

**BIKEWAYS AND WALKWAYS COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes – January 12, 2021 at 12:00 PM**  
**Council Chambers**

**Member Attendance:**

Keith Yoho (Chair)  
Bob Lange (Vice Chair)  
Lesley Orr  
Chip Dennerlein  
Cliff Kuhlman - Absent  
Dana Christensen  
Paul Hart - Absent  
Heidi Morris – Absent  
Melissa Pingree  
Eric Parrinello - Absent

**City/Staff/Council Liaisons:**

Vacant (City Council)  
Daren Fowler (County Commissioner)  
Wade Elliott (Public Works Assistant Director)  
Rob Brandes (Jo Co Public Works) - Online  
Jenna Stanke Marmon (ODOT) - Absent

**Public:**

Wendy Giordano – City Parks Superintendent  
Tyler Flaming - Citizen  
Brian De La Grange – City Council  
Trish Paredes – Board of County Commissioners Office  
Dan Miller–NPS-Rivers/Trails Conservation Prog - Online  
Jon-Paul Bowles – Supporting City on Dollar Mountain Proj - Online  
Mark Fletcher Linton - Citizen

**1. Roll Call:**

- Chair Yoho opened the meeting and roll call.

**2. Introductions:**

- Members of the public introduced themselves.

**3. Public Comment:**

- Fletcher Linton talked about concerns regarding the crossing at Shannon Lane and the barriers keeping the public from crossing the Railroad property to the other side of the road. Wade will investigate options for moving these. Fletcher also talked about SE Belle Aire. He showed photos with a sign in 2018 that said, “Public Pedestrian River Access Easement NO Motorized Vehicles” and showing what seems to be a public path to the river. In 2020 the sign was changed to say, “No public access”. Fletcher is wondering why it was changed. Wade will research this as well. He did say this was an issue that was brought before the City Council involving problems with littering and loitering in the area.
- Councilor De Le Grange stated that since this committee is without a liaison at this time he wanted to attend and report anything of importance back to the Council.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

- Approval of minutes from December 8, 2020

**MOTION/VOTE**

**Member Orr moved and Member Dennerlein seconded the motion to approve the minutes from December 8, 2020. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Chair Yoho, Vice Chair Lange, Members Orr, Dennerlein, Christensen, and Pingree. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Member Kuhlman, Hart, Morris, and Parrinello. The motion passed.**

**5. Action Items:**

- Review Committee applications (if applicable)
  - a. None
- Dollar Mountain

- a. Wendy Giordano gave a brief background presentation on the purchase and cleanup of Dollar Mountain. She stated that Grayback Forestry has performed phased wildfire fuel reduction work on the mountain over the past few years and has put together a Forest Management plan. ODF has reserved \$438,000 to continue the wildfire fuel reduction work in the area over the next few years. She stated they received a Technical Assistance grant with the National Parks Service. BLM and Josephine County are working with the City on the core planning team to support a larger trail project that would encompass about 11,000 acres in the Dollar Mountain area. She also stated that the City received an MOU with BLM for a parking lot on NW Crescent. Wendy gave an overview of the funding for the project. Dan Miller from the National Parks Service gave a presentation on his role in the project. They did an online survey as well as a paper copy, and of the 437 responses  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the those were in favor of developing hiking and biking trails on the mountain. Residents were also interested in soft surface trails and increased parking. He stated that the residents biggest concern was fire danger. Dan explained the Pilot Project. As stages develop, they need to be able to stand on their own. He stated that the first stage of the project will be to improve the existing trails. There will be about 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  miles of new trails in addition to the existing trails. Jon-Paul Bowles spoke on his role in supporting the City in the development of the Dollar Mountain Trail project. He said the next steps for the project is to build community support. Jon-Paul talked about using groups such as Friends of Dollar Mountain to take projects like fundraising or maintenance off the responsibility of the City. Jon-Paul talked about funding and grant opportunities. There was discussion on having a Bike/Run to River event.

- Crossing at 199 and the Fairgrounds was not discussed due to lack of time.

## 6. Matters from Committee Members and Staff:

### City/County Project Update –

- Wade Elliot provided an update on City Projects
  - a. The City of Grants Pass received the Safe Routes to School Grant in the amount of \$1.7 million. They will be putting in sidewalks and ADA ramps on 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Streets as well as some of the cross streets around Lincoln Elementary School. Member Orr suggested placing an article in the Courier about this grant. Wade suggested also placing the article in the GP Now Newsletter.
  - b. The City also received a Project Implementation Program Grant from Safe Routes to School. This grant will be used to take the information that was compiled for the Safe Routes to Schools grant and using a consultant, they will collate that information for a Safe Routes to School program that can be amended into the City's Transportation System Plan. This will also help the City to apply for Safe Routes to School grants in the future.
  - c. Wade said they are still working on the Spruce and Western project. This is a \$2.7 million Sewer, Stormwater, and Pavement project. They are doing some ADA improvements in the area as well.
  - d. Wade said ODOT was going to do a paving project this spring from the south "Y" to the Applegate River. This is just a pavement preservation project.

They are also getting ready to do an ADA project on Rogue River Hwy. Member Orr suggested to have ODOT also fix the multiuse path along the highway before it fails. Rob will follow up on this.

- e. Wade said they will be putting together a committee for the Safe Route to School Master Plan. He would like to see a couple of liaisons from this committee participate.
- Rob Brandes provided an update on County Projects
  - a. Rob stated that they are in winter mode, so no big projects now.
  - b. Rob said the County received the Project Improvement Program Grant from Safe Routes to Schools. He stated that the final binder is a tool for the City and County to use when applying for future Safe Routes to School grants.
  - c. Rob stated that the Hillcrest Project will be pushed back to 2022.
  - d. He said the County's part of the Beacon Drive project will be starting this spring.

#### **7. Future Agenda Building for Next Meeting**

- Crossing at 199 and the Fairgrounds
- Allen Creek Trail
- Transportation System Plan

#### **8. Adjournment**

- Chair Yoho adjourned the meeting at 1:40 pm

**Next meeting date:** February 9, 2021 at 12:00 pm in the Council Chambers

*Minutes prepared by Dianne Phelan, City Public Works Department.*