

Active Mobility Commission Minutes

January 17, 2023

I. Call to Order

Vice-Chair Michelle Knight called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

II. Quorum

Members Present: Cindy Costen, Kyle Cole, Julie White, Lincoln Walters, Michelle Knight

Staff Present: Russell Cate, Jennifer Tipton

Jennifer informed the Commission that Mike Sobol was no longer on the commission as town council decided that elected officials could not serve on citizen commissions. The town will advertise the opening on the town website and in the newspaper. Applications will be shared with the Commission.

III. Public Comment

Public Comment will also be permitted after each discussion.

Note.

IV. Agenda – review and modify

The agenda was reviewed and accepted with the addition of one announcement.

Announcement – Julie White announced that the annual Greenway Challenge 5 and 10K races were being run in conjunction with the Recreation and Park's Valentine Run. The Black Mountain Valentine Greenway Challenge will be held on Saturday, February 11th. Commissioners are encouraged to spread the word about the event.

V. Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the December meeting were adopted by consensus.

VI. Old Business

a. Follow-up on Adopt-a-Trail

Julie White reported that the Adopt-a-Trail plan had been presented to the Commission and staff members Josh Henderson and Jamie Matthews in December. They were in general agreement with the plan. A few suggestions were incorporated into the plan. It is now under review by Clint Bowman in the Recreation Department. Julia, Julie, and Clint will iron out details in the plan before it is brought back to the Commission.

VII. New Business

a. Updating Greenway Master Plan

Michelle shared the proposed trail which would cross the new parcel of land which the town received. This trail would connect the Riverwalk Greenway and the Hemphill property.

Jennifer Tipton shared that the town was preparing to do a Master Plan for the property. She suggested that the Commission recommend that the town council add this trail to the Greenway Master Plan and/or the Master Plan for the new property.

Jennifer also noted that the town was in the process of hiring a firm to do a feasibility study for part of the trail from Ridgecrest to the town's trails.

Michelle suggested that she contact Josh Harrold about arranging a trip for the Commission to see the new property which the trail would cross. People preferred an afternoon time for the trip. Once Michelle has gotten a time from Josh, she will contact Jennifer who will notify the Commission of the time and make a notification to the public.

b. Recommendation to Council

There was a discussion of what recommendations the Commission would like to make to the town council as a part of their annual presentation. The presentation to the town council was originally scheduled to be in February but it was decided to postpone that to the March council meeting to give the group more time to finalize their recommendations.

Ideas presented include:

Addition of the trail across the new property to the Greenway Master Plan

Ask the town to look at the feasibility of access across the railroad tracks to the new town property.

Work with DOT to get the barrels under I40 cleared in order to prevent flooding of the greenway under the Interstate during high water events.

Fix root problems on the Flat Creek Greenway.

Give the blessing to the recreation and maintenance departments to help carry out the Adopt-a-Trail Program.

Improve maintenance of the greenway around the garden.

Thank the council for their support, especially for their support of feasibility studies and master plans which affect our greenways.

VIII. Discussion

Lincoln suggested that we explore ways to get people more knowledgeable about our current and proposed greenway system.

IX. Adjournment

Michelle adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m.