

## Minutes

Friday, 11 March 2022

9:15 a.m.

Virtual Meeting Location

### 1. MEETING OPENING

1.1. Colburn called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

1.2. Roll Call

Present: Nancy Baker, David Colburn, Annie Cook, Joseph Edmunds, Shanika Rose, Chris Spooner, Jared Tremblay (non-voting)

Absent: Seth Scobee, Carol Sevin

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

Public: 1

1.3. **Minutes of 2/11/2022 meeting.** Edmunds moved to approve the minutes; Baker seconded. Motion passed 6–0–0.

1.4. **Public Comments:** none.

### 2. REPORTS & UPDATES

2.1. **Public Works:** Johnson stated that there may be some grant funding available for the Hayes Drive Trail. This should largely fill the existing funding gap for this project. USD 383 was receptive to the idea of providing easements on the east side of Hayes Drive for the trail. Discussions with Evergy suggest that the existing overhead utilities may be able to be relocated underground to accommodate the new trail.

Construction on Kimball Avenue is ongoing. This project will include a trail on the north side of the road. Additionally, there will be a new signalized crossing at Gate 8 to reduce the distance between crossings. The possibility of adding a HAWK signal at Gate 5 is also being considered.

Construction is ongoing for Kimball Avenue between Denison Avenue and North Manhattan Avenue. This project will include a sidewalk on the north side of the road.

The landscaping for Phase 8 of the North Manhattan Avenue project will be going to bid shortly. This will include additional pedestrian lighting along this

section.

A consultant has been hired to design sidewalk along Fort Riley Boulevard from 17th Street to the new sidewalk that was installed by KDOT with the construction of the new bridge.

Johnson stated that in 2021, about 4,100ft of sidewalk and 2,400ft of trail. Additionally, about 45 new handicap ramps were installed. In total, around \$493,000 was spent on these improvements. This totals to around 21% of transportation funding going to bicycle and pedestrian improvements. This is higher than most years due to the cost share for pedestrian improvements at the Wildcat Creek bridge.

Baker asked how long the section of Kimball Avenue in front of the stadium would be closed. Johnson stated that this section would likely remain closed until the end of August. There are two phases to this project so there is some flexibility to move on to different projects if needed. Colburn asked about the section of Kimball Avenue between Denison Avenue and North Manhattan Avenue. Johnson stated that this section would also likely open towards the end of August.

Tremblay asked when Anderson Avenue would be getting a waterline replacement. Johnson stated that the project would likely go to bid in August or September. Construction would likely begin in October or November and last for a full year.

- 2.2. **Parks & Recreation:** Leyva stated that the Clarenburg Trail in City Park and the improvements in Anneberg Park are nearly complete.

Trail signs are currently being updated. The Parks Planner Intern is drafting a new design that should be ready to show at the next BPAC meeting.

Cook requested confirmation that the signs for the children's bike park had been received by the Parks and Recreation Department. Leyva confirmed that he had received them.

Thompson stated that the Parks and Recreation Department has submitted its 2023-2027 CIP requests. He showed a PDF document of the requests with trail projects highlighted.

- 2.3. **Community Development:** Adam stated that the City will be applying for Transportation Alternatives (TA) grants shortly. The requests will include Juliette Avenue restoration which includes bulbouts and filling the sidewalk gap on Fort Riley Boulevard west of 17th Street.

### 3. OLD BUSINESS

- 3.1. none

### 4. NEW BUSINESS

#### 4.1. Trails Processes Q&A

Guest speaker, Matt Mihalevich, presented trail implementation practices utilized in Fayetteville, Arkansas, where he is the Trails Coordinator. A key aspect of Fayetteville's practices is the use of an in-house trail construction crew. Mihalevich also demonstrated their use of HAWK signals, grade separated crossings, lighting along trails, their wayfinding system, and a light poll numbering system that is tied to 911 dispatch. Passive detection for crosswalks is also utilized at several intersections in Fayetteville. Finally, similar to Manhattan, much of their trail system is funded through sales tax.

Johnson asked if the trail construction also did painting and snow removal. Mihalevich stated that the trail crew is used for snow removal when needed and will be used for other tasks as needed by their Public Works Department. When not doing these other tasks they typically only do trail construction. Mihalevich also stated that trail painting/striping is hired out and is not currently done by the trail crew. Other crews maintain lighting and the Parks and Recreation Department mows and sweeps the trails.

Colburn asked if there is any partnering that the City of Fayetteville does with the local university. Mihalevich stated that the university has helped with grant matches and that they have their own full-time Active Transportation Coordinator who works closely with the City of Fayetteville's Mobility Coordinator. Diane Novak asked if this type of coordination and partnership helps when applying for grants. Mihalevich stated that he believes this does help substantially, especially since many grants ask for information on partnerships. Mihalevich also mentioned a partnership with the local Community Design Center for their Maple Street project that the grant authority said greatly strengthened their request.

Novak asked what the opinions of runners are on the use of concrete for the trail surface. Mihalevich stated that runners typically do not prefer concrete, and there is a worn cow path next to many of the trails. He also stated that there is research that shows that there is not a significant difference in the impact of concrete as opposed to asphalt. Mihalevich stated that Fayetteville uses concrete because of its longevity.

Novak asked if the City of Fayetteville quantifies the economic impacts of the trails. Mihalevich stated that they do not due to the complexity and uncertainties of attempting to make those calculations. He says that he has seen positive economic impact for businesses along the trails and from tourism. The Walton Family Foundation performed an economic impact study a few years ago that found a positive economic impact for the region. Mihalevich stated that generally support for trails is strong in his community without have to make arguments based on economic impact.

Thompson asked what main sources of funding are used by Fayetteville for their trails. Mihalevich stated that the \$1.5 million sales tax allocation is intended for use by the trail construction crew for construction. They typically have around \$100,000 of that allocated to maintenance. Mowing comes out of the Parks

Department budget. Lighting also comes out of a separate budget. Bonds are used to build more trails. Mihalevich stated that the limiting factor is generally the amount of time the trails crew has for construction rather than budget limitations.

Baker asked if Fayetteville ever gets funding from local businesses for trails. Mihalevich stated that they do not. He stated that preservation advocacy groups have helped in the acquisition of property in the past but that is generally the extent of monetary involvement from local groups.

Spooner asked if the sales tax allocation for trails can as a result of a ballot initiative. Mihalevich stated that the allocation happened in 2005 as a result of city council resolution and did not need to go to a vote.

Spooner asked what the overall vision for trails was when the tax funding and bonds were originally received. Mihalevich explained that the priority at the time was the construction of the Razorback Greenway. Trail construction was mainly based on where land was readily available for trail construction. Since then, there has been an increase in focus on establishing the trails as an effective transportation network.

Johnson asked if there is a sunset on the increased sales tax. Mihalevich stated that there is and they have needed to get an affirmative public vote for continuation of the raised sales tax.

Tremblay asked if the City of Fayetteville has had to do any road diets to accommodate for new trails and whether that has been successful. Mihalevich stated that they tend to avoid road diets because of the amount of public pushback they receive. There have been a couple instances of them utilizing road diets, and these have often been successful in implementing new infrastructure and calming traffic.

#### 4.2. **Annual Goal Setting**

Tripp presented the previous year's [goals](#). Tripp stated that the last goal relating to creating a designation for bicycle friendly businesses has had limited success in the past based on a small sample. Cook stated the desire to revisit methods for achieving that goal in the future. Adam stated that Tripp would be leaving in May and that a new Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator would need to be hired. The job posting is online and Adam recommended that the members of BPAC share it with anyone they think might be interested. General consensus was that the goals should be readopted as they stand from the previous year.

Rose asked how the goals have been worked on in the past. Tripp stated that in the development of the goals a subcommittee was formed to iron out the final list of goals. For implementation there have been occasional revisitations of the goals to look at how they can be further implemented. Tripp stated that the goals also can largely serve as justification for the support of certain projects.

Baker asked if it would still be possible to split into subcommittees and meet outside of regular meeting times dependent on the size of the subcommittees.

Tripp and Chmiel stated that any number of members meeting to discuss committee business would need to be available for public participation and viewing. This would not prevent committee members from meeting but would require some preparation ahead of time.

Cook needed to leave, and the committee's quorum was lost. It was determined that the goals should be voted on at the next meeting.

Baker stated that she would like to visit and alter the goals as subcommittees and break them down into subgoals and action steps. Spooner suggested bringing in outside knowledge that might relate to the goals as well as base agenda items on the goals.

## **5. ADJOURNMENT**

- 5.1. Updates and comments from members
- 5.2. Meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.