

Park, Trails & Open Space Committee
Wednesday, November 20, 2019
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Cottonwood Heights City Offices

Attendees: Ronna Cohen, Jennifer Follstad Shah, Melissa Fields, Bruce Jorgensen, Ben Hill, Michael Johnson, Erin Davis, Matthew Dominesey, Roger Kehr, Sarah Ricketts, Christine Mikell, Mike Menssen,

Not Present: Greg Hilbig, Carl D (Dave) McFerren, Greg Reid, Kristy Morrison,

Discussion:

Chris Wiltse, Bike Utah

- Program Director for the 1000 Miles Program
- How could Bike Utah work with our city / other municipalities - Chris is currently working with Matt Taylor right now
- Governor set a goal to add 1000 miles of family friendly facilities over 10 years - that is where Bike Utah funding comes from (via EDCUtah)
- How to induce demand for bikes - if we build wide roads, then it is easier to drive, and more people will drive on the roads, ongoing cycle
- We could do the same thing with bikes - make bike facilities to encourage more people to use bikes
- Cars are the #1 killer of kids in US - the wolves of the road
- Obesity rates projected to rise to 46% by 2050 (from 26%)
- Are we being deliberate in the choice between risk and reward as it comes to cars and how many people it kills?
- How to tame the cars? Slower speed limits? Get people to ride bikes more with more bike facilities

Bike Utah Program -

- 0-25 mph neighborhood bikeways
- 26-44 mph need physically protected lane - he is working with CH to get in our first protected lanes
- 45+ multi-use - path separated by at least a median or grade separation
- Narrow the road - make people scared of scratching their car and people will slow down

How do we reimagine Ft Union blvd?

- Ronna - how does this become family friendly and get people to use? Building infrastructure is #1 way to get people out; the current trend is to take this to the next level from master plan and actually build the right facility for the road;

- Is the thought that these facilities are family friendly for commuters or for fun family weekend bike ride? They want anyone to be able to use, make it work for 8 and 80 year olds and it should work for everyone in between
- Right size the roads, tame the wolf, put in proper facilities so people can bike comfortably
- How do we account for topography? There are some good examples in CO, MSP is #1 for bikes and they have more snow than us, the weather issue is not as big an issue as some think; Boulder, CO, ebike could be a solution to get kids up the hills around the neighborhood
- Mike Johnson - Ft Union master plan adopted 4 years ago (or so), showed cross section concepts, changing road to tighten it up, add bike lanes separated by curb/gutter, wider pedestrian accommodations
- Had 2 redevelopment applications come in for Ft. Union - one next to the fire station, other near 1700 east / Mountview Park, can be developed into townhomes, when substantial redevelopment require frontage updates to stay in line with Ft. Union master plan (only along these redevelopment properties)
- Bike Utah is helping to envision right of way design,
- Jenn - what if we met more services - instead of hardscaping (raised planter) put in a bioswale (vegetated parking strip so captures runoff and filters before going in drains, minimizes flood pulses, helps filter the water)
- Matt - where do ebikes fit in? Important to regulate those types of bikes - some can go up to 30mph (perhaps similar to scooter legislation, signage on the trails)
- Christine asking for his feedback on how to push back / educate our public works team to answer their questions and get them more on board

Staff / Council Updates

Mike Johnson -

- East Jordan canal - last night design contract was approved, the design process should start soon, must be done by June, there will be open houses
- BCC connection trail - design in progress, must be done by May 2020 (connect BCC trail to Ft Union park 'n ride)
- TRCC grant - BCC rail section rebuild - awarded grant funding, rebuild and enhanced damaged sections, wayfinding signage - about \$120-130k - place for our input on wayfinding signage (he'll get back to us with more info on this)
- 7200 S Church trail connection - Target/Home Depot trail up to the church - received preliminary consent to proceed with project request, concept design underway
- Matt still working on open space master plan -- taking time due to staff bandwidth - goal to have progress December / January, early next year 2020 have some preliminary plans

Walking Routes Update, Ronna Cohen

- Met with representative from the historic committee - he's excited, Ronna will present to them on Dec 5th
- Met with a designer to get estimates on design and printing

- Can anyone here help develop maps for historic committee - standardized format (Bruce can do hand drawn) - if Ronna can provide what we're looking for - city can get GIS staff to print something out
- Historic committee has tons of research done to start to put that on maps - *Ronna will go thru Mike Johnson to get maps printed*
- *Feel free to send Ronna more routes if you have them*

Riparian Ordinance Update, Jenn Shah

- Mike and Jenn met to talk about this, they can't find any text existing that may or may not have the info
- Mike and staff are amenable to proposing an ordinance
- Jenn sent two ordinances from SLC and the county to Mike as well as a link from the code website as examples to develop our code
- Maybe start to see some drafts by January, we are currently amending sensitive land ordinance,

Melissa F - asked about letter of intent for Seven Canyons Trust - Mike thinks letter of support is easy to do; *Mike Johnson will ask about it*

Mike Menssen and summer lectures:

- Talked to Anne Eatchel and doesn't sound like there is any obstacles unless we provide smores (or food)
- For this summer ignore the food, plan events w/o food
- We need to get ideas of speakers
- Hope to have dates nailed down by January / February
- *Email Melissa and Mike M with speak suggestions by Dec 6*
- Christine - CH going to have an independent film festival in March
- Aiming for 3 events June / July / August - would probably want a few committee members attending each event

Subcommittee Reports

- **BST, Greg Hilbig (absent)**
 - Mike Johnson et al met today about how to approach / manage gathering easements for BST, next major step is public open houses but now is a bad time to host them - looking to have one in January then we can add public comments to the plan
- **Crestwood Park, Erin Davis**
 - Completed the whole trail all the way around, new surface, recycled concrete, water helps compact the surface, we need water that we got today,
- **Dog Park, Roger Kehr**
 - Melissa passed along Mountview Park recommendation to council work session
 - Cottonwood Heights doesn't own the park, school district owns the park, some room for off leash dog, priority use is for playing field, school district leases to us
 - Mike Johnson - the lease agreement says if you're not doing a priority use, need school district approval,

- Extra wrinkle with the lease issue but not insurmountable, council discussion is most important hurdle to focus on
- We made our recommendation, ball is now in the court of council, they need to debate and move forward, critical part by building consensus among the council,
- Roger: what is the next step? Get questions from the council that we can answer? Or do we go straight to the school district to ask if we can do that? City manager is meeting with school board and he can generally bring it up

Grant Opportunities Discussion

Brainstorm for improvements - not specific grants, just what we want to get done then we can narrow down the list and drill down on budget numbers:

- Ronna - wants real budget for walking routes
- Ronna - get money to look at Cottonwood Heights with a different twist to find connections and following through to develop the trails - not much land left so need to get creative
- Update pass-throughs (small paved paths connecting neighborhoods / parks etc), a lot are run down
- Ferguson Canyon signage and landscaping improved - add native plants, a pollinator garden
- Mike - adding more trails or something into Crestwood on the west side, the part with nothing
- Signage for walk throughs (into north end of Bywater Park for example is easy to miss)
- Pedestrian crossing from BST spur going in to the racquet club development - how to get people over wasatch - maybe tie that into transportation with the parking structure

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 22, 2020