

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

To Plan and Create a Public Greenway and Bike and Pedestrian Multi-Use Pathway
Along the Boneyard Creek Corridor from the University of Illinois Campus to Downtown Urbana

Whereas, The Boneyard Creek is a valued natural water course which flows through the center of our community, and

Whereas, Considerable attention, planning, and resources have been expended in the past to address Boneyard Creek flooding and bankside deterioration (1978 Boneyard Master Plan), and more recently, beautification of the Boneyard Creek to transform the Creek into a desirable public amenity (Boneyard Creek Improvement Plan, 2008), resulting in the construction and dedication of Section 3 of the Improvement Plan between N. Race Street and Broadway Avenue (2014), and

Whereas, The extension of the Boneyard Creek Master Plan westward is both necessary and desirable to create a complete public greenway with a bike and pedestrian multi-use pathway connecting the University of Illinois campus to downtown Urbana, and

Whereas, Such a pathway would provide a significant extension of the Kickapoo Rail Trail through Urbana going westward, and

Whereas, Completing the Boneyard Creek Path westward is supported in the Urbana City Council and Mayor Goals document (2014-2017), and

Whereas, The City of Urbana seeks community partners, organizations, and agencies to support the planning and creation of the extension of the Boneyard Creek Master Plan westward, and to assist the City in identifying the necessary resources to acquire available properties and prepare planning for such an amenity, and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mayor and City Council of Urbana invite the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission, partners of Champaign Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study (CUUATS), and all other interested agencies and organizations to partner with the City of Urbana in achieving these goals, and to work with the City to extend the Boneyard Creek Improvement Plan westward between downtown Urbana and the University of Illinois campus, and to thereby preserve the length of the Boneyard Creek through Urbana as a public trail and parkway for the posterity of our descendants.

Passed this day

Signed

etc.

Mayor Prussing and City Council Members,

The attached RESOLUTION is offered for approval at the next Committee of the Whole Agenda (March 13) for your consideration.

The City has worked to address flood control and beautification along the Boneyard Creek in 1978 and 2008. However there is important work left to complete the vision of a greenway and multi-use path along the full length of the Boneyard Creek in Urbana. A walk-through of properties bordering the Creek conducted by the Mayor and City Council (September 2015) showed signs of erosion and land subsidence, resulting in significant property damage along the section of the Creek west of the Boneyard Improvement Plan.

In February I made a presentation before meetings of the Urbana Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (February 21) and The Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (February 24) encouraging each agency to become involved in the creation of a Boneyard Creek Pathway Plan westward. The desirability of extending a bike and pedestrian pathway along the Creek westward, that connects Urbana's downtown to the University of Illinois campus, is easy to appreciate. However, to date, no plan has been adopted to actually complete this important recreational and economic link into the university campus. Members of both the BPAC and CCRPC commissions expressed strong interest in this project, as building a pathway along the Creek coincides with their long term objectives.

Members of the CCRPC felt that to initiate their cooperation on this goal, the proposal to partner with CCRPC should come forward from the City of Urbana itself. Therefore I have drafted the attached RESOLUTION, which, when adopted, would allow the CCRPC to place their staff resources at the City's disposal in advancing this goal.

Rita Morocomia-Black, Planning and Community Development Director, indicated that, as a member of the Champaign Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study (CUUATS) planning team, the City could get assistance from CCRPC staff to prepare grant applications and search for funding to support this project during the 2017-2018 grant application cycles.

Approval of the attached RESOLUTION would satisfy the request the CCRPC Board and other like-minded agencies and organizations to work as partners with the City in achieving this goal.

Yours,

Dennis Roberts
Alderman Ward 5

Charlie Smyth
Alderman Ward 1

March 5, 2017