

Ad Hoc Harbor Trail Committee November 13, 2013
Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were not available and will be presented at the next meeting.

Attendees: (apologies for misspelling)
Louise Rus-MacLellan, Chair
John Holden, Community Development Director
Jim Sharp
Meg Sharp
Joan Wright (member)
Annette Naegel (member)
Virginia Slaussen (member)
Dean Fulton

John Holden reported that he learned of a medical family issue and that Lorain Francis would not be attending. He spoke briefly of coordinating with her on grants and development of trail head and signage.

- J Holden has traveled the length of the trail and will do so again with Public Works within two weeks to identify locations to post signs of the entire length of HT. Pending ground conditions, signs will be posted. Sign height will be determined by applicable code and standards.
 - Committee had some discussion about future installation of interpretative panels.
- J Holden reported that City Council will vote tonight on authority to submit application to Land Water Conservation Fund for \$200,000 (to be matched with \$200,000 by City, Downtown TIF) for development of Boardwalk at Harbor Park--and as part of Harbor Trail. This grant is due November 15.
- J Holden continued to report that City Council will vote tonight on authority to submit application to Recreation Trail Program for \$35,000 (to be matched by \$9,000 by City, Fisher TIF). This application is specifically for HT on Mechanic Street but as part of a two phase project to include Atlantic Street (we would apply to same source of funds for Atlantic Street next year).
 - There were some questions about the source of City funds and Tax Increment Financing and J Holden explained briefly how TIF funds are available and used.
 - The Committee asked for a reporting on the previous "Healthy Y" funds from the City. J Holden said he would do so.
 - There was some general discussion about design of the walkway along Mechanic and Atlantic Street. The general desire of a natural surface (i.e. crushed stone) was recognized. Final design will be forthcoming, pending successful grant applications.

- The Committee voted unanimously and endorsed and supported the above referenced applications.
- The City will be selecting engineering company to do final costing of lighting and sidewalk in Thorndike parking lot ("blue" Harbor Trail route).
- V Slaussen asked about any progress on easements between Lermond Cove and Ferry Terminal Park. J Holden explained that preliminary design was completed for that portion of the Trail and presented to the land owners that would need to approve easements. Their input was taken and a revised design will be prepared for further review by the landowners.
- The Committee discussed its general hope and encouragement of using "alternative" approaches to designing aspects of the Trail. Example, using students at MCST to design a portion of Trail. Additional discussion was about designing the bridge at Lermond Cove to be, itself, a work of art and an attraction to the City and Trail.
- The Chair acknowledged some public input regarding the selection process of art along the Harbor Trail. She has requested a more clearer public process on selection of future outdoor art in public locations. J Holden further acknowledged the intent to develop a policy and procedure. Further he noted some research and very preliminary meetings regarding engagement of the artist community as part of the community development process and some possible grant sources that may support such activities and perhaps the construction of outdoor art spaces.

Adjournment