

**MINUTES - SPECIAL MEETING
BOONE TOWN COUNCIL MAY
5, 2008**

A special meeting of the Boone Town Council was called to order at 5:09 p.m., Monday, May 5, 2008, in the Northwestern Room, Broyhill Inn & Conference Center, ASU. Mayor Loretta Clawson presided. Council Members present were Mayor Pro-Tem Lynne Mason, Janet Pepin, Rennie Brantz, and Stephen Phillips. Staff members present were Greg Young-Town Manager, Kimberly Brown-Deputy Town Clerk, and John Spear-Development Services Director. Town Attorney Sam Furgiuele was also present.

Members of the Appalachian State University Board of Trustees in attendance were Chairman Jim Deal, Jim Cooper, and Jeanine Underdown-Collins. ASU Staff members present were Dr. Loren Baumhover-Chief of Staff in the Chancellor's Office, Dr. Greg Lovin-Interim Vice-Chair for Business Affairs, Dr. Clyde Robbins-Director of Design & Construction, and Mike O'Connor-Physical Plant Director. ASU Attorney Dayton Cole was also present.

The purpose of this meeting was to further discuss the master planning process.

UPDATES ON MASTER PLANNING PROCESS

Dr. Greg Lovins updated the group on the status of the master planning process for ASU. He stated that the University is currently in negotiations with The Lawrence Group. He voiced an anticipated goal of an updated master plan by February 2009. Development Services Director John Spear stated that contract approval for The Lawrence Group will be on the agenda for the Boone Town Council meeting on the 15th of May. It was the consensus of the group that an opportunity exists for collaboration between ASU and the Town of Boone since both are utilizing the same group for this process. Council Member Pepin suggested that ASU and the Town share the scope of services submitted since there are probably several mutual issues between the groups.

UPDATE ON TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

Discussion ensued concerning the need to consider transportation needs during the master planning process.

Highway 421 Project/East King Street Improvements - Chairman Deal assured the group that ASU supports this project. He stated that the section of the project from the Highway 194 intersection to the intersection with Highway 105 is a top priority for completion to coincide with the opening of the new Watauga High School. Council Member Mason pointed out the increase in traffic and congestion during this process, especially along Bamboo Road, Wilson Ridge Road, and Deerfield Road; she explained that the NCDOT officials have agreed to study this issue. Council Member Pepin agreed traffic issues, especially those of neighborhoods that are affected by the increased traffic flow, warrant further study.

Highway 105 - Discussion ensued concerning an additional access to the ASU campus from Highway 105 either by way of a connection to Poplar Grove Road or to Homespun Hills Road. Chairman Deal stated that there are no plans currently for either route but that input from both the Town of Boone and Watauga County will be solicited when this issue is studied by ASU. A brief discussion ensued concerning requested improvements to Highway 105 and the effect of such improvements on safety, traffic flow, and businesses along that corridor.

Sidewalks & Bike Lanes - It was the consensus of the group that a need exists for improvements to current sidewalks and the creation of more sidewalks and bike lanes to meet pedestrian needs and safety.

UPDATE ON UNIVERSITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Dr. Greg Lovins informed the group of feasibility studies that indicate a need for more on-campus student housing. He stated the University's goal is to increase on-campus housing by forty percent. He informed the group of the following construction projects that are either currently on-going or proposed:

- \$ A new residence hall next to Coffey Hall consisting of 100 beds. The anticipated date of completion is 2010-2011.
- \$ A 700-bed, privatized, student-housing complex to be located on property behind the Broyhill Inn & Conference Center.
- \$ College of Education - Currently, asbestos abatement is scheduled to be finished by next week with demolition beginning within the next two weeks. Anticipated completion date is early 2011.
- \$ Negotiations are currently underway for the First Presbyterian Church property. Although there are no finalized plans, the University hopes to keep the current structure and retrofit to include offices and a lecture hall.
- \$ Kidd-Brewer Stadium - Additional seating on the east side is to be completed by the 2008 season opening game. Construction on the west side of the stadium should be completed by the fall of 2009. Additional restroom facilities should also be complete by the beginning of the 2008 season.
- \$ ASU - Town of Boone Water Interconnect - \$168,000 in grant money for this project has been received. Once the engineering agreement is released, then a time-frame for the project can be determined.
- \$ The new dining hall is projected to open this fall. A new food court and green space area is planned adjacent to the new dining hall and is due to be completed by June 2009.
- \$ A capital request for consideration during the short session by the General Assembly will be for the new College of Health Sciences to be located across from the Watauga Medical Center.
- \$ Renovations to University Hall should be completed by summer of this year.

Council Member Brantz asked about the status of the Cultural Museum. Dr. Baumhover indicated that the University is absolutely supportive of efforts to find a new location for the Cultural Museum; however, he stated that there is no available location for it to be housed by the University.

UPDATE ON UNIVERSITY GROWTH

Chairman Deal stated that although ASU will not grow as fast as desired by the State, the campus will continue to grow. Consideration of factors such as an increase in faculty and staff, the availability of land, and the effect on the entire community will continue to play a great role in the growth of the University.

OTHER MATTERS

Council Member Brantz inquired as to the status of the cell-phone emergency notification system. Dr. Lovins stated that the system was tested last week and was successful. All persons who signed to receive notification were contacted within fifteen minutes. He stated the system is not currently connected to the Watauga County emergency network.

In regard to the Howard Street project, Chairman Deal stated it is the desire of the University to be part of the process once the Town is ready to move forward with the project. Town Manager Greg Young indicated that there are right-of-way issues pending in regard to this project.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Deputy Town Clerk

Mayor