

Downtown Commission – April Updates

TO: Downtown Commission
DATE: April 21, 2017
PREPARED BY: Dana Frankel, Downtown Development Specialist
SUBJECT: Updates on downtown projects and initiatives

Budget Process FY 17/18

The City Manager will submit a draft budget to City Council on May 5th in advance of the May 9th Council Meeting; it will be publically available at that time. There will be a public hearing on the proposed on May 23rd. Council is scheduled to adopt the budget on June 13th.

Downtown Commission Ordinance Amendment

Following the Downtown Commission's recommendation, a resolution amending affiliation requirements for the Asheville Downtown Association seat on the Commission (that it be filled by a board member or executive director of the organization) was passed by City Council at their March 28th meeting.

Haywood Street Bond Project

The City's Capital Projects Department is initiating work on the resurfacing and sidewalk reconstruction of Haywood Street (from Patton to Flint) funded by the transportation bond. An RFQ will be released soon for engineering/landscape architects to do design and planning. There will be opportunities to provide feedback on design. Construction expected in early 2019.

The project was discussed at the Design Review Committee's 3/21 meeting. The Committee discussed support for replacing the blue stone with concrete, and for creating a unique streetscape with elements such as seating, trees, public art, etc.

Haywood Street Visioning

Staff is working on an RFP/RFQ for design services to create design options based on the community advisory team's recommendations. Staff is also working on implementation of temporary uses on the site, and will come to the downtown commission in May with a proposal.

Pack Square Park

The lawn will open on May 1st. A pipe in a pump vault for Splashville is being repaired and will open following the repair.

A Pack Square Park Master Plan is underway, commissioned by the NC Arboretum (with Pack Square Park Conservancy funds). Staff will provide an update on that project and seek feedback from the Downtown Commission in June.

Pritchard Park

Pritchard Park landscape improvements are expected to begin this month.

The work will be done in stages in order to minimize disruption to park patrons. At no time will the park be closed in its entirety. The drum circle and other programming will be able to continue throughout the construction period.

Work hours will be typically 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday – Friday. Orange construction fencing will be used to limit pedestrian traffic in current work areas. This will mostly be installed around the large mulched area around the large Oak tree and along Patton Avenue. Parking for work crews will be along the north side of College Street directly across from Pritchard Park near Tupelo Honey. The meters there will be bagged and the spaces reserved for their use only. There will be some work requiring loading/unloading from the loading zone in front of the police parking space, but that should be limited.

The project is slated for completion by the end of July, pending factors such as weather.

Walkable Wall Street

The next Walkable Wall Street event is scheduled for Saturday, May 12th and is being planned in collaboration with Strive Not To Drive. The street will be closed to vehicles from 2 PM to 12 AM. Businesses will offer special promotions and activities in the street, a passport program will be offered and Asheville on Bikes will start and end their Bright Light Biker ride on Wall Street. This is the third in a series of events to test Wall Street as a pedestrian-only street. The goal is to support businesses while promoting walkability, pedestrian safety and place-making.