

# Salisbury City Council Agenda Item Request Form



Please Select Submission Category: ☐ Public ☒ Council ☐ Manager ☐ Staff

Requested Council Meeting Date: September 20, 2022

Name of Group(s) or Individual(s) Making Request: City Council

Name of Presenter(s): City Council

Requested Agenda Item: Council to consider placing a permanent flag in Bell Tower Green Park.

**Description of Requested Agenda Item:** At its August 16, 2022 meeting, Council appointed members to the Bell Tower Green Advisory Committee. A request to place an American flag within the Park was received by Council and forwarded to the BTG Committee in accordance with the Ordinance establishing the advisory committee. The Committee met on September 14, 2022 and recommended against placing a flag within the Park. A copy of the Minutes from the BTG Advisory Committee is attached for Council's information.

Attachments: ☒ Yes ☐ No

**Fiscal Note:** *(If fiscal note requires approval by finance department because item exceeds \$100,000 or is related to grant funds, please fill out signature blocks for finance at bottom of form and provide supporting documents)*

**Action Requested of Council for Agenda Item:** Council to consider placing a flag in Bell Tower Green Park  
*. Please note if item includes an ordinance, resolution or petition)*

**Contact Information for Group or Individual:**

☐ **Consent Agenda** (item requires no discussion and will be voted on by Council or removed from the consent agenda to the regular agenda)

☒ **Regular Agenda** (item to be discussed and possibly voted on by Council)

## FINANCE DEPARTMENT INFORMATION:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Finance Manager Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Department Head Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Budget Manager Signature

**\*\*\*All agenda items must be submitted at least 7 days before the requested Council meeting date\*\*\***

**For Use in Clerk's Office Only**

☐

**Approved**

☐

**Delayed**

☐

**Declined**



## ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 14, 2022 | 12 pm

City Hall Council Chambers | 217 S. Main St. Salisbury, NC

### I. **CALL TO ORDER:**

- Bill Wagoner called the meeting to order at 12 noon.

#### **Members Present:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meredith Abramson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elise Tellez   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bill Wagoner      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Melissa Graham |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jill DeBose       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alvaro Rosero  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dyke Messinger    |  |

#### **Staff Present:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Craig Powers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Graham Corriher |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nick Aveves  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brad Gorman     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sam Wilborn  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Ludwick   |

#### **Council Liaison:**

- ☒ Harry McLaughlin

### II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- August 2022 minutes were approved by a motion from Alvaro and second by Elise, all voted to approve the minutes

### III. **BOARD REPORTS:**

- None at this time as a presentation from Land Design took precedence at this meeting

### IV. **STAFF REPORT-PROGRAMMING/FACILITIES UPDATE-STAFF:**

- None at this time

### V. **NEW/OTHER BUSINESS:**

#### **a. Land Design Presentation:**

Bill explained he invited Land Design to provide the history on how the park was designed. Introductions were given from the committee to Land Design. Beth and Allison gave a virtual presentation to the committee regarding the Bell Tower Green Park.

Bill mentioned the 100-page master plan document that was given to the City and Beth will resend for reference for all to have. Bill opened the floor for any questions the committee may have.

Harry wanted to know who the owner of the Wrenn House property was, and Bill stated it is BTG Inc. Bill explained that the Wrenn House and the Session House are separate parcels. The Wrenn House is owned by BTG Inc. and the Session House which is by the Maxwell Chamber Trust. The City has ownership of everything else. Alvaro asked where on the property a flag would go. Nick stated the committee will discuss this and can bring back to Land Design for any questions.

**b. By-Laws:**

Nick will send out to the committee via a hard copy or by email.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS:**

**Flag at the park.**

Nick asked Graham to start by introducing the agreement. Graham explained the Agreement between the City and BTG Inc. and the Ordinance establishing the BTG advisory committee. Graham explained that the advisory committee's role was to make recommendations to City Council about the park. Dyke spoke on behalf of BTG Inc. and said BTG Inc. thinks there should be a high standard met before there are any changes at the park, otherwise it should remain as it was designed. Dyke gave an example of permanent ping-pong tables, and questioned if that were allowed would it lead to permanent installations such as basketball courts? Meredith said the park has different rooms or areas that were designed to cultivate community. Alvaro asked, if the agreement said BTG Inc. didn't want any changes? Graham said the agreement allows for changes to the park with the written consent of the City and BTG Inc. and that the agreement establishes a reasonable standard for the consent. Bill mentioned the committee was established to discuss such items and issues, and to work hand in hand with the City and BTG Inc. Dyke discussed the difference between temporary events and permanent fixtures in the park. Al wanted to know the process regarding Hurley Park and the new office. Nick explained the process.

Bill directed the discussion to whether there should be a permanent flag in the park. What does the committee recommend to City Council? Bill opened the floor for conversation and discussion. Melissa said she spent time in the park since last meeting. The flag across the street (at the Rowan County Administrative Building) is prominent from inside the park and if you have an event you can see it and face the flag. Jill said inside the park is very inclusive and diverse and that has been a great success. She said the original way it was designed was to meet the needs of the community, and she thinks it has done that. Elise said the park is very reflective of the community, and it was nice to view the presentation from Land Design and understand the intentionality of its design. She thinks the park looks nice the way it is. Her dad, who is a veteran, visited the Park and thought the flag across the street was adequate. Meredith has been deeply involved with the design of the park since 2016. She said it is very important that the park cultivate community and be a place for all to gather, and that it has done that. She hoped that everyone would focus on what amenities the Park provides rather than what it lacks or needs. Dyke said the most prominent flag is the at the Rowan County building. When discussions about the flag took place, the conclusion was that the flag at the County building met the needs for a flag at the park. He agreed with what others had said about the park cultivating community. Alvaro said the flag at the County building was increased in size due to this issue. He asked if the flag was discussed in the 100-page document. Dyke said it may have been, but it was discussed that the Rowan County flag was to be the flag used. Alvaro mentioned National Parks have flags, and he is just asking to represent veterans onsite. Alvaro said he is really confused on the push back regarding the flag. He is asking to put up something to make everyone happy. Melissa asked, is it because it is not within the boundaries of the park property? Alvaro said yes, that is the issue and a flag in the park is symbolic. Dyke asked why the Rowan County flag is not adequate.

Alvaro said because it's Rowan County's flag, not the park's flag. Alvaro gave an example of claiming that your neighbor's flag was your flag, which is not adequate. There was discussion about flags in other parks. Nick explained there are 29 parks in the City, and only three (3) parks have flags (Salisbury Community Park, Civic Center, and City Park). There was discussion about why BTG needed a flag onsite as opposed to the parks that do not have a flag. Alvaro said BTG has many visitors onsite all the time, more visible.

After discussion from the members, Bill explained that City Council had requested the advisory committee's input on whether a flag should be in the park, and the advisory committee could respond very narrowly by answering just that question or could provide City Council with additional advice about an appropriate location if the committee decided to recommend a flag within the park.

Alvaro made it known that as long as there is a flag, it does not have to be at the entrance to the park. He then explained the differences in the placement requirements for buildings (to the left of the entrance) and for other areas, like parks. Nick explained that if a flag was recommended there would be coordination with Land Design, Public Works, Parks & Recreation for placement within the park to avoid interfering with underlying infrastructure. Bill asked whether the committee would like more discussion. Learn more about the park? More from Graham? Visit the park? Alvaro said if the committee recommends against putting a flag in the park there will be no need to visit the park. All committee members were comfortable moving forward without a visit/walk through at the park. Elise said she sees it as our flag not the Rowan County flag. She asked about are the logistics regarding flag display. Brad said it needs to be lit, raised and lowered to half-staff for different occasions, and maintained. Craig said raising and lowering for different occasions is not an issue, as we have staff onsite. Bill said the current flag at the Rowan County Administrative building provides a flag at the park based on its size and location near the park's main entrance. Dyke mentioned, if the committee recommends a flag, we will need another discussion to get the location etc.

### **MOTION and VOTE**

Alvaro made the following motion, which was seconded by Melissa: To recommend that City Council put a flag in Bell Tower Green Park to be displayed permanently. No discussion was needed. The motion failed with one voting in favor and six against. Discussion about when it would go to City Council for a recommendation, either at the last meeting in September or the first meeting in October.

Dyke clarified that the members voting against the motion support the American flag but believe the flag at the Rowan County Administrative Building meets the park's need. Others agreed.

Next meeting: October 10<sup>th</sup> at City Council.

Other request: This committee will discuss, and the agenda could include these.

### **VII. ADJOURNMENT:**

- The meeting adjourned at 1:56 pm