

Midway City Trails & Parks Advisory Committee Meeting

July 27, 2021

Note Taking Sheet for Minutes

6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting

Minutes from June 22nd: Approve? Yes 1st: Ken Mickelsen 2nd: Sheila Siggard

1. Planning for Trails and Trees Celebration – Sep. 25th
 - Melannie Egan has been asked to oversee the planning of the event. She attended to receive recommendations from the committee on what they would like to do for the event.
 - Feedback:
 - Identify a long and short route that will help people get out onto the trails, experiencing the connections and improvements that have been made. Amanda Peterson and Paulette Tillman will help in identifying the routes.
 - At two or three locations along the trail routes, people can get tickets that can then be handed in afterwards for a raffle/giveaway.
 - Print the newly created trail map for distribution.
 - Short ceremony that will highlight:
 - Tree City designation and observing Arbor Day.
 - Highlight the recent/and near future accomplishments of the trails.
 - See if the Mayor can share a short message.
 - Engage the schools to have kids do a tree related art project. Melannie will reach out.
 - As part of engaging the schools, create a flyer with the event information that can be sent home with kids.
 - Need to advertise on the city social media platforms and also create signs for the kiosks.
 - Have a small BBQ with hotdogs and watermelon after the trail walk and ceremony.
2. Discussion points for Aug. 17th City Council Agenda
 - A small subcommittee comprised of Ken M., JC, Rob, and Clint to put together the message that will be shared along with identifying who will be the spokesperson.
 - Committee members are encouraged to provide any highlights they think should be shared.
 - Paulette to write an accompanying article for the Wave that will address highlights as well. Committee members should provide details and pictures to Paulette.
 - It has recommended that members of the Parks, Trails and Tree Committee attend the 8/17 City Council meeting to show the council that the committee is actively involved and highly invested. We want PT&T to be a high priority for the council.
 - A few highlights to note:
 - Tree City status

- Recent trail projects – Homestead Drive, River Road, Center Street
 - Emphasis on connectivity
 - Benefits to community health from trails
 - Addition of Michie Lane Park
 - Alpenhof Park redesign process
 - Townsquare redesign process
 - Grants received for trail projects
 - Include a nod to Nancy O’Toole, the city’s grant writer and all of the work she has put into the writing of the grants.
- 3. Update on Townsquare Planning
 - Luke and Ken M. briefly presented the two design concepts for Townsquare. The concepts were being worked on by committees and the Cities consultant IBI. The committee met with Swiss Days and Boosters recently to identify major issues and to get support. Designs will be shared with public sometime after Labor Day at two public outreach events.
- 4. Tree Grant
 - Luke briefly updated the committee on a tree grant the city was pursuing through the state forestry department.
- 5. Mayors Comments
 - Luke shared some comments from the Mayor on the current status of the parks and their maintenance.
 - Clint asked that staff relay a request to the Mayor that the city explore the cost of having Spectrum assume additional park maintenance responsibilities in areas where public works needs help. The committee would like to hear her thoughts on it.
 - JC also requested that the PT&T committee consider looking at low water park strip planting alternatives that could be considered by the City Council and possibly adopted into street cross-sections, or some other spot in the code.
 - Clint suggested we engage Wes Johnson with addressing.
 - Luke mentioned calling on some educational resources through CUWCD and their Localscapes program.
 - JC wanted to make sure that any park strip criteria include trees.
- 6. Sub Committees
 - Parks
 - Parks Review and Analysis
 - Ken M. shared and discussed a document with their SWOT analysis of the parks (see attached Strengths and Weakness Midway Parks document).
 - Committee discussed the need to have a certified playground inspector. It was discussed that Shane is performing inspections weekly, has taken the test, but has not passed. Ken M. and the other committee members shared concern with not having a certified person.
 - JC said not having a someone certified concerned him as well and he would look into further.
 - JC asked is Heber City has someone and if so, wondered if we could pay to use that same person?
 - The parks subcommittee felt there was a general lack of quality when it came to park maintenance and upkeep.
 - Parks Maintenance Standards

- Ken shared and discussed a document with their proposed maintenance standards (see attached Manual Park Standards document).
 - Ken addressed that we do not have dedicated, qualified staff that are dedicated just to parks.
 - Ken and Clint briefly described their desire to have a dedicated parks department/staff vs. the city's current approach of having public works staff each assigned to oversee a park. Clint addressed that it is impractical to assume that we can go from minimal care to the high level the subcommittee would like overnight, but hopefully getting these standards in front of the council and advocating that maintenance standards are adopted, will help us to get closer to that goal.
 - The committee discussed the need to be in front of the council regularly (5-6 times per year) so that parks, trails, and tree items are front and center in their minds.
 - Amanda commented on the need to address new ways of funding parks and trails related projects. She suggested grants, HOA levy's, fundraisers, etc. Others commented on the grants that have been obtained for trails.
 - JC suggested that until we have a full parks department, it would be useful to identify maintenance standard priorities as a starting point.
 - Parks Inventory with Maintenance Schedule
 - Ken shared and discussed a document with their review of the parks (see attached Classification of Midway City Park System document).
 - Most park equipment is original and old.
 - Deferred maintenance of park equipment is a concern.
 - Most parks have been acquired through development agreements and maintenance has not been adequately addressed.
 - Clint commented on the general issue of park maintenance and clarified that the subcommittee is not trying to place blame, but instead recognize that as development has increased exponentially, the City's approach to maintenance, including budgets, needs to be adjusted to follow that same curve.
 - Clint asked if the committee could see the filled-out park inspection reports from the public works staff to see what types of items are being noted when they do their park inspections. His hope is to get a feel for what is being addressed by them and how that relates to the items in the proposed maintenance standards.
 - Clint asked the committee to review the documents that the parks subcommittee provided and to come back to the next PT&T committee meeting with any additional comments.
- Trails
 - Trail Signage

- Committee was supportive the city installing the fiberglass trail marker that was presented. They also were also supportive of using Midway City red for the markers.
- Luke mentioned that we are trying to get another proposal on the signage due to cost and design. Signs will be ordered in August, hopefully in place for the trail celebration.
- Discussion on Equestrian Trails – Did not occur
- Trails Maintenance Plan Discussion – Volunteer cleanup, adopt-a-trail, etc. – Did not occur
- General Trails Discussion –
 - Amanda said that the subcommittee would be looking into trail connections and safety.
 - Paulette and Amanda commented on the need for a short-term and long-term safety intervention on the River Road/Burgi Lane roundabout to address the lack of a safe pedestrian crossing.
 - Paulette had met with Wes Johnson earlier in the day. Wes completely understands the safety concerns and would like to address with a long-term solution of having the roundabout rebuilt to both slow down traffic, especially those driving south on River Road and continuing onto Burgi Lane and providing safe pedestrian crossing locations. Paulette and Amanda are concerned with the short-term as well and would like to see the city explore options. Some ideas were:
 - Flashing speed limit signs
 - Lowering of the speed limit – JC noted that he believes there is a 10 MPH sign there already.
 - Road and trail signage letting users know where crossings are, and maybe areas where they shouldn't cross.
 - Extension of the Lacy Lane sidewalk trail to the intersection of Martha Lane and Burgi Lane and then stripe a crossing.
 - Striping
 - JC commented that he would like it looked at as well.
 - Amanda suggested that we should look at a requirement in the code requiring developers who connect to the city trail system to install trail signage both in the development (if trails are public) and at the connection point.
 - Amanda suggested we look at allowing people, businesses, or organizations to sponsor some of the larger trail signs in order to help fund their purchase. She also suggested that it was something that could be brought up at the Tree and Trails Celebration.
 - Clint asked that we add a reoccurring item to future agendas allowing some time for members of the committee to bring up non-agenda comments or concerns.

7. Adjourn Time