

Minutes

Friday, 8 October 2021

8:15 a.m.

City Commission Room, City Hall, 1101 Poyntz Avenue

1. MEETING OPENING

1.1. Sevin called the meeting to order at 8:17 a.m.

1.2. Roll Call

Present: Nancy Baker, David Colburn, Annie Cook, Joseph Edmunds, Brian Hardeman, Shanika Rose, Seth Scobee, Carol Sevin

Absent: Chris Spooner, Jared Tremblay (non-voting)

Staff: Brian Johnson, City Engineer; Wyatt Thompson, Assistant Director of Parks and Rec; Alfonso Leyva, Park Planner; Ben Chmiel, Planner III; Tyler Tripp, Bike/Ped Coordinator

Public: 1

1.3. **Minutes of 9/10/2021 meeting.** Cook moved to approve the minutes; Edmunds seconded. Motion passed 7–0–0.

1.4. **Public Comments:** None.

2. REPORTS & UPDATES

2.1. **Public Works:** Johnson notified the Board that the City is encountering significant resistance to acquiring easements for the Hayes Drive Trail. The City has sent the notification letter as part of the condemnation process to Parker Han-nifin. The appraisal for the acquisition of the easement will be complete in six to eight weeks. Johnson stated that the appraisal will likely be greater than \$500,000 and alternatives may need to be identified. If the City does go through the condemnation process, the case will likely not be able to go to court until August or September 2022, in which case there will be a several-month overlap of the closing of Linear Trail and the absence of Hayes Drive as an alternative route. Additional lighting has been placed along the Old Big Blue River Trail to enhance it as a potential alternative.

Diane Novak asked whether it could be possible to add a connection on the Old Big Blue River Trail to the restaurants and businesses to the southeast, near Hostetler Drive due to the jobs in the area. Johnson explained that the original route for the trail cut through IHOP's property to connect to McCall Road, but IHOP did not want to sell an easement to the City.

The Levee Project has been awarded and there will be a meeting with the

contractor during November with hopes to have a project schedule at that time.

Novak asked whether there would be improvements made to the connection from Northeast Community Park to Linear Trail. Thompson stated that the project will include a widening of the connection to improve movement and visibility.

Public Works has received approval to hire a consultant to begin design for filling the sidewalk gap between 17th street and Westwood Road along Fort Riley Boulevard. Based on conversations with Evergy, Johnson stated that the three power poles between Fort Riley Boulevard and Valley Drive cannot be moved. The current hope is to have the project completed in 12-16 months. Johnson stated that a letter of support from BPAC may be beneficial.

Hardeman asked what opposition Parker Hannifin had to providing the easement for the Hayes Drive Trail. Johnson responded that they had not provided justification for their decision.

Approval has been granted to build sidewalk on Old Claflin Road using CDBG funds.

Kimball Avenue will close starting October 18, 2021, to August 15, 2022, as part of Phase 10 of the North Campus Corridor Project. The project will include new sidewalk on the north side of Kimball Avenue. The south side of Kimball will be converted to 10-foot trail.

As part of the election in November, Riley County has a 0.2% sale tax referendum to widen Marlatt Avenue to three lanes from Denison Avenue to Seth Child Avenue. City staff has discussed partnering with the county to extend the trail that goes from Tuttle Creek Boulevard to Denison Avenue to reach Browning Avenue to connect the middle schools.

- 2.2. **Parks & Recreation:** Leyva stated that concrete will likely begin to be poured at the Clarenburg Trail during the week following the meeting. The east section will be shut down around the same time to connect the trail to existing trails.

The parking lot in Anneberg Park is nearly complete and the contractor will begin work on the trail upon completion.

Hardeman asked if the lighting will be moved to light the Clarenburg Trail. Leyva stated that this was the case.

Colburn commended the Parks and Recreation Department for their help with the creation of the children's bike park in Anneberg Park. Leyva stated that there are already plans in place to create something similar in Northeast Park. Baker asked if the installation of the bike park was still subject to the completion of the master plan for the park. Leyva stated that it was decided to move forward on the project prior to the creation of the plan.

Diane Novak asked what the width would be for the trail in Anneberg Park. Leyva responded that the trail would be 8 feet wide. She asked if there would be any change to the connection to the trail on the south side of Anderson Avenue due to issues of other users nearly colliding with cyclists headed east at that

location. Leyva stated that the existing connection would not be altered. Novak suggested that the shrubs could be altered to improve visibility.

- 2.3. **Community Development:** Tripp stated that Bike/Walk Month is now over. The banner was up in the City Hall lawn for approximately one and a half weeks. Tripp stated that there may be discussion at a future meeting regarding how to improve Bike/Walk Month and incorporate more walking events in future years.

Chmiel stated that the adoption draft of the Manhattan Development Code (MDC) was published the day of the current meeting. There will be a few more work sessions with the Planning Board and the City Commission to confirm that there are no major issues that would lead to votes against the MDC. The voting meeting for the City Commission will be December 7. The new regulations should take effect January 1, 2022.

The design for the cycle track on North Manhattan Avenue from Bluemont Avenue to Fremont Avenue is at 90% completion. Johnson stated that there are still space constraint challenges that are being addressed for extending the cycle track north of Bluemont Avenue.

Baker suggested having more posts from RCPD about bike safety and the rules of the road during Bike/Walk Month in the future. Tripp stated that the posts were a result of coordination between the City and RCPD to make safety posts during Bike/Walk Month.

Novak suggested coordinating counts and community feedback efforts during Bike to School Day to determine weak spots in infrastructure and improve the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Plan. Cook suggested coordinating with USD383 to have Bike to School Day occur during Bike/Walk Month.

3. OLD BUSINESS

- 3.1. none

4. NEW BUSINESS

- 4.1. **KDWPT Recreation Trails Grant and Sunflower Foundation Trail Builders Grant**

Thompson began the presentation by stating that if anyone in BPAC comes across grant opportunities to feel free to recommend those to the City. The Sunflower Foundation Trail Champion Cohort is an opportunity to gain useful knowledge and technical assistance for trail systems. The Sunflower Foundation Trail Builders Grant is for trail construction in underserved areas. Thompson stated that the Old Blue River Trail was constructed utilizing this grant in the past. The grant includes three categories of eligible projects including trail development, trail construction, and trail signage (if part of new construction). The KDWPT Recreational Trails Program provides 80 percent reimbursement for trail projects. There are three categories for grants for motorized, non-motorized, and diversified trails. Thompson stated that the City is clarifying whether the allowance of e-scooters on Manhattan's trails would qualify trails under the

“motorized” category which often has less competition. The following are projects presented for potential grant applications:

- 1) Bluemont Scenic Overlook Trails: Re-Route / Repair Hiking Trails.
- 2) Wildcat Creek Linear Trail: Zoo to Poliska Lane –improve connection for students living in Red Bud.
- 3) Linear Trail from Pecan Circle to S. Manhattan: Concrete panel replacement.
- 4) Linear Trail at Pecan Circle & Rosencutter: Concrete replacement, ADA ramps.
- 5) Linear Park Trailhead Renovations: surfacing, amenity, wayfinding, parking.
- 6) New Linear Park Trailhead & Trail Spur at Animal Shelter (connect to USACE Levee Ramp project).
- 7) Linear Trail: Garden Way spur and new Trailhead improvements.
- 8) Roger Schultz Park: New hiking trail from Loma Ridge to Miller Parkway.
- 9) Stonehaven Park: New hiking trails around upper stormwater wetlands and through lower woodlands.
- 10) Trail equipment: Trailer and additional equipment to build/maintain natural surface and screenings trail.
- 11) Trail Accessibility Assessment: Evaluate trails for City’s ADA Transition Plan.
- 12) Preliminary Engineering Studies: Marlatt, Casement, Wildcat Creek Bridge, Seth Child Commons crossing, Seth Child -Amherst crossing.

In addition to the projects above, Thompson presented the following projects that are priority projects but are ineligible for the grant opportunities:

- 1) Any sidewalk project (less than 6’ wide) and Trails less than ½ mile
 - Fort Riley Blvd gap: 17th to Westwood – only 1,700 feet, likely considered “sidewalk”
- 2) City Park Trail: Central Park Rd to Fremont St – only 600 feet
- 3) Any new signage that is not associated with restoration/rehabilitation of an existing trail or new trail construction

Baker suggested project 7. Baker also asked if lighting on Linear Trail west of South Manhattan Avenue would qualify for one or both of the grants. Thompson stated that that would need to be investigated further to determine if it would qualify.

Thompson asked Tripp to send out the list of potential projects and asked the members of BPAC to provide any additional comments within the next couple of days.

5. ADJOURNMENT

- 5.1. Updates and comments from members
- 5.2. Meeting adjourned at 9:34 a.m.