



Parks and Trails Advisory Board
DRAFT Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2018
6:00 p.m.

Mr. Strahler called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

Francis Strahler, Chair	Present
Char Steelman, Vice Chair	Present
Frank Korth, Secretary	Present
George Stribick,	Present
Bill Resch, Member	Present
Chip Fellows (Council Liaison)	Arrived at 6:03 PM

Others Present: Mr. Stephen Mayer, City of New Albany; Ms. Jackie Russell, City of New Albany, Abbey Brooks

Mr. Strahler moved to approve the October 2, 2017 minutes, seconded by Mr. Korth. Motion passed.

Addition to agenda

Mr. Mayer added the Harlem Road Update to top of the agenda.

Mr. Mayer gave a presentation in regards to the Harlem Road Trail Update. He discussed trail options that were presented in January of 2017. Staff determined Option 2 in the plan was the most possible option. Staff has worked to try to get the amount of right of way. The City has not installed leisure trail at this point for safety reasons since segments would not be congruent and would force to cross the street.

Cynthia Snyder 5092 Harlem Rd. said her home is very close to the road. She has a daughter with a disability and whose bedroom is on the first floor near the front door. So she is not supportive of a leisure trail in her yard.

Mr. Mayer reminded residents that the Tensweep neighbors are in the City of Columbus.

Strahler asked if the City of Columbus would be okay with us installing the leisure trail?

Steve said it is between private property owners and would be located in City of New Albany right of way so we would be installing the trail.

Kevin Hoffman 5199 Harlem Rd. Of the properties on the map how many have city right-of-way in front of their property?

Steve said there is always some right-of-way where road is. Typically 40 ft total through Harlem Rd. Typically the road is 20 feet, but the road is not always centered on right-of-way. Some lots have more than forty feet of right-of-way. It varies.

Mr. Hoffman is it publically owned right-of-way? Do any properties not have ROW?

Mr. Mayer said no, there is at least forty feet throughout the street.

Mr. Korth said it is 20 feet of Right-of-Way per a each side, and maybe the small ditch on each side.

Mr. Hoffman asked has the ROW been surveyed.

Mr. Stefanov said it was surveyed about 15 years ago before the road was widened.

Mr. Korth said if someone is running and steps off the tarmac, they would step into a "ditch."

Mr. Resch categorized streets and determined stated Harlem Rd. would be considered a major arterial road, not a side road. Is that correct?

Mr. Mayer said it actually is considered a rural road but is used as a collector street.

Ms. Snyder said has there been any discussion of doing something to discourage traffic like speed bumps?

Mr. Mayer said a speed clocking was to be placed on street, and residents can call the police when they see speeders.

Mr. Stefanov said it has been city policy up to this point that there is no speed bumps. Studies indicate they are more dangerous due to hitting bumps at high speed and losing control of the car and end up in someone's front yard. The city has tried to regulate speed with striping for visual cues. The city is taking a incremental approach, hoping to raise the attention that will cause cars to slow down. We can experiment with other types of painting.

Courtney Kelley 5118 Harlem said there was a call made to the police department about putting a camera on Harlem Rd to get people tickets and causing them to have to slow down.

Mr. Stefanov said that the legislature has been working with potential legislation would that would require for an officer to be present if citation is given. We would need to evaluate with State of Ohio.

Susie Banchesky 5300 Harlem Rd. Thanks to the board last year recognizing the safety issue and recommending to council to make and change, thanks to staff for putting the plan together and thanks to the police who look at Harlem Road. In order to access leisure trail, residents must walk on Harlem Road. She feels that as a community that is promoting healthy lifestyle, this issue should be looked at and handled since it is a major safety issue. Leisure trial will help with safety.

Patrick Kelley 5118 Harlem what are the options to help? Everyone is here and represented, a lot of the concerned neighbors are present.

Steve Maple 5220 Could the trail go down the East side of the road until it hits homes in the red then crosswalk to west side?

Mr. Stefanov said we tried multiple times to get the easements. It is not because of lack of desire, money is appropriated, but we need everyone to agree to something to make happen. It is not ideal but this is what we can do: start on east side of road and then do a mid-block crossing to the west side and go the rest of the way if we can get additional properties to answer. It is better than the current situation. Staff does not want to do a mid-block cross. The midblock cross would have nonlight signage. The concern is that a person in the crosswalk has expectation of safety in the crosswalk, but can still be injured. If that's the only solution, then we can build it.

Mr. Mayer added the mid-block cross would have to be put in the right spot where it crests for most visible for cars. Above tensweep.

Mr. Stribick asked if anyone asked what they, the residents, think we should do?

Mr. Mayer said we did an initial survey received info in survey. Staff is still open and would love to hear thoughts of the residents. We can get some markers and mark on map if there has been any changes or thoughts for providing city ROW or easements. This gives an update of the past year.

Mr. Hoffman asked are you saying what has been conceptually proposed is more one side of the road or the other instead of R-O-W received?

Mr. Mayer said yes, path is extending beyond on one side or another. Due to swale telephone poles, hydrants, etc. good practice for separation.

Mr. Hoffman said when roads like this were platted often properties were platted to the centerline of the road. He encouraged the city to undertake a study of the ROW. I do not believe ROW extends from 161 to Greensward.

Mr. Steafnov said if highway easement existed it would function the same way as ROW. If within 40 ft of highway easement, we could still put the trail in, if we could fit it. Fairly easy to determine dedicated ROW or highway easement.

Mr. Mayer said in almost every circumstance we would still need easement.

Tom Ellis 5190 Harlem Road said he is concerned about the safety for kids. We must pick either one side or the other and it needs built.

Mr. Kelley what do we need to do to move forward?

Mr. Stefanov said we need one side or the other to go forward.

Ms. Kelley said there is more room on west side not on the east side.

Mr. Stefanov said he would recommend putting it at the west side of the street.

Mr. Kelley said how does this work? Majority rules?

Mr. Stefanov said the city has only used eminent domain one time for U.S. 62 and Central College to add a signal. It can be done when road involved. This does not involve street. Must settle in court a year or two. We looked at the option of sidewalks next to the road. The speed and volume of traffic is not much safer. Recommendation is one side of street and be divided with a buffer

Matt Morgan 5214 Harlm said what is your rule of thumb for spacing?

Mr. Korth said leisure trail is 8ft of paved area.

Mr. Morgan asked would you meander around telephone poles etc.?

Mr. Mayer said yes.

Mr. Snyder asked staff to explain the description of trail.

Mr. Mayer showed examples of the trail proposed for option 2. Since it would be against the street, there needs to be space between vehicular and pedestrian. It will be different then we see because of the space.

Ms. Banchesky discussed the easement issue and said if people aren't willing can we use eminent domain. Is there something in the middle like easement with payment?

Mr. Maple said everyone would need fee for that then.

Mr. Stefanov It would be expensive if everyone says me too. If community wants trail then we don't charge for the easement.

Mr. Kelley ask that if people are opposed, why are you opposed and are you willing to talk about it?

Mr. Resch reached out to Ms. Taylor. Is there a place to get compensation for easement along property?

Ms. Taylor said the easement would be halfway up to her front door.

Resch said he posed the question because of safety. He asked if it would be possible with compensation?

Ms. Taylor said she moved here to be on her own property and it hasn't been that way.

Mr. Stefanov stated we marked the location of the trail to show how much easement would encroach into front yards.

Strahler can work with schools to move busses?

Mr. Kelley asked if staff would consider starting on the east on top to crossover to west.

Stefanov said absolutely. He wouldn't recommend to get a double crossover with boardwalk.

Mr. Fellows said a midblock crossing is inherently dangerous with two of them (crossings).

Mr. Kelley said crossing at bottom of the hill wouldn't be safe.

Ms. Banchesky 4582 Harlem said neighbors in tensweep spoke and their trees were bent over and were approached with attractive landscaping and taken care of.

Mr. Stefanov the trail could create nice value for residents.

Mr. Korth gave a quick review of everything.

Mr. Stefanov explained the various kinds of solutions.

Mr. Fellows said we could install a sidewalk down the whole length and guard rail between.

Mr. Stefanov said we could do a whole design with curbs and sewer inlets etc. and take a 150,000 project and make it a 400,000 – 500,000 project.

Mr. Fellows agreed, we could do that also.

Mr. Stribick said we could create Harlem to be a boulevard and run leisure trail down the middle.

Mr. Stefanov said we have to change whole road configuration.

Mr. Fellows asked if cannot get complete approval. What's the safest way we can do it without easements?

Mr. Stefanov answered a path against the pavement with guard rail.

Mr. Strahler asked if neighbors can see mark the map and see what new dots there are and reevaluate the options.

Mr. Mayer said absolutely, please mark.

Mr. Korth said as a member of the board, I would like to support the decision because it is a safety issue.

Ms. Banchesky asked if council could reach out to few of these people that do not want to do it for a reason can meet and discuss an easement with a fee etc. Like council to reach out with that option.

Mr. Stefanov said he would direct staff to do it.

Mr. Fellows said there is an obvious need and passion here for the trail. He encouraged neighbors to continue having conversation. We want safety for all to use the path. But, Council

will never have appetite to take property. It sounds like the only option is sidewalk with guardrail.

Mr. Kelley said while we are together can we take a vote on the trail?

Mr. Stefanov said he will have to check with engineer to check field utilities assuming everything falls into place there is no reason we couldn't.

Mr. Mayer said if board would like they can make a motion for staff to pursue additional studies as we discussed in the meeting.

Mr. Korth and Mr. Stribick would like to get a vote from neighbors.

Mr. Fellows would take vote to council tomorrow.

Mr. Fellows stated where properties cannot allocate space the trail would be put right along the road with a guardrail then it will come back in with appropriate space and weave to where it is not allowed.

Mr. Strahler made a motion for staff to research and council explore putting the trail on the west side. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Strahler asked residents who were in favor of the west side trail. The vote was 10-2.

Mr. Kelly asked how long will a new proposal take.

Mr. Stefanov said 8-10 weeks.

Mr. Fellows said council has to vote for additional funding.

Meeting broke at 7:35pm to dismiss residents.

Cases:

No cases were heard at the meeting.

Other Business:

Organization Meeting

Mr. Strahler called the meeting back to order at 7:40pm. Mr. Strahler said it will be his last Parks and Trails Meeting. Abbey will be appoint in Council Mtg tomorrow, 3/6. Therefor Mr. Strahler will no longer be chair person.

Mr. Korth said his home is for sale and will be prevented from being on the PTAB.

Strahler asked for a nomination for chair person.

Mr. Resch recommends Mr. Stribicik as chair and to retain Ms. Steelman as vice chair. Motion passes.

Resch recommends Mr. Korth is secretary. Motion passes.

Trail Gaps

Mr. Mayer gave presentation.

Meetings adjourned at 8:15pm.