



Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail - Edina

Community Assessment Team

Meeting 1 Minutes

December 2, 2009

Prepared by: Heather Gates, Planning & Development Secretary

Submitted on: December 10, 2009

Present: Kelly Grissman, Planner
Jonathan Vlaming, Senior Manager of Planning
Brent Christensen, Graduate Engineer
Randy Lehr, Water Resources Manager
Heather Gates, Secretary
John Keprios, Director of Parks and Recreation – Edina
Eric Burfeind, Edina High School Science Teacher
Alice Hulbert, Bike Edina
Joseph Hulbert, Edina Park Board
Richard Johnson, Segment 1 Representative
Bob Lubar, Segment 2 Representative
Robert Schwartzbauer, Segment 3 Representative
Reid Kilberg, Segment 4 Representative
Dave Henry, Segment 5E & 7 Representative
Michael Wolff, Segment 8 Representative
Harvey Johnson, Segment 9 Representative
Peter McCarthy, Segment 11 Representative
Nancy Crain, Segment 19 Representative
Wendy Amundson, Segment 20 Representative

Absent: Wayne Houle, Director of Public Works – Edina
Kevin Bigalke, Nine Mile Creek Watershed District – Administrator
Robert Peterson, Segment 5D Representative

Meeting Start: 6:30 PM

1. Brief welcome and thank you to all team members for volunteering to assist in the Community Assessment Team
 - a. Reviewed Agenda
 - b. Community Team Member Introductions
 - c. House Keeping:
 1. Please confirm contact information is complete/accurate
 2. Reviewed folder contents
 3. Please review meeting minutes in a timely fashion so they can be placed on website
2. Community Assessment Team (CAT) Role
 - a. Identify constraints and opportunities associated with each route
 - b. Provide design recommendations/suggestions for each route
 - c. Convey information back to respective route neighbors

3. Associated Discussion: There was concern that the CAT is not purposeful because its role is not to identify/study alternative routes or determine the preferred route through Edina. There was also concern regarding the potential 'cost' in respect to taxpayers, trees, social impacts, and safety. Park District staff reiterated that 1) the CAT's role is to evaluate the pros and cons of each route and that this information will be forwarded to the Edina City Council for their review and consideration in determining the preferred route (if any) and 2) the Edina City Council has not indicated or authorized additional routes be considered.
4. Trail Overview
 - a. Reviewed status of regional trail implementation
 1. Hopkins/Minnetonka: 7th Street to Hwy 169 is planned for construction in conjunction with Nine Mile Creek restoration in 2010
 2. Edina: Edina Promenade to Adam Hills Park was completed in 2009 as part of City project
 3. Richfield: Xerxes Avenue to 12th Avenue is planned for construction in conjunction with Metropolitan Council Environmental Services sewer project along 75th and 76th Streets
 4. Minneapolis/Richfield/Bloomington: Lake Nokomis to Mall of America will likely receive federal funding for construction in 2014
 5. Edina: regional trail route between Hwy 169 to Edina Promenade has not been finalized

Associated Discussion: Regional trail construction to the east and west of Edina is moving forward resulting in a significant gap through Edina. The question was raised about the future of the regional trail if a preferred route through Edina is not selected by the Edina City Council. Park District staff confirmed that the Edina City Council may select 'a no build option' and that if this occurs the Park District may work with the City to consider additional routes or work with other local communities to establish alternative routes and connection nodes. Under the second scenario, the planned trail on the City's western boundaries could be extended south to Bryant Regional Park or Hyland Park Reserve and the trail on the City's eastern boundary already forms a connection with Southdale Mall which serves as a regional destination and appropriate trail terminus.

5. Project History
 - a. Regional trail concept through Edina originated in 1999
 - b. Part of First-tier Trails, Greenways & Parks Master Plan (2000)
 - c. City passed resolutions of support for the regional trail concept in 2000 and 2003

Note: Recent project history was displayed as part of the presentation, but not presented

Associated Discussion: CAT members expressed their concern for the previous studies and subsequent routes under study. Several CAT members expressed concern about 1) the public involvement in the early planning stages as well as the two open houses in 2009 and 2) routes that were part of previous studies but since removed from consideration. Park

District staff agreed to provide the 2000 planning document which outlines the preliminary planning work and reviewed the rationale for routes that were removed since the February 2009 open house. In general, select trail routes were removed from additional consideration as a result of topography, ADA requirements, ROW restrictions, previous City Council decisions, and connectivity to other alternative trail routes.

A question was raised why an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) was not completed in 2000. Park District staff explained the planning completed in 2000 included conceptual routes and that a full EAW process is not typical for that level of planning.

CAT members again expressed concern for their role and the determination of assessment criteria. Park District staff explained that staff has no preference and that the CAT will have the opportunity to develop a list of measurable criteria for assessing the 14 routes under consideration as part of this process. Park District staff also provided a quick list of some of the factors (desire for 5% or less, availability of public right-of-way or other public land, safety concerns such as driveway and road crossings, need for grade separated crossings when feasible, average daily traffic counts, impacts to adjacent property) typically considered when planning regional trails.

Park District staff clarified that the CAT's role is not to develop new routes for consideration, but to develop a matrix of pros and cons for each route to help the Edina City Council determine a preferred route. The CAT will also provide segment-specific design consideration/recommendations.

5. EAW Update

a. Reviewed purpose

1. determine potential environmental impacts of each route
2. determine if any routes should be removed from additional consideration
3. use in the establishment of the preferred route

b. Reviewed EAW schedule

Note: List of items included and not included in the EAW was displayed as part of the presentation, but not presented

Associated Discussion: A question was raised as to whether soil borings would occur as part of the EAW process. Park District responded that soil borings occur as part of design development after a preferred route and are not typical during the planning process. Existing soil and wetland mapping will be used during the EAW process to gain a better understanding of the conditions and possible cost implications for each route.

A concern regarding the level of field work by the consultant (Bonestroo) was brought forward. Park District reaffirmed that the consultant has conducted field work as part of their assessment and that the consultant reviewed select areas with Park District representatives on site. The Park District clarified that the consultant is conducting all analysis and that the Park District has only provided project background information and data from other agencies/parties.

Park District staff shared that Bonestroo will present the EAW findings to the CAT.

6. Identification of DRAFT Pro/Con List:
 - a. Number of driveways
 - b. Number of street crossings
 - c. Right-of-way width
 - d. Utilities
 - e. Topography
 - f. Proximity to houses
 - g. Trees
 - h. Carbon emissions (EAW)
 - i. Storm water
 - j. Sight lines
 - k. Cost
 - l. Safety (Geometrics)
 - m. Easements
 - n. Park access
 - o. School access
 - p. Other places of interest access
 - q. Number of adjacent back yards
 - r. Number of adjacent front yards
 - s. ADT sidewalks and crosswalks
 - t. Parking
 - u. Informal trail access
 - v. Formal access points and amenities
 - w. Police calls
 - x. Distance to access points
 - y. Commuting to existing & proposed trails
 - z. Animals
 - aa. Front vs. backyard
 - bb. Effects on street parking
 - cc. High traffic area (Route 19)

Associated Discussion: Park District staff led a discussion on establishing a list of quantifiable/measurable pro/cons. The CAT team will continue to review the pro/con list after site visits.

7. Site visits:
 - a. December 12 – Segments 5E, 5D, 7, 8, 9, 11
 - b. December 19 – Segments 1, 2, 3, 4
 - c. January 9 – Segments 13, 19, 20

Note: Meeting location will be emailed to CAT members.

8. Next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 13, 2010. Meeting location will be confirmed at a later date.

Meeting adjourned: 8:30 p.m.

To the best of the writer's ability, this document accurately reflects the business transacted during the meeting. If any attendee believes that there are any inconsistencies, omissions or errors in the minutes, they should submit their proposed revisions to Kelly Grissman at kgrissman@threeriversparkdistrict.org by Monday, December 14, 2009. Unless objections are raised prior to December 14, the Park District and CAT will consider this account accurate.

References discussed at this meeting and referred to in these meeting minutes will be available on the Park District's web site at a future date.

C: All invitees

J:\PROJECTS\Regional Trails\TNM 0802 Nine Mile Edina Master Plan\A-E\Assessment Team\Community Assessment Team Mailing Website Info\2009-12-02--Meeting Minutes.doc