

Lynn Marks, President
Rotary Club of Hendersonville
hendorotarypres@gmail.com
828-551-7104

Monday, March 24, 2025

John Connet, City Manager
City of Hendersonville
145 Fifth Avenue East
Hendersonville, NC 28792

Dear Mr. Connet and Members of the Hendersonville City Council,

On behalf of the Rotary Club of Hendersonville, I respectfully submit this request for permission to place two *Peace Poles* within the city limits of Hendersonville. Specifically, we propose installing one Peace Pole in Lennox Park at 901 Lennox Park Drive, and a second on the corner of 5th Avenue and Church Street, known locally as the Safelight corner.

A Peace Pole is an internationally recognized symbol of hope, peace, and unity. Each pole bears the message, “May Peace Prevail on Earth,” in multiple languages, serving as a silent yet powerful reminder to all who pass by. The Peace Pole initiative aligns closely with Rotary International’s mission to promote peace and goodwill around the globe. Founded on the values of service, fellowship, diversity, integrity, and leadership, Rotary brings together leaders from all walks of life to address the world’s most pressing challenges—among them, building a more peaceful world.

This project is part of a broader peace initiative spearheaded by Rotary District 7670 and strongly supported by Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick and District Governor Connie Molland. President Urchick has asked Rotarians worldwide to “help heal a divided world,” and our District Governor responded to that call with the ambitious goal of planting 50 Peace Poles throughout Western North Carolina during this Rotary year. Through a special district grant program, Rotary Clubs are receiving support to make this vision a reality in local communities.

Peace Poles have a long and meaningful history, first envisioned in Japan in 1955 by peace activist Masahisa Goi. Since then, more than 200,000 poles have been installed in nearly every country on earth. They serve not only as artistic monuments but as lasting commitments to community values of compassion, inclusivity, and peace. As one of the oldest and most active civic organizations in Hendersonville, the Rotary Club is proud to participate in this global initiative.

The Rotary Club of Hendersonville will assume full responsibility for the installation and ongoing maintenance of both Peace Poles. We see these installations as not only aligning with our club's mission but also enhancing the community's public spaces with a message that resonates deeply across all cultures and generations.

We would be honored to work with city staff on selecting appropriate locations within the proposed sites and ensuring the process meets all necessary guidelines and standards.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your continued support of efforts that promote peace, unity, and community pride in Hendersonville. We are available at your convenience to answer any questions or provide additional information.

With appreciation,

Lynn Marks

President, Rotary Club of Hendersonville