.
2. Planning and Parks Director Jacky Eubanks presented a request for the Board to consider a Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) Grant application. On November 21, 2016, the Board of Commissioners approved the purchase of the 209-acre Bean property abutting Riverbend Park. The property tax value is \$1,076,800; however, the property appraised for \$1,200,000. In honor of his late wife, Harriet Hafer Bean, it was stipulated that the property be used exclusively as a park for health, recreational, and educational purposes, and the park and/or property bear a name in her honor. To advance her wishes, Mr. Bean approached the County and offered the property for \$400,000, with the remainder of the \$1,200,000 appraised value to be accepted as a donation.

A waiver to purchase the property prior to the PARTF grant award cycle was obtained from NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources on November 9, 2016. Mr. Bean indicated that he would offer the property to other agencies if closing could not take place by January 5, 2017. Closing took place on January 5, 2017.

Acquisition of contiguous properties is a top priority in the Parks Master Plan (adopted December 2007 and updated May 2015). It is consistent with the strategy of the NC Parks Master Plan for conservation and the preservation of open space. The addition of the 209 acres will bring the park's total acreage to 689.33 acres. This level of recreational acreage is regionally significant. Over 8 miles of natural surface trail can be added to Riverbend's existing 12 miles of natural surface trails, and additional activities such as primitive camping and large scale events could be phased in over time. Funding to support this acquisition has been set aside from proceeds associated with the sale of a County-owned property on Slanting Bridge Road, which occurred last fiscal year. These funds could be utilized in the event the County is unsuccessful in obtaining the Acquisition Grant. The grant request is broken out as follows:

- Environmental Review - \$3,150
- Appraisal - \$2,000
- Survey - \$7,185
- Title Insurance - \$1,774
- Bean Acquisition - \$400,000

TOTAL: \$414,109.

After Chair Isenhower confirmed that Board members had no questions, he asked for public comments on the request. Two members of the County's Parks Advisory Board, Paul Beatty and Dr. Karen McDougal, came forward and spoke in favor of the grant application. Chair Isenhower thanked all the members of the Parks Advisory Board for their service to the County.

Commissioner Sherry E. Butler made a motion to approve the grant application and authorize the Board of Commissioners Chair and County Officials to sign the associated documents. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Vice-Chair Barbara G. Beatty made a motion to adjourn at 6:55 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Randy Isenhower, Chair
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

Barbara E. Morris
County Clerk