

BIKEWAYS AND WALKWAYS COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes – January 08, 2019 at 12:00 PM
Courtyard Conference Room

Member Attendance:

Paul Hart (Chair)
Dana Christensen (Co-Vice Chair)
Lesley Orr (Co-Vice Chair)
Mark Collier
Chip Dennerlein
Daniel Edwards
Cliff Kuhlman
Bob Lange - Absent
Brett Rasmussen - Absent
Keith Yoho

City/Staff/Council Liaisons:

Roy Lindsay – City Mayor
Tyler Flaming – City Council
Lora Glover – Parks & Community Development
Ed Burke – Public Safety
Wade Elliott – Public Works
Aaron Cubic – City Manager

Guests/visitors:

Shaun Hall – Daily Courier
Numerous citizens for Dollar Mountain discussion

1. Roll Call:

- Chair Hart noted that there are many citizens here based on past agenda items. When an item is added to the agenda, the members vote on it. Can items be added without a vote? Councilor Flaming stated that the idea is getting a consensus from all committee members if the item is important enough to be added. The discussion of Dollar Mountain is on the agenda, but something may have happened with it for this many citizen to be at this meeting. Lora Glover stated that it would be unique for this committee to have that policy to vote on what agenda items are. Perhaps the proper category for the Dollar Mountain item would be “Other Items from Staff”. The decision is to let citizens speak when the agenda item comes up.

2. Items from Public: For items not on the agenda.

- A citizen said they use River Road Reserve and feels the property is valuable for other community events and other activities. She cautioned that the City not get rid of that property in haste.
- Jason Maky represents the Blue Zone project and thanked the committee for all their hard work.

3. Consent Agenda:

- Minutes: December 11, 2018

MOTION/VOTE

**Member Kuhlman moved, and Member Edwards seconded the motion to approve the minutes from December 11, 2018 as presented. The vote resulted as follows:
“AYES”: Chair Hart, Collier, Edwards, Dennerlein, Orr, Christensen, Yoho, and Kuhlman. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None. Absent for vote: Rasmussen and Lange.
The motion passed.**

4. Work Session Items:

a. Introduction of new City Staff Liaison Member – Wade Elliott

- Wade Elliott, Assistant Public Works Director introduced himself and stated he will be replacing Fred as the liaison for this committee. He mentioned there will be a citizen advisory committee meeting later on this day for the Transportation Plan. Lesley Orr is also on that committee as a representative from the Bikeways and Walkways committee. There will be more online forums as well, so he encourages participation.

b. TSP update.

- Lesley spoke about the TSP. The public made some comments that she will make copies of for this committee. Chair Hart noted that this should be an ongoing part of the agenda and asked for the committee to vote.

c. Dollar Mountain property acquisition

- Lora explained what the Dollar Mountain property entails. It is an opportunity for the City to purchase the former Doyle property (approximately 440 acres) where trails and open space could be created. There may also be an opportunity to partner with BLM and/or the County for almost 1,000 acres. This project will also be discussed at the Blue Zone meeting on the 26th along with Hillcrest Park and the community building for Riverside Park. There is a survey online and she has received 20 or 30 very positive replies in support and only 1 or 2 against. The trails will be a bit more challenging to develop and maintain than Cathedral Hills due to the steep slope. Grayback Forestry will be assisting with the fire suppression plan. Lora will meet with them later this week.
- The committee/citizens had questions for Lora:
 1. (Audience member), Will the Josephine County area be part of the development. The City will reach out to them for an IGA (Intergovernmental Agreement) like they are doing with the BLM.
 2. Committee member Mark Collier, he feels it is a great project, but Council is not committed and it's in escrow and there are terms. Will it come out of this year's budget that may take away from something else? City Manager Aaron Cubic explained that the City had a good year in taxes received and a good general fund reserve. This project was not in the budget but due to good financial planning and policies, they do have a reserve that will allow them to use a million dollars out of the general fund. It doesn't impact any future project of this type but will potentially reduce the amount of general fund dollars for future strategic planning and general fund programs. Additionally, Mark asked, is it the private party seller that is not getting any money right now, are they amenable to some funding over the next few years so that projects (Hillcrest Park and the \$688,000 backlog for the Parks Advisory Board) that are already in could continue? Lora answered that these funds are not coming from Parks SDCs and the funds are totally separate. Aaron Cubic said it will reduce the general fund reserve by the purchase price and it will be done all at once.

As a point of order, citizen questions/comments were stopped to allow committee members to ask questions and discuss the matter.

3. Chip Dennerlein asked if all the property planned to purchase is in the City Limits. Lora answered "no". He then asked if the vision for this park going to be both in and outside the City Limits? The answer was "yes". He continued, could this money be used for another park such as the master plan for Lower River Road? Lora and Aaron answered that it could be used for anything. He questioned why we are focused on Cathedral Hills, Hillcrest and another steep, big, park when the Master Plan says we need to

have level ground for people to walk. How can we have a live consideration of selling a park that is a regional flat land space. Aaron commented that at a Council level the topic is up for consideration, staff provides a report, Council and this committee ask questions of staff and do not to talk about personal viewpoints on the subject. That is done after public comment. As a point of order, it is best as a committee member to hold your comments on personal viewpoints until after you've heard from staff, questions from the public and then it comes back to you. Chair Hart commented, in relation to the steepness, this committee has been talking with the BLM and how they developed the MOTR trail in Rogue River. Will the City or this committee be able to continue to pursue this so it's not so challenging? Lora answered that this is the type of direction they are looking for at this meeting today. They wish to get a plan in place and then get potential grants for funding and to work with professionals to lay that out. When there is almost 1,000 feet in elevation change, steep slope is a part of that.

4. Chip Dennerlein asked how this process works in the big picture. The Council held off on another potential park, hoping to get more information in a few years, so how did we decide to go this far forward on this project? Lora responded by saying this was an opportunity that was just presented to the City Council. Councilor Flaming stated that they did reach out to SOTA, (Southern Oregon Trail Alliance). They spoke with the Council and did an assessment of the property. They felt it was an opportunity to have a similar park to Cathedral Hills in the NW part of town that it more accessible for citizens. It was part of the consideration to move ahead with the purchase. Councilor Lovelace added that at the time it was brought forth with a number of people that came to the City with an "are you interested" question. This one ties into a goal that has been a City-wide, top ten, goal for a number of years and is something they have considered looking at. There was a lot of thought that went into this and not a quick decision. Aaron Cubic added that this really fit well in with the goals already set and an excellent opportunity to move forward with how to accomplish that. It fit well into the Council's Strategic Plan because this opportunity came up. A committee member (voice unknown) stated he didn't know there were partnerships with the BLM, but it is a great opportunity. Chip Dennerlein asked about tradeoffs? Aaron answered that the only allocation part of this would be from a contingency and reserve aspect. Funds were not allocated for specific projects from the general fund. This purchase will not have a negative effect on current programs, it's drawing down the reserve by that purchase price.

Comments from the public: Many names unknown.

1. A citizen commented about the minority of the people that choose not to hike with their dogs have no choice but to hike.
2. Another citizen commented about working for two different cities and watched several good opportunities go down the drain because they didn't take advantage of it. Property is hard to come by. It's

there and available and I'd hate to see the opportunity missed for Dollar Mountain.

3. Who owns the gravel pit? Answer is Mark Maffett.
4. What are all the uses that you see for Dollar Mountain? Hiking, bicycles, horseback riding, off-roading? Lora Glover stated that is what they are trying to figure out. Citizen further stated for the people that live in that area, when off-road biking happens it is undesirable for those that live there. Sound carries, and it sounds like they are right out the back door. She lives on Crescent Drive and was shocked when she encountered a hunter up there. She was told by BLM that they are not allowed to shoot across a trail. Chair Hart explained there is very accurate trail information out there for the hunter to know where the private ownership is.
5. A gentleman stated that he and his wife are in their 70s and they hike to the tower about 3 times a week. On New Year's Day they were shocked because it was crowded up there. It's a wonderful place with great views. They would love to see it further develop. On Hieglen Loop there is a half mile stretch of flat trails so there is a lot of opportunity for flat hikes.
6. Katherine Jones stated she lives on Sun View Place and she has major concerns about public lands sharing a property line all along Sun View with this project. She has questions about a setback, if there is one. How much will they be restricting access, if at all. She doesn't want anyone being able to wander into her backyard. She has concerns about safety, fire, privacy and wonders what the Parks department and the City have considered these problems. She is also worried about ingress and egress points. Chair Hart wondered where the parking lots would be. Lora Glover answered they will be up on Crescent and Hieglen. There may be more considered with partnerships with BLM and the County.
7. Is the price reasonable and another use could be Disc Golf?
8. Mark Lansing stated he thought it would be a good idea and the City would be nuts to not follow up on this opportunity. He mentioned it was him, Kris Woodburn, and an engineer with a map and it was on the agenda for a really long time.
9. A citizen that lives on Omar stated he is completely supportive of recreation opportunities. He is concerned about the motorbikes as well. He also feels the parking area is an attractive nuisance. There has been a fire there late at night, but it needs to be patrolled well and have fire protection.
10. Mike Amaranthus lives on Starlight and is building a house adjacent to the proposed areas. From a fire suppression standpoint, it is an ideal opportunity to manage the area to protect the residents.
11. If the property is outside the City will the police have jurisdiction there. The answer was "no". He stated there is an issue with people living on that land already that aren't supposed to be there.

Aaron asked if there were any additional comments from the committee. There were none.

Comments from committee members:

1. Chip Dennerlein stated he is a huge fan of taking a vision for a parks system and he is supportive of pursuing a vision like this. He described some past activities up in Alaska. All the things have to be in the plan. If we wait for everything to be addressed, we will never have a park. It can be done but feels it's going to take time. His only request would be that we never consider selling the one regional park that is flat. We need to keep the vision we set for the best little river town in America. If we had a system at Tom Pierce, along the river and in the hills, we would be on the map for a recreation destination.
2. Councilor Flaming wanted to address some of the citizen comments. One of the questions was about price. It's out in the public that the price is almost a million dollars, but with all the parcels on the County tax rolls it is two million. Disc Golf is a situation that would probably come through the Parks Committee once the land was acquired and plans start developing. Motorbikes he is dead against for this property. Motorbikes have ruined parts of that property already. He ran into a motorbike up there in the middle of July, high fire season, at the cell tower. He encouraged one of the ladies to speak with some of the property owners contiguous to Cathedral Hills. There are no motorbikes out there and no campers out there. People aren't going to do that when there are eyes everywhere. This development would create eyes everywhere. Chair Hart mentioned there is signage at Cathedral Hills that mentions private property and he lives out there and no one has ever come onto his property because of that. Tyler is going over to Standing Stone Brewery and he will be talking about this project. RVMBA, (Rogue Valley Mountain Bike Association) will be there and they are a chapter of IMBA, (International Mountain Bike Association).
3. Committee member Keith Yoho mentioned parking lot issues and stated he doesn't want to continue with a smaller parking lot if we have to redo it in the future. He would rather wait to have a proper parking lot put in. He talked about security options, other trail systems and multi-use trails. Hike, bike an equestrian. SOTA is looking at that right now with grants for Cathedral Hills. It's not great there for safety on bikes. Having a safe trail system with all the users working together would be awesome. He mentioned economic impacts of trails systems like this.

5. Information Sharing:

Items from Staff –

City

- None

BLM -

- None.

Public Safety

- None

Blue Zones

- None

Items from Commissioners –

- None

Items from City Council Liaison –

- None

Items from Committee Members –

- Chip Dennerlein would like to add the topic of handling agenda items on the next agenda.

6. Future Agenda Building for Next Meeting

- a. Agenda should remain about the same for next month.

7. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

Next meeting date: February 12, 2019 at 12:00 pm in the Courtyard Conference Room
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Minutes prepared by Donna Anderson, City Administration.