

Urban Trails Committee – Minutes – December 11, 2024 – Regular Meeting

Attendees: Athena F., Julia W., Steve M., Kristen B., Diana R., Brooke C., Mike H., Jason N.

Staff/Ex-Officio: Henry Brown, Carissa Finnerty, Jenny Nitzky, Trent Prall, Andy Gingerich

Guests:

Minutes

Call to Order/Announcements: Athena calls meeting to order at 5:35.

Meeting Minutes

1. November Minutes

Diana moves to approve November minutes. Mike seconds, unanimous approval.

Action Items

Discussion Items

1. Urban Heat Island findings

Jenny presented on the methodology and maps from the Urban Heat Island Mapping Campaign and grant applications that have come out from the findings. Parks and Recreation has already gotten a grant to improve the tree cover in disproportionately impacted areas. The City is preparing to facilitate a heat emergency tabletop simulation and working on getting the County to include heat on the Hazard Mitigation Plan and City Emergency Response planning. The Committee asked about water consumption and the payoff for cooling and who else has done similar surveys. There was some discussion of how parking should be minimized to only what is needed to help mitigate excess heat. The Committee suggested collaborating with the Water team to make sure that with xeriscaping grant efforts, that significant trees are still getting enough water.

2. Walk Audit follow-up

Trent presented the designs for the retrofit crossing of 24 ½ Road at Flat Top Lane. The Committee asked if flashing beacons were being considered, not at this time. Andy shared that bus timing is impacted based on them using the existing two-way turn lane to allow the bus to merge easily. The walk should include the east side up to Caprock.

Carissa proposed a Winter Walk Audit of the 12th & Patterson area which would include evaluation of tactile pads and an idea to include the CrossAbility Roundtable. Trent shared that this roundtable is comprised of three individuals. The Committee discussed the value of trails (did it get built correctly) versus public facilities. The Committee like the idea of crossing Patterson and especially the challenge of the GVT location. There is also the Hilltop location southeast of City Market. For Route #1, looking a bit further north to Safeway through the roundabout could be interesting since Horizon can be quite busy. Access to grocery could be an interesting lens for future/ongoing Walk Audits. The committee liked the idea of dividing and conquering, splitting participants strategically between routes. Andy shared that this is a high propensity area for more transit.

Andy suggested investigating ideas to make areas more permeable.

Jenny recommended working with the Green Team at Hilltop. Athena offered to work with Hope West.

Henry asked for the taste on time of day and weekend/weekday timing. Carissa will send out a poll.

3. Annual Road Map discussion

Henry reminded the committee about the interest in updating the Annual Road Map post.

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4. Active Transportation Counts

Henry presented the results and data. There was a question about whether the Committee would consider September counts. There will be a need for a subcommittee starting in January to help plan for 2025.

Updates

1. Impact Fees

Kristin moved to extend the meeting by 15 minutes to close out remaining items, seconded by Diana and voted unanimously.

Henry and Trent talked through the methodology developed by the consultants. The Committee felt broadly like the approach made sense and was interested to see off-network transportation trails.

2. Palisade Connection

Steve shared after having read the paper about some of the possible approaches to complete the RFT. The paper talked about a separated path along some of the highway.

3. Engineering updates

Trent shared that Monument Connect construction has started, Asphalt to concrete construction on Redlands Parkway is continuing, C ½ RFT section is approaching 100% design. There is striping and concrete work that needs to happen at Four Canyons Parkway.

Staff is working with GVIC on Independent Ranchman's Ditch to be the first canal easement trail. 4th and 5th Streets is continuing to get a lot of press coverage.

Public Comment

Adjournment

Julia moves to adjourn at 7:32