



Date/Time: February 27, 2025

Location: Kingsport City Hall

MEETING NOTES

Call to Order: Commission Chair called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Present Members – Anitra Little, Theresa Ann Fanning, Eddie Grills, Alanna Leonberg, Brad Ollis, Amy Provance, Morgan Hogate

Absentee Members – Tiffany Hickman, Laurie Machado, Christie Gott, Ryan Shipley

Staff and BMA Liaison(s): Maxine Poole (not present), Adrienne Batara, Morris Baker

Others in attendance: Paul Jepson (public sector), Paul Montgomery (mayor), Michael Price and Kitty from Parks and Rec

Approval of Today’s Agenda & Last Month’s Minutes: Approval of January 2025 minutes
Motion by Alanna Leonberg, Second by Theresa Ann Fanning , [Aye (All)– all Nay – (0)]

Public Comment: Paul Jepson. Question – Why is my sewer bill more than my water bill?
Adrienne Batara suggested that he call customer service to get the answer for this.

Community Development Department Overview – Michael Price

Michael Price is the community planner for the city of Kingsport. He works with several state and federal grants. The city of Kingsport is an entitlement city which means we get an automatic amount of funding set aside and don’t have to compete with other cities and counties. This presentation is talking about the Block Grant and the 2025 Annual Action Plan. We covered the qualifications of the program. In 2025 they are projected to receive over \$450,000 in funding. He covered the breakdown of funds. In 2024, program funded emergency repairs through multiple organizations such as Carpenter’s Helpers, Holston Habitat for Humanity, Appalachia Service Project and several others. Community enrichment receives funds as well. Several community agencies were listed. Code enforcement receives funding to cover salary and

benefits for property maintenance and house inspector positions. A copy of this plan can be found on the website and the library as well as other locations. Questions were asked about utilizing the KNC to volunteer for a work day to help with code violations to clean up yards and houses etc. The goal is to intervene to make a difference to keep from foreclosing on homes or fining homeowners. Home repair programs focus on preserving homes and workforce housing.

LWCF Grant Presentation – Tyler Wicks with Bays Mt. (and Kitty with Parks and Rec)

Tyler Wicks from Bays Mountain and Brickyard Park. Discussion about the Local Water and Conservation Funds. We got an overview of Kingsport including the demographic overview and cover of what parks are covered. We got a slideshow of the Project Overview. This project focuses on both Bays Mountain Park and Brickyard Park. Lots of new construction at both sites. Bays mountain is getting a new bobcat habitat, new ADA accessible trails and paths, and other things to improve accessibility but also supporting environmental education and conservation. The goal is to have inclusive spaces for all people to get out in nature! Discussed target demographics: 10.6% of Kingsport residents have ambulatory difficulty and 33.8% of children live below poverty level. Kitty talked about the fact that we were awarded two separate grants, which is a significant change from the past. Brickyard Park will also be renovating to get the following: pedal park, multi-purpose play space, and a turf field upgrade. Also some of the upgrades will focus on construction of a lighted parking lot and ADA sidewalk connections. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in Sullivan County. All these initiatives are intentional in creating space for people of all mobility styles to enjoy and create a healthier lifestyle. Tyler also covered the Tennessee Outdoors - Vision 2030. Conservation is very important in Tennessee and this is also a huge part of the Vision 2030. Both Bays Mountain and Brickyard Parks are either low cost or free entry to create more inclusiveness and access to all. Finishing up the PowerPoint was the funding overview and timeline of competition. Projected completion 2027.

Closing Comment.

Eddie wanted to say thank you for the great and informative presentation. Kitty wanted to communicate that public input and communication is important and they will be hosting more public meetings to discuss this with the community. They request the support of the KNC. March 14th, at 1:00 will be their meeting at City Hall!! March 10th at Bays Mountain 6:00 PM at the Farmstead museum.

Second quarter is at the Fire Training Center!

Next Meeting Location & Date:

March 27th, 2025 @ Kingsport City Hall

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 PM

Minutes submitted by Commissioner Amy Provance