



MEMORANDUM

August 14th, 2013

TO: Planning Board Members, Chris Reed, City Clerk
FROM: Planning Staff

RE: No Regular August Planning Board Meeting

The regularly scheduled Planning Board meeting for Tuesday, August 20th, 2013 will not be held. Planning Staff is pleased to provide several updates of projects around the city.

- The Walgreens and Bestway project at the Conover Marketplace Shopping Center is finally beginning construction. The Bestway construction broke ground last week and a 120 day construction is anticipated. Thereafter demolition will begin and an approximate 1 year construction period is anticipated for the Walgreens. The Hickory Daily Record provided an informative article in the 8-15-13 edition and I have enclosed a copy for your information. Staff appreciates the Planning Board's participation and review of this project.
- The Multijurisdictional Business Park/NC Data Campus engineering is complete and the project will be advertised for bid in the coming weeks. Thereafter a public bid opening will take place and a contractor will be determined. Construction should begin this fall and run well into 2014.
- The City was awarded a \$37,000 grant from the Carolina Thread Trail. This grant is funding the acquisition of trail easements along the future Lyle Creek Greenway. I have enclosed a Carolina Thread Trail fact sheet and will provide a full informational presentation at the upcoming Planning Board meeting. This is an exciting opportunity for the city to provide additional trails and recreation to our citizens in the future.
- The Apple Solar farm construction continues (when the weather cooperates) with an anticipated completion early this fall.
- The new Conover City Park continues to be a very popular park with hundreds of visitors a week. The entire Conover Station area is realizing the increased traffic as the library has experienced significant increases in patronage. The following numbers are from the Catawba County Library Director:
 - Circulation of Materials totaled 69,216, up 27% over the previous year.
 - Youth Programming: we wowed with a total of 145 programs for youth, up over 100% from the previous year. Attendance was even better: 2435 youth attended these programs, almost four times that of the previous year!
 - We registered 452 new library users, and had 42,510 visits to the Conover library over the year.