



Informal Planning Commission

Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2019

7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission met in regular session in the Council Chambers at Village Hall, 99 W. Main Street and was called to order by Planning Commission Chair Mr. Neil Kirby at 7:03 p.m.

Those answering roll call:

Mr. Neil Kirby, Chair	Present
Mr. Brad Shockey	Present
Mr. David Wallace	Present
Mr. Hans Schell	Present
Ms. Andrea Wilttrout	Present
Mr. Sloan Spalding (council liaison)	Absent

Staff members present: Steven Mayer, Development Services Coordinator; Chris Christian, Planner; and Josie Taylor, Clerk

Mr. Kirby asked for any corrections or additions to the Agenda.

Mr. Christian replied there were none from staff.

There were no cases to hear.

Other Business

Leisure Trail Master Plan Review and Recommendation to City Council

Mr. Mayer explained the Leisure Trail Master Plan was last updated in 2006 and had approximately 24 miles of trails at that time but has now increased to about fifty (50) miles of trails, averaging an increase of about two (2) miles per year. Mr. Mayer stated it was now time to review current conditions, assess needs, and establish policies with a Leisure Trail Master Plan Update.

Mr. Chris Hermann, with MKSK Studios, a landscape architectural firm, presented the Leisure Trail Master Plan Update. Mr. Hermann noted that approximately 70% of the people in the community use the leisure trails at least once a week. Mr. Hermann stated the City Council would vote on the Leisure Trail Master Plan Update on July 2, 2019.

Mr. Hermann noted that fees-in-lieu of leisure trails for developments were not preferred.

Mr. Shockey asked what were the factors that influence the recommendation to get a fee-in-lieu of leisure trails and what are the fees to be charged, would they be commensurate with acquisition or construction cost.

Mr. Herman stated the costs would be annually updated and need to include the acquisition cost of land.

Mr. Shockey asked if the fees went into a trail account.

Mr. Mayer stated City Council evaluates the fee-in-lieu costs but there is nothing regarding the selection of a location for fees-in-lieu to be used. Mr. Mayer noted that if approved, fee-in-lieu money is put into a leisure trail fund for construction and design costs.

Mr. Shockey noted that as costs rise over time there should be consideration to using funds when paid rather than holding over time where there is a potential for loss in the time value of money.

Mr. Mayer noted that may mean it may be preferred to put in a trail rather than pay a fee-in-lieu.

Mr. Hermann stated that leisure trail crossings were important for safety reasons and stated that new developments would be required to provide an access connection to existing trails.

Mr. Mayer stated the Leisure Trail Master Plan Update provides guidance on how to establish the location and the design and type of crossings on the leisure trails.

Mr. Hermann stated that where conditions may not be ideal for leisure trails, there are policies provided to help address these situations as much as possible to permit a leisure trail to be put in if possible.

Mr. Mayer stated this was a real world scenario that occurs frequently where there is not enough right-of-way.

Mr. Hermann stated city ordinances should be continually evaluated on bicycle and pedestrian safety, with things such as e-scooters, electric bikes, bike shares, etc.

Mr. Kirby asked if there was a way to designate bike allowed and bike not allowed areas.

Mr. Hermann stated he thought bikes were not permitted on sidewalks at this time.

Mr. Mayer stated city law was that bikes could not be ridden on sidewalks and adults had to ride on the street. Mr. Mayer stated that most of the leisure paths are multi-use, but the first dedicated bike off-street path is being put in with the Rose Run improvements

between the schools and Market Square. Mr. Mayer noted that signage is now being used to specify if a trail is just for bikes.

Mr. Kirby asked if there is a clear way people can know they are supposed to get off of their bikes at a certain point.

Mr. Hermann stated some kind of sign, signal, paint, or marking can be thought about. Mr. Hermann stated an educational awareness program, like Safety Town, could be used for the leisure trails to show people proper use of the leisure trails.

Mr. Hermann stated the proposal for certain amenities, such as water fountains, shelter, dog waste, etc. at trailheads and throughout the leisure trails.

Mr. Kirby stated a bike pump and rack area would be a good amenity.

Mr. Hermann stated that informational signs about the leisure trail system were also to be included in the Leisure Trail Master Plan Update.

Mr. Wallace stated that in addition to on trail signage, website oriented information should also be available about the leisure trails.

Mr. Kirby stated signage should add QR codes.

Mr. Shockey asked when the Metro Park would connect.

Mr. Mayer stated a connection to the Hoover Dam is moving along, but at this time there is a connection with Rocky Fork that goes through Upper Clarenton and there is another connection on New Albany Links Drive, but both of these use sidewalks not leisure trails. At this time connections up New Albany-Condit Road are being prioritized.

Mr. Shockey stated it would be good to connect to Rocky Fork.

Mr. Kirby noted the sale of naming rights could be time limited.

Mr. Schell asked if any companies had approached the city for naming rights.

Mr. Mayer stated some naming rights were being done for the first time with the Rose Run project crossing. Mr. Mayer noted naming rights have been considered in the past but had not been used.

Mr. Kirby noted having a policy that fee-in-lieu of leisure trails is not preferred is a good thing to have.

Moved by Ms. Wiltrout to recommend the Leisure Trail Master Plan Update to City Council, seconded by Mr. Wallacet. Upon roll call vote: Ms. Wiltrout, yea; Mr. Wallace, yea; Mr. Kirby, yea; Mr. Shockey, yea; Mr. Schell, yea. Yea, 5; Nay, 0; Abstain, 0. Motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

With no further business, Mr. Kirby polled members for comment and hearing none, adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Submitted by Josie Taylor.