

Minutes

Friday, 11 February 2022

8:15 a.m.

Virtual Meeting Location

1. MEETING OPENING

1.1. Baker called the meeting to order at 8:20 a.m.

1.2. Roll Call

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

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

Staff: Wyatt Thompson, Assistant Director of Parks and Rec; Ben Chmiel, Planner III; John Adam, Senior Planner; Tyler Tripp, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator

Public: 1

1.3. **Minutes of 12/10/2021 meeting.** Colburn moved to approve the minutes; Edmunds seconded. Motion passed 7–0–0.

1.4. **Public Comments:** Diane Novak told BPAC that the recommendation letter to KDOT for the addition of paved shoulders on Highway 24 was successful in creating further discussion about the potential of adding paved shoulders.

Novak stated that a potential funding source for future projects could be the revenue that the City receives from agreements with utility companies. Novak suggested that a potential project to use these funds on would be the paving of Linear Trail from Rosencutter Road to Anderson Avenue.

Novak asked for any updates on the bulbouts at Rosencutter Road and Linear Park Trail, and Kimball Avenue and Westbank Way. She also asked for an update about whether anyone had gone out to take a look at the intersection of Wreath Avenue, Anderson Avenue, and Linear Trail. She stated that this intersection is convoluted.

Novak suggested having a virtual meeting with Matthew Mihalevich, the Trails Coordinator for the City of Fayetteville, Arkansas to ask various questions about their procedures.

1.5. **Election of Officers:** Edmunds moved to appoint Colburn to chair and Baker to vice chair; Cook seconded. Motion passed 7–0–0.

2. REPORTS & UPDATES

- 2.1. **Public Works:** none
- 2.2. **Parks & Recreation:** Thompson stated that the Clarenburg Trail project is being wrapped up. The trail itself is complete and just a few small things need to be finished. Final details are also being wrapped up in Anneberg Park. A couple of the trail connections in Anneberg Park have been paved as a result of past flooding issues.

The Destination Asia project at the Sunset Zoo will lead to full ADA accessibility of the zoo. The grand opening will be on April 9th.

The City is hiring a consultant to assist with the development of an ADA transition plan which will include facility review and policy/procedure review. The contract will likely go to the City Commission in March or April.

The citizen CIP request form is now open. The deadline for requests is around the end of February.

In response to Novak's earlier question, Thompson stated that the improvements to the ramp at Linear Trail and Rosencutter Road were submitted as part of the KDWPT Recreation Trails grant request in December. Announcements for awarded grants will likely occur later in the Spring.

In response to Novak's recommendation to pave and light sections of Linear Park Trail north of Amherst Avenue, Thompson stated that it is not a project that is currently being considered but may be a future potential option. Thompson stated that the current priority is to build new trails and fill gaps rather than improving existing trails.

Cook stated that JS Sign & Awning is donating a sign for the Kids' Bike Park in Anneberg Park. They are currently designing the sign.

Novak asked whether there had been many requests to pave the various parts of Linear Park Trail. Thompson stated that there have been requests to pave the sections but there have been an approximately equal number of people requesting that the trail remain unpaved to reduce impact for runners. Thompson stated that there has not been enough of an outcry one way or another to begin seriously prioritizing those sorts of improvements at the moment. Baker stated that it might be worthwhile to determine how the trail is primarily used. She stated that commuting use would have more of a requirement for paving than recreational use. Sevin asked if there are any surfaces that would be good for running but would be a more solid. Thompson stated that there are products that can be mixed with gravel to make it harder and more likely to shed water. Asphalt and rubber surfaces might also be options, though price would be a greater consideration.

- 2.3. **Community Development:** Adam stated that meetings are upcoming to discuss the selection of projects for Transportation Alternative (TA) grant requests.

Several staff members are participating in a training program from the Sunflower Foundation to learn best practices regarding trail implementation.

Development of the Downtown Plan will begin shortly. This may include an

analysis of the Poyntz Avenue corridor from Juliette Avenue to 17th Street. This will likely include a change in the design of Poyntz Avenue to alter the cross-section to appropriately account for its traffic volume and bicycle/pedestrian use.

Chmiel stated that sidewalks will be required for infill projects as part of the Manhattan Development Code (MDC). This may lead to the need to fill more gaps as new sidewalks are built to prevent isolated patches of sidewalk.

Tripp stated that the draft plan for the Safe Routes to School is being developed by the City and the MPO with the help of a planning class at Kansas State University. Adam stated that an engineer has been contracted by the City to do preliminary engineering in order to produce cost estimates. The kick-off meeting will be within the next week or two.

3. OLD BUSINESS

- 3.1. none

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1. Trail Update

Thompson presented an [update of potential trail projects](#) for the Recreation Sales Tax. This presentation included a background on the Parks and Recreation Sales Tax, future/potential trail projects, other trail initiatives (including requested grants), and an update on the levee project and its related trail closures. The ultimate goal of these projects is to create a citywide trail loop and a robust pedestrian network.

Novak asked if the trail update presentation would be available online. Wyatt stated that the presentation is not currently online, but a link could be put up on the website. Tripp stated that he could also link the presentation in the minutes.

Cook asked when BPAC would need to help prioritize these projects. Thompson stated that he is open to feedback but is not looking for any formal prioritization. Adam explained that the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board is the body with the authority to prioritize Parks & Recreation Department projects.

Colburn stated that the river trails have been often used by a youth mountain biking group and recommended prioritizing reopening those trails and asked what alternatives exist. Thompson stated that the couch had reached out to him asking for alternatives. The primary alternative was determined to be the trails in Warner Park. Wyatt stated that there could also be some coordination to construct new dirt trails to accommodate for these uses. Using the trails near the zoo would also be a valid option.

Baker asked when the Old Blue River Trail would be closed. Thompson stated that it would not be closing this year but was unsure of the period it would be

closed.

Novak asked about whether there would be improvements to the bridge that was recently redone related to a bump caused by a grade difference between the decking and the trail on the south approach. Thompson stated that someone would go take a look at it to determine what changes need to be made.

Novak asked if the section of Linear Park Trail that is being raised could be replaced with limestone screenings rather than gravel. Thompson stated that the plan is to replace this section with limestone screenings due to past issues a gravel being washed out and shifted.

4.2. **Annual Report Review**

Tripp presented the [2021 Annual Report](#) for feedback and approval by BPAC.

Adam recommended mentioning the filling of two sidewalk gaps on South 9th Street and South 12th Street.

Sevin stated that the Bike Cap Sewing event during Bike/Walk Month did not occur and should be removed from the report.

Tripp asked for opinions on amending the bylaws to move the creation of the annual report to the beginning of the following year rather than October. Baker stated that the report is most likely scheduled to coincide with the change in membership. The committee had consensus that the bylaws should not change.

Edmunds moved to approve the Annual Report as amended; Cook seconded. Motion passed 7–0–0.

4.3. **Annual Goal Setting**

This item was tabled until the 3/11/2022 meeting after members said they need more time to mull it over.

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

5.1. Updates and comments from members

5.2. Meeting adjourned at 9:59 a.m.