

Minutes of the 9 April 2018
Special Meeting of the Yancey County Board of Commissioners
Held at 5:30 o'clock p.m. in the Yancey County Courtroom
Yancey County Courthouse, Burnsville, North Carolina

Present at the 9 April 2018 meeting of the Yancey County Board of Commissioners were Commissioner Jill Austin, Commissioner Mark Ledford, Chairman Johnny Riddle, Commissioner John Stallings, Commissioner Jeff Whitson, County Manager Nathan Bennett, Clerk to the Board Jason Robinson, County Attorney Donny Laws, and Planning and Economic Development Director Jamie McMahan.

Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

Chairman Riddle called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Austin made a motion to approve the agenda and it was seconded by Commissioner Ledford. The motion to approve was unanimous. (Attachment A)

Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant Public Hearing

The Board next heard from Michelle Ball, Regional Planner with High Country Council of Governments. Ms. Ball stated that she was at the meeting to help answer any questions during the public hearing portion of the meeting. She stated that the purpose of the public hearing is to give the opportunity for citizen input concerning the upcoming application submission for a Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) grant. PARTF provides dollar-for-dollar matching grants to local governments for parks and recreation projects to serve the public. Funding can be used to build and renovate facilities in North Carolina parks as well as to buy new land for new and existing parks. Yancey County plans to apply for \$250,000 from PARTF during the 2018 funding cycle. The County will contribute an equal \$250,000 match for the project for a \$500,000 total project. The matching funds will be a combination of County funds and grants received for stream restoration work in the park. According to Ms. Ball the project will consist of improvements to Ray-Cort Park located on North Main Street in Burnsville. Ms. Ball also stated that the County has had Site Design Studio prepare a Master Plan for Ray-Cort Park with the suggested improvements and new activities to be added. So far there have been two public meetings to receive input and at the last meeting Site Design Studios provided maps for participants to mark their favorite activities. Ms. Ball said that from that meeting the most popular improvements to the park included: a new walking trail with portions handicapped and bike/trike accessible, new outdoor fitness equipment, new natural playground, natural hill climb with slide, access for creek play area, remodeling the existing building (which now houses the Yancey County Transportation Authority) to include handicapped bathrooms and a multi-purpose room. According to Ms. Ball the final project will be determined based on cost estimates from Site Design Studios but should include most of the items identified. Ms. Ball stated that May 1st is the deadline for submission and the grants will be awarded by this fall.

Chairman Riddle then opened up the public hearing to receive input concerning the PARTF grant. The first person to speak before the Board was Schell McCall, Executive Director of Partners Aligned Toward Health (PATH). According to Ms. McCall, PATH has been talking about this Ray-Cort Park project for about a year now. Ms. McCall stated that she would urge the County to move forward and apply for the PARTF grant because the plan for the park is a sound one. Next to speak before the Board was Kathleen Wood, the Executive Director of Dig-In Garden. She stated that her organization was very supportive of the project and that there might be possibilities for Dig-In to partner with the County. The Board next heard from Katherine Savage, the Executive Director of Yancey Alliance for Young Children (YAYC). Ms. Savage stated that her organization also had been working on this project and was very much in support of it. She stated that her organization saw the park as a way to bring elders together with young children. The Board next heard from Ginger Johnson, the Director of the Yancey County/Burnsville Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Johnson stated that the Chamber of Commerce was very much in support of the project as it would give families a place to bring young children to when they are staying in the area. The Board next heard from Martin Spankis who stated that he lived up the road from the park. He stated he was very much in favor of the project. Chairman Riddle asked if there are more opportunities for other grants. Mr. Bennett stated that

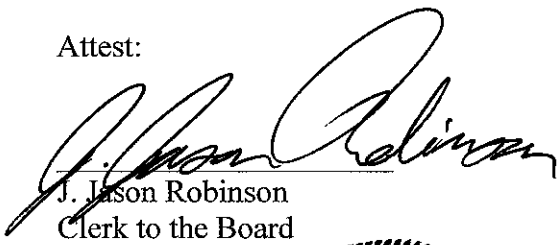
there were opportunities for other grants. Commissioner Ledford then asked about a lighting plan. Mr. Bennett stated that a lighting plan was not included in this plan but he had spoke to the designers about it as a secondary feature. The Board then heard from Karen Watkins. Ms. Watkins stated that she was representing a family that lived above the park who was not able to attend the meeting. Ms. Watkins stated that the family was very much in favor of the project as it would be a great place to take their young children. Having no further comments, Commissioner Whitson made a motion to close the public hearing and it was seconded by Commissioner Austin. The vote to close was unanimous.

Adjournment

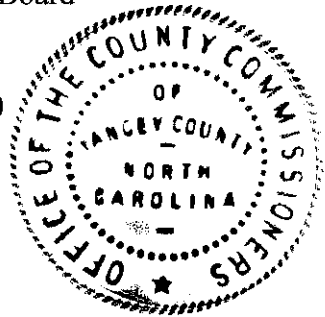
Having no further business Commissioner Stallings made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Commissioner Austin. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

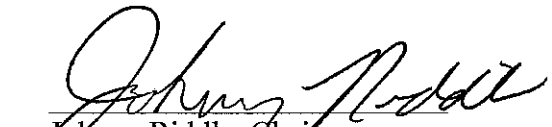
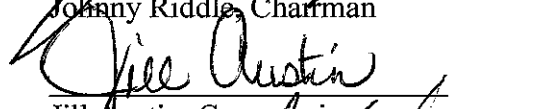
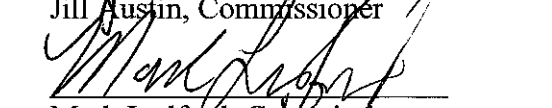
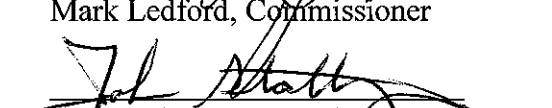
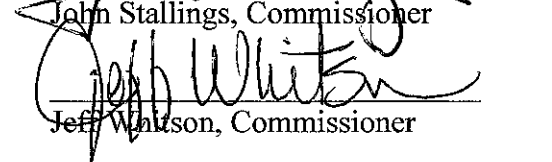
Approved and authenticated on this the _____ 14th _____ day of May 2018.

Attest:

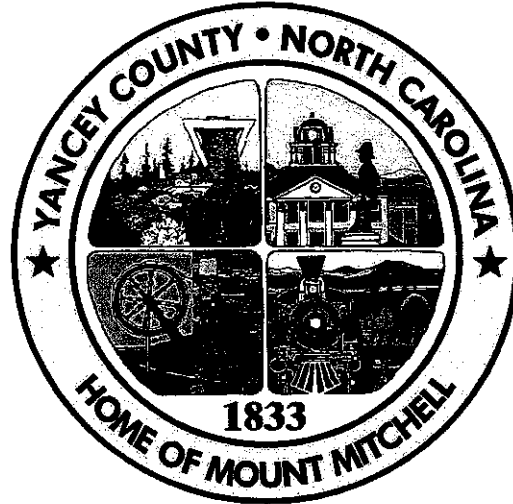

J. Jason Robinson
Clerk to the Board

(county seal)




Johnny Riddle, Chairman

Jill Austin, Commissioner

Mark Ledford, Commissioner

John Stallings, Commissioner

Jeff Whitson, Commissioner

Attachment A



**AGENDA
YANCEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
April 9, 2018**

- I. Call to Order - Chairman Riddle
- II. Approval of Agenda
- III. Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Public Hearing
- IV. Adjourn