

Section X Public Involvement

Section Overview

This section describes how Alexander County involved its citizens in its jurisdiction as the Master Plan was being developed. This section is broken down into the following:

Background

Community Meeting

X. Public Involvement

Background

Alexander County involved the public during the development of the Master Plan in two ways. First, the County appointed a Park Advisory Committee to work with the WPCOG in the development of the plan. The Advisory Committee is composed of 14 members and they began meeting in April of 2009. They will continue to meet after the completion of the plan to help coordinate the implementation phase of the project.

The County conducted a public meeting on Thursday, July 9 to discuss the proposed Master Plan and the Park. The meeting was advertised in the newspaper and was attended by over 30 citizens. At the public meeting, WPCOG staff explained the Master Plan process and citizens had questions and comments.

Community Meeting

The County conducted a public meeting on July 9 at Rocky Face Baptist Church. Citizens that attended the meeting expressed concerns about issues ranging from park security to noise created from a proposed stage. Many residents hoped that the rich history of the area would be brought out at the park. It was the consensus of the residents that they wanted to see a small passive park that would be consistent with the current restrictions for use from the Felburn Foundation and the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program. A summary of the comments received from citizens can be seen on the following page.



Rocky Face Community Meeting

**Results from Rocky Face Community Meeting
July 9, 2009**

- 1. Traffic Problem – What will be done to make traffic on roads surrounding park safe with increased traffic.**
- 2. Develop horse trails - Look to see how horse trails can be incorporated into park. Possible locations near bottom of property where terrain is not as steep. Problem could be parking for horse trailers.**
- 3. History of area – focus on the rich history of the area (perhaps erect a portion of the former rail line)**
- 4. Emergency Access – There needs to be a route for emergency vehicles to get to top for accidents. Could existing trail be used. There may be a logging road on north side of property that would work. Constraints with Felborn need to be factored in to any road development.**
- 5. Amphitheater uses - Concerns expressed on types of uses (rock concerts etc.), noise. Can these be addressed with restrictions for educational uses only.**
- 6. No Smoking – Concerns expressed about smoking in park. Can this be made a no smoking area and how would it be enforced.**
- 7. Charge fee – Some residents suggested charging an entrance fee with a larger fee for out of county residents. This could pay for services. None of the county parks have entrance fees and it would involve staff time to enforce and deal with money.**
- 8. No cooking – one resident suggested not allowing any cooking even at picnic shelter.**
- 9. Fire Concerns – Several residents expressed concerns about increased fire danger with a park. They seemed okay when they were told that there would not be any overnight camping and there would be signage only allowing fires in grills at picnic shelters.**
- 10. Four wheeler damage - There was concern expressed by residents about four-wheeler tearing up the trails. This will need to be addressed through barriers and signage.**

Dan McClure Notes:

Public Comments: horses, highway traffic into area, DOT want respond, improve line-of-sight, buses, Black Oak Ridge Road.

Securing (wild parties?) Sherriff deputies patrol area, 1970's camera club Statesville, friends from Florida, amphitheater, neighbors, history, rail lines chisel trail at end of quarry – wetland – grandfather guard at prison – fire, grill, fire protection – access to top for emergency vehicles – how will project impact taxes

Deed property to county – how will amphitheater be restricted – Carl Allen – if you take public money how will you control what comes into amphitheater – individual rights – will there be another public meeting? Who appointed park committee? Anyone can attend the committee meetings. What about adjacent land? There will signage that will warn people of private property. Also signage for no alcohol, or smoking – Where do horses fit into trails? Horseback riding contributes to economy and currently many are leaving county to ride other areas. Discussion on charging an admission fee. This would involve hiring staff and bookkeeping. Need cooking at picnic shelter.

Darrell Robinson – find out how community feels – does community support project. First grant will not build everything. This is a first step. Do you think it will be beneficial – very unique area.

David Icenhour comments

- **Expanding on the types of uses for the amplitheatre – was concern about issues of what types of groups can use or can be prevented from using amplitheater**
- **General security and staffing issues during park hours**