

Parks and Trails Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 7, 2022 6:00pm

I. Call to order.
The New Albany Parks and Trails Advisory Board held a regular meeting on March 7, 2022 in the Development Conference Room. Mr. Stribick called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Roll call
Staff present: Steve Mayer, Planning Manager; Chris Christian, Planner.

Planning Manager Mayer indicated that Chris Hermann, Sara Lilly and Karla Salmans from MKSK were present.

Those answering roll call:

Mr. Resch	present
Ms. Steelman	present
Ms. Brooks	not present
Ms. Bhat	present
Mr. Stribick	present
Council Member Fellows	present

Mr. Stribick stated that a quorum was present.

III. Action on Minutes: September 8, 2021
Mr. Stribick asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes.

Hearing none the minutes were approved as submitted without objection.

IV. Additions or Corrections to Agenda
Chair Stribick asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda.

Board Member Resch stated that he and Planner Christian had discussed prioritizing trails along the rapid 5 watersheds as indicated on the handout that had been distributed. He explained that he is an avid biker and can be seen riding his recumbent bike around town. He stated that he and Planning Manager Mayer had attended the Urban Land Institute Conference in 2021. At the conference 5 suburbs in Columbus, including New Albany, agreed to work together on planning. He explained that there are 5 watersheds created and tilted southward by the glaciers. There are Metro Parks located at the watersheds, along the riparian corridors. The Rocky Fork Blacklick watershed is in New Albany and it is part of the larger Big Walnut Watershed. He had laid the 5 watersheds over the map distributed at the conference. He stated that the business park in New Albany is several thousand acres and consists of several square miles along Smith's Mill Road. The Blacklick riparian zone is beautiful and presents an opportunity for a trail to connect to other places. We currently do not have a tributary to the Big Walnut watershed which is beside Abercrombie & Fitch. The Urban Land Institute has an incredible vision for Central Ohio, the most developed of which is the Olentangy.

Board Member Steelman added that a trail could be constructed along the Sugar Run Watershed to connect to the Metro Park to the north. She explained the connection points

as indicated on the map on the handout. She mentioned the Steiner Program and the discussions of where the trails would go around Cedar Brook.

Board Member Resch stated that Cedar Brook was never envisioned with a trail, so that area would need to be retrofitted with a trail. He discussed the vision, historical influences, and the underpinnings of the planning of the green spaces in this area including Frank Olmstead who planned Central Park. New Albany has an existing tunnel under the expanded SR 161, and a beautiful set of trails to Gahanna, and underpass under the 62 bridge and a tunnel under Morse Rd. He thanked staff for helping to add this item to the agenda and asked if there were any questions. Thus, we already have the tunnels under the highway and Morse Road, the only thing we are missing is the trail through the riparian zone.

He continued that a trail at Central College and 605 could be utilized more if the Hamlet concept was approved. This is also adjacent to the Wagner Cemetery.

Planning Manager Mayer stated that the Sugar Run section was added. He explained how trails were installed, the funding mechanisms and the easement process. The role of the PTAB was to make recommendations to Council regarding which projects to fund.

Board Member Resch asked for more information about ownership of the riparian zones. Planning Manager Mayer responded that sometimes the city owns the riparian zone and other times the city is granted an access easement to the riparian zone.

Board Member Resch stated that the Harlem Rd trail was a great example of property owners granting easements for the installation of a trail.

There were no cases to discuss.

VII. Other Business

1. Organization meeting.

The annual organizational meeting was conducted.

The newest member, Tricia Bhat, was sworn in.

The following officers were unanimously elected:

Chair - George Stribick
Vice-Chair - Char Steelman
Secretary - Tricia Bhat.

There was discussion of the role of the secretary and whether the secretary would be responsible for the minutes. Planning Manager Mayer and Planner Christian stated that staff would draft and distribute the minutes prior to the next meeting.

Board Member Steelman stated that in accordance with the attendance policy in the Standard Rules of Procedure for Boards and Commissions attendance at each meeting encouraged, particularly because the PTAB meets so infrequently. There was discussion regarding forfeiture as established in the rules. More specifically how many meetings constitutes forfeiture and also who would inform the board member of their forfeiture.

Planning Manager confirmed that meetings were streamed for viewing purposes only, board members and were required by law and local rule to attend in person in order to participate in the meeting.

2. Leisure Trail Prioritization Charrette

Planning Manager Mayer delivered the staff presentation. He explained the history of leisure trails and said that the city installs 1-2 miles of new trail per year. And also maintains existing trails. He further stated that the city was seeking recommendations for new trails to include in part of its capital projects budget. He explained there are two main expenditures. The first is Taylor Farm Park which will have 3 total miles of trail within the park and trails connecting upper Harlem/Dublin Granville Road to the park and that trail will accompany the intersection improvement. The second is the Windsor to Walton Trail. He further recognized that Covid – 19 had impacted the availability of building materials and thus had slowed everything down. He also explained which trail segments the ODOT had rejected. He discussed the improvements to intersections along 62.

There was discussion of Woodhaven, Sugar Run, Mill Brook Farm and connections to Bevelhymer.

MKSK delivered a presentation on the Charette which included an explanation of the routes with the goal of creating loops rather creating out and back trails. The loops would include connections to parks and would avoid major roadways as much as possible. This could be hampered by private ownership of land and it was hoped that easements would be assisted by priorities such as the Rocky Fork Blacklick Accord. Another goal was to connect the area north of SR 161 with the areas south of SR 161, and also to establish trails that were safe enough for kids to get to on their bikes. Finally, the school district is larger than the city and it is worth having parks that are accessible to kids who live outside of the city but are in the district.

Chair Stribick stated that historically the priority of the school board was to educate the kids and the focus was placed on bricks and mortar structures such as the school buildings, the library, and the McCoy. He further explained that a Joint Parks District is a separate entity established to share the burden of paying for leisure spaces and parks.

Chair Stribick reiterated that it would be good to make a connection to the business park. MKSK agreed but indicated that that creating trails for business park employees was lower on the list of priorities.

Each member was given 4 green dots to place on the map to vote on their trail preferences.

Planning Manager Mayer confirmed that everyone had voted. He thanked the board for their consideration and input. He stated that MKSK would summarize the results and that summary document would be shared with the board.

Planner Christian also mentioned the possibility of placing a trail along Kitsmiller Rd.

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Stribick asked for a motion to adjourn. There was a discussion of the timing of the next meeting and distribution of the summary dot tally. The motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Without objection the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.