Amphitheater, trails to draw tourists to Pickens

City seeks grant for park on Main and Ann streets

By Julie Howle
STAFF WRITER
jhowle@greenvillenews.com

Pickens residents can give their input through Wednesday on city plans to seek grants to develop a park on Main and Ann streets complete with an amphitheater and fitness trails.

"It will really be a center of town where before we've only had Legacy Square, which is just a concrete lot," said City Administrator Katherine Brackett. "If you've got people coming in town to watch entertainment, you hope that they're going to shop and eat while they're downtown, too."

No residents spoke about the project Monday night during a public hearing on the issue at the Pickens City Council meeting, but Councilwoman Patti Welborn said several people have told her they think the project would be a good thing.

"I think that that is going to open doors for Pickens in a lot of different ways," she said, describing how an amphitheater and park could help attract people and possibly businesses to the area while also giving entertainment options to people who are already in Pickens.

Brackett said the amphitheater and park would be on about five acres near the Bradley-Boggs House and said the city is going after about $200,000 in a grant through the state Department of Parks and Recreation.

She said the money would be used for a covered picnic shelter, main entrance area and walking trails.

Those interested in commenting can call City Hall at 878-6421 or e-mail Brackett at kbrackett@pickenscity.com.

Conceptual drawings for the park are also at City Hall for people to view through Wednesday.

Later phases in the park could include parking and lighting, the amphitheater, a stormwater retention pond and rain garden, and a fountain, according to Brackett.