

BIKEWAYS AND WALKWAYS COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes – March 12, 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
Brett Rasmussen - Absent
Keith Yoho

City/Staff/Council Liaisons:

Valerie Lovelace – City Council Liaison
Tyler Flaming – City Council
Lora Glover – Parks & Community Development
Wade Elliott – Public Works
Jenna Marmon - ODOT

Guests/visitors:

Citizens:
Brian Hawkins
Deann Ferguson, Safe Routes to School
Nick McDaniel, BLM
Sean Hall, Daily Courier

1. **Roll Call:**
 - Chair Hart opened the meeting and took roll.
2. **Items from Public:** For items not on the agenda.
 - Councilor Lovelace mentioned new Councilor Joel King who is chomping at the bit to make the IGA (Intergovernmental Agreement) connection for Beacon Hill. She asked member Yoho how he gets up there.
3. **Consent Agenda:**
 - Minutes: February 12, 2019

MOTION/VOTE

Co-Chair Orr moved and Member Collier seconded the motion to approve the minutes from February 12, 2019 as presented. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Hart, Christensen, Collier, Dennerlein, Edwards, Kuhlman, Lange, Orr, and Yoho “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None. Absent for vote: Rasmussen
The motion passed.

4. **Work Session Items:**
 - a. **TSP Update**
 - None
 - b. **Nick McDaniel – BLM – Dollar Mountain**
 - Chair Hart gave members and introduction of Nick McDaniel, who is filling in for Sarah, who is working on a temporary assignment in California. He was a big part of the MOTR Trail in Rogue River. The current phase with Dollar Mountain is Grayback Forestry coming up with some tentative plans for fuels reduction.
 - Mr. McDaniel talked about planning being the key for this trail system. The International Mountain Bike Association is a valuable resource for the initial planning.
 - Chair Hart added that development of hiking and biking trails are the primary use being considered. Then possibly a paragliding pad, equestrian trails, dedicated motorbike trails. Mr. McDaniel added that the design of the trail system can include combined and compatible uses (zones) or have more of an equestrian/hiker zone and then a mountain bike zone. He also mentioned SOTA (Southern Oregon Trail Alliance).

- They discussed Rogue Valley Mountain Bike Association too, including Grants Pass with support to help in building the system that people will want to ride and hike.
- Chair Hart talked about the City seeking Grants. Nick added that big money with grants is the Recreational Trails Program Grants that is funding through Federal Highways and run by the Oregon State Parks.
- Member Collier talked about the layout for the property footprint. Fire abatement and prevention needs to be talked about. Chair Hart added that Grayback will be involved in that.
- Lora joined the meeting. She talked about reaching out and talking to the BLM and the County about fire mitigation. She asked Chair Hart to send her the email that has been sent to others about SOTA. They want to do a community trailblazing event in June.
- They talked about the properties abutting the City purchased land that belongs to other entities. SOTA is interested in doing a trail work day on Dollar Mountain. There is a corner trail up there that is on private property. They would like to do something about that as well as some other existing issues out there.
- National Trails Day is June 1.
- Member Dennerlein brought up the master plan and Dollar Mountain issues of fire mitigation, trail uses, and funding.
- Prescott Mountain Master Plan was talked about with Medford. They would like to have a representative speak to this group about their process. They now have about 23 miles of trails and work continues on it. Mr. McDaniel talked about being involved in that project. It would be a good model for Dollar Mountain.

MOTION/VOTE

**Co-Chair Orr moved and Member Edwards seconded the motion to have Member Lange contact a representative to speak to this committee about Dollar Mountain planning. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Hart, Christensen, Collier, Dennerlein, Edwards, Kuhlman, Lange, Orr, and Yoho “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Rasmussen
The motion passed.**

c. IGA for Beacon Hill

- Councilor Lovelace wanted to find access to this since it is one of the City Council’s top goals. They talked about getting up there and the person that has helped with many other projects. They will talk about this on the next agenda.

MOTION/VOTE

**Co-Chair Orr moved and Member Dennerlein seconded the motion to add Beacon Hill discussion to their next agenda. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Hart, Christensen, Collier, Dennerlein, Edwards, Kuhlman, Lange, Orr, and Yoho “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Rasmussen
The motion passed.**

- A member asked Mr. McDaniel about trail building and asked which is better. EMBA (Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance) and Yakima Trail Construction in Medford. EMBA will be more expensive and could be about \$7/foot.

- Someone [voice unknown] asked if this will completely build out, do you see it having any positive impact on events? Members discussed the benefits of having this attraction for us.

5. Information Sharing:

Items from Staff –

City -

- Wade Elliott spoke about the TSP update. Consultants are still working on the data and the prioritized project list. Then comes public involvement about those projects. Notifications will be sent out to the public.
- It is budget season, so staff is working on the draft capital projects list. It will need approval from the Budget Committee. He will bring some of that in as it gets closer to budget time.

Josephine County Public Works -

- Rob Brandes spoke about getting off easy over the winter, but they can come out and deal with sweeping issues as needed.
- Bike racks for Merlin. The County is willing to make a bike rack location map to hand out.
- Safe Routes to School grant. They will have a follow up meeting about logistics out in Williams.
- The Galice/Argo guardrail project is shut down for now. They will come back in the fall to finish.
- The Beacon overlay project is moving along. It is from Madrone going north. Will be built from mid to late summer. This is repaving and widening and potentially sidewalk on one side.
- Working on plans for sidewalk infill on New Hope Road from 238 to Allen Creek Road minus the bridge.
- Jurisdictional exchange to take over Lower River Road and Lincoln will be on the business session on March 20. Member Dennerlein asked about the hill on Williams Highway that is sliding. Rob is aware.

Items from County Commissioners –

- None

Items from City Council Liaison –

- None

Items from Committee Members –

- Member Orr mentioned Merlin sidewalks and ways to get school kids to enter the Merlin parade to promote bike riding. Also trying to get some booths set up in the park. She will approach the Greenway Foundation about doing a booth to promote Ride the Rogue or ride with the kids, etc. The Merlin Parade is the first Saturday in May.
- A member mentioned [voice unknown] the principal at the school in Merlin being an avid mountain biker. They are trying to get North Valley and Fleming to get involved in the parade.
- There was discussion of a group in Colorado that does high school mountain biking as a lettered sport. They are doing this in Medford too. He has further information about that.
- Member Orr proposed that they put the Merlin Parade on the agenda.
- Member Dennerlein asked Rob Brandes asked for an update about Corps DOT. Rob responded that they have plans in and Jenna Marmon will be talking with Dan Roberts. Member Dennerlein suggested this be added to the agenda.

MOTION/VOTE

Member Dennerlein moved and Co-Chair Orr seconded the motion to add the Corps DOT to the agenda.

**The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Hart, Christensen, Collier, Dennerlein, Edwards, Kuhlman, Lange, Orr, and Yoho “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Rasmussen
The motion passed.**

- Jenna Marmon gave up her time so Deann Ferguson, State Safe Routes to School Coordinator, could talk about some upcoming funding opportunities through ODOT this spring. There is funding for non-infrastructure grants for about \$500,000 for 3-year grants (1.5 million total). The maximum grant amount is \$100,000 per year. Another program they are opening is for infrastructure funding for a project called Project Identification Program. This is for communities that haven't already been thinking of SRTS projects and don't have a prioritized list. It will provide a consultant to work with the City to come up with a SRTS infrastructure plan. There will be a competitive process coming for 2020/2021/2022. They are trying to help in the planning process and come up with as much assistance as possible. She also mentioned a small portion of the \$10 million is a Rapid Response Program intended for high-urgency, high-need projects and has the same eligibility. It must be an urgent project that can't wait until the next competitive cycle.
- Co-Chair Orr asked if it would be usable to pay for an alternative path, like a paved path that runs behind the school to provide access for the school? The answer was no, because it has to be in the road right of way and can't be on school district property. She can look at it further.
- Member Dennerlein asked if there is a SRTS master plan in Grants Pass. Councilor Lovelace said it is in process. She also mentioned we have a Blue Zones school and they designed a STRS master plan in Klamath Falls. We also designed one for Lincoln, so we will take that process and do the prioritization.
- For more information ODOT has a SRTS website. Google ODOT Safe Routes to Schools. There is also a link to sign up for email updates to keep informed about funding.

Future Agenda Building for Next Meeting

- a. Trail work day for Dollar Mountain.
- b. Member Lange to obtain an advisor for trail design.
- c. Merlin Railroad crossing.
- d. Beacon Hill.
- e. Merlin Parade and bike event.

7. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Next meeting date: April 9, 2019 at 12:00 pm in the Courtyard Conference Room
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Minutes prepared by Donna Anderson, City Administration.