

LIVABILITY BOARD OVERVIEW

APRIL 2018

4/24/2018

PURPOSE

The Livability Board was created in the latter part of 2011 as the Town of Davidson Board of Commissioners sought to combine the Parks & Recreation, Bicycle, Pedestrian & Greenways, and Natural Assets Advisory Boards.

The Livability Board's mission is to serve as a sounding board and provide advice and recommendations to staff on any and all questions concerning:

- Parks
- Recreation
- Healthy living initiatives
- Trees and natural assets
- Greenways and trails
- Bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and
- Policies

PURPOSE

The Livability Board's may be called upon for advice and recommendations to the Town of Davidson Board of Commissioners in any or all of the following areas:

- To promote an enjoyable place to live, learn, work, and play
- To support safe and vibrant spaces and neighborhoods
- To promote cultural, socioeconomic, and age diversity
- To encourage committed civic involvement and responsibility
- To promote sustainable and healthy choices for transportation, food, and energy use
- To encourage good stewardship of natural and historic resources
- To promote equitable access to parks and recreation for residents

OFFICERS & MEMBERS

Chair:

- Steedman Lyles

Vice Chair:

- George Berger

Secretary:

- Jason H. Parker

The Livability Board is now comprised of 13 Davidson residents and one Davidson College student.

There is an opening for one representative from the extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ).

LIVABILITY BOARD SUB-COMMITTEES

1. Walks & Rolls (Appendix A – goals)

- Advise on pedestrian and bicycle safety, policies, and projects

2. Trees & Natural Assets (Appendix B – goals)

- Advise on natural asset and tree policies and projects

3. Parks & Recreation (Appendix C – goals)

- Advise on parks and recreation projects and policies

SUB-COMMITTEE ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

In partnership with Town of Davidson staff:

- Present an **annual plan with goals** and a **three-year draft plan of priorities** to the Livability Board for discussion and approval
- Update Livability Board at each monthly meeting on **status of activities underway**
- Provide **“voice of the town”** input to Town of Davidson staff as needed
- Ensure **progress on key activities is communicated** as needed
- Work with **citizen advocacy groups** to promote sub-committee responsibilities
- Work to **build local support** for key initiatives
- Develop and **track success metrics**

Town of Davidson residents are invited to join a sub-committee of the Livability Board.

2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Park at Bailey Springs – completed successful community input process; construction of phase 1 set to begin early May, 90-day contract
- Drafted changes to the Tree Ordinance (Section 9 of Planning Ordinance) for consideration by planning staff
- Presented a detailed proposal to the Town Board of Commissioners for updating Davidson's street tree inventory
- Applied for grant funding for completion of the street tree inventory
- Submitted TreeCity USA annual renewal
- Partnered with TreesDavidson on several tree planting events
- Completed plan for volunteer planting of trees at Park at Bailey Springs, South Street Greenway, and Fisher Farm
- Expanded the Walk to School and Bike to School to more Davidson schools and saw the largest participation from Davidson Elementary

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

WALKS & ROLLS SUB-COMMITTEE, 1-YEAR

1. Continue Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Activities and Promotions

- Coordinate Bicycle Month, Safe Routes to School, Bicycle Skills Clinics, and more
- Update and expand bicycle and pedestrian routes and greenways map
- Continue to support & promote Bicycle Expo and other joint activities with Town of Cornelius

2. Support & Champion Infrastructure Activities

- Continue efforts to support funding and construction of greenways. Leverage Mecklenburg County and other group funding or branding positioning efforts.
- Advocate for sidewalk completion and gap removal projects
- Encourage the continuation of ADA accessibility improvement projects
- Champion efforts with neighboring towns to build key pedestrian and bicycle connections
- Advocate for the inclusion of a “Bicycle Playground” educational facility at the North Mecklenburg Recreation Center

APPENDIX A (CONTINUED)

WALKS & ROLLS SUB-COMMITTEE, 1-YEAR

3. Expand Communication

- Conduct annual implementation Progress Report on the *Davidson Walks & Rolls Active Transportation Master Plan*, for submittal to Board of Commissioners
- Develop and implement a social-media-based communications program in coordination with Parks & Recreation and PIO staff, promoting topics within the purview of the Livability Board

4. Facilitate Pedestrian & Bicycle Wayfinding Efforts

- Develop and implement “Walk Davidson” pedestrian wayfinding signage
- Develop and begin the implementation of a bicycle wayfinding designation or signage program along the town’s family-friendly bicycle routes

APPENDIX A (CONTINUED)

WALKS & ROLLS SUB-COMMITTEE, 3-YEAR

1. Strengthen inter-town connectivity by advocating and prioritizing the following sidewalk and greenway connections:
 1. Kincaid Trail extension
 2. Potts/Sloan/Beaty connector
 3. Summers Walk/River Run greenway
 4. Statesville-to-Charlotte Trail

APPENDIX B

TREES & NATURAL ASSETS SUB-COMMITTEE, 1-YEAR

1. **Enhance the Davidson Tree Ordinance (Section 9 of Davidson Planning Ordinance)**
 - Current status: draft recommendations are under consideration and study by Town of Davidson Planning Department staff. The sub-committee has recommended a consulting arborist be available for project and policy decisions
2. **Update Davidson's Street Tree Inventory**
 - Current status: a recommendation for a new street tree inventory and management system has been presented to the Town of Davidson Board of Commissioners for consideration. The recommended plan is unanimously endorsed by the Livability Board and by the Public Works Department for the Town of Davidson
3. **Adopt a Tree Canopy Goal for Davidson**
 - Current status: the sub-committee awaits aerial data and analysis prior to determination of an appropriate tree canopy goal for our community

APPENDIX B (CONTINUED)

TREES & NATURAL ASSETS SUB-COMMITTEE, 1-YEAR

4. Complete Tree and Landscaping Improvements to Parks

- Finalize and submit a planting plan at Bailey Springs Park in conjunction with TreesDavidson, who will implement the approved planting plan in 2018

5. Increase Community Engagement and Tree Education

- Coordinate volunteer planting projects, including planting sites at Fisher Farm
- Seek 9th consecutive designation as a TreeCity USA and work to receive the TreeCity Growth Award

APPENDIX B (CONTINUED)

TREES & NATURAL ASSETS SUB-COMMITTEE, 3-YEAR

1. Establish long-term goals for each of the sub-committee's one-year goals
2. Prepare for the update of the Town of Davidson Comprehensive Plan

APPENDIX C

PARKS & RECREATION SUB-COMMITTEE, 1-YEAR

1. Complete construction of a new community park in Bailey Springs
2. Continue to coordinate activities with Town of Cornelius and Town of Huntersville regarding mutually beneficial planning and recreational activities
3. Continue to partner with Town of Cornelius and Town of Huntersville to influence the development, timing, and design of the planned North Mecklenburg Recreation Center
4. Participate in the Park at Beaty Street Task Force
5. Continue joint use conversations for increased program space with CMS, local private schools, and other partners

APPENDIX C (CONTINUED)

PARKS & RECREATION SUB-COMMITTEE, 3-YEAR

1. Implement a regional joint use plan
2. Expand community engagement in park maintenance
3. Develop alternatives for increased program space
4. Complete Phase 2 of Park at Bailey Springs
5. Support the implementation of the Town of Davidson Board of Commissioners Parks & Recreation prioritization plan