



Belmont adopts Carolina Thread Trail plan

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BELMONT - The City council adopted the Carolina Thread Trail master plan Monday.

Mayor Richard Boyce expressed excitement for the project and connecting Belmont Abbey campuses.

With dorms in place at the old Sacred Heart College campus, without sidewalks now, it's not safe for those students to walk to the main campus, he said.

The council asked questions about funding. The fundraising goal is \$25 million. Commitments for \$16 million are in place, according to Randi Gates with CTT.

Cramerton adopted the master plan for a 15-county greenway system in January. The outline offers a conceptual network of walking and biking paths around the Charlotte region.

- Several Belmont residents spoke during the public comment portion of the meeting about an item not on the agenda - Southpoint Hills subdivision.

The proposed 220-lot subdivision off of South Point Road has come before council on two occasions. Both times, Jason Richardson, owner of Spur Enterprises, was sent back to the drawing board. Richardson has not been able to procure land for more than one access for the neighborhood. His only connection to date would spill onto Henrys Chapel Road.

The latest proposed connection would tap into Timber Ridge Road. Three of the existing neighborhood's residents spoke against disturbing the road.

"Mornings and afternoons would be like a freeway," said Walter Pinley. "Don't ruin our peaceful neighborhood."

Pinley has lived on Timber Ridge Road for decades and worries about the safety of his grandchildren if the dead-end road is used as an access.

Michelle Palmer, also a Timber Ridge Road resident, doesn't want the traffic, but she also disagrees with destroying the landscape.

"I'm going to hate to see the woods taken away," she said. "My son used to play Army down there. He's in Afghanistan now fighting for our country so the least I could do is fight for our neighborhood."

No action was taken on the matter.

- Changes were approved to make the public more aware of land development.

The city is required to hold public hearings for zoning changes, but those steps are not needed for conditional-use permits or major development plans.

City Planner Adrian Miller recommended holding public hearings and posting notices to adjacent property owners any time these requests are made.

"This will let folks know if there's something proposed next door," he said.

Miller said the city has been notifying property owners as a courtesy, but now it will be a requirement.

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http://www.gastongazette.com/news/road_30099_article.html/public_city.html