

MINUTES

The **Rogers Planning Commission** met for a Public Hearing on the Greenways Trail System in the Council Chambers of the Maurice H. Kolman Building on Wednesday, October 21, 2009 at 4:00 P.M. The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Jim White in the absence of Chairman Don Spann.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioners Chad Campbell, James Gosserand, Susan Mills, Mike Shupe, and Jim White were present. Mark Myers, Ron Shelby, Don Spann and David Thrasher were absent.

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Planning and Transportation Director Glass, City Planner Smith, Project Manager Jobe, Deputy City Attorney Jim Clark, and City Clerk Peggy David.

City Planner Smith said what is before the Commission and public today incorporates changes that were made as a result of the last meeting. The bike routes have been added. Smith said the Elmwood to Doc Wheeler Park and Westside to Doc Wheeler Park connections are shown. There is also a connection to New Hope Road and 26th Street. Smith said changes were made around Bellview to go around the Ridgecrest Subdivision. Smith said there is also a tie-in from the Blossom Way section with Mt. Hebron Road. The connection around Bob Maloney Ford has been taken out.

Commissioner White asked Smith to discuss the bike routes. Smith said the bike routes were approved by City Council, but have never been shown on a map. Smith said the routes were determined by a combined group of Parks and Planning Commissioners. This group look at streets where bike routes could be added without making any additions to the streets. Smith said Planning Commissioner Thrasher and Parks Commissioner Lindley actually went

out and rode these routes prior to recommending to City Council. City Planner Smith said this committee looked at tying in the residential areas with schools and shopping areas. Smith said they know there are still future routes needed. Smith said the reason the bike routes are not on existing trails is the hard core bikers will not use the trail system and the walkers do not want to share the trails with that group of bikers. Smith said recreational bikers will use the trails and are encouraged to do so. The bike routes are those bikers moving 25 to 30 mph. Commissioner Mills asked if there were any plans for actual bike lanes. Smith said not at this time. It is not economically feasible. Smith said we looked into adding bike lanes on future road projects, and it would actually increase those projects by 10%. Planning and Transportation Director Glass said multi-lane roads give room to get around a biker without spending the extra money for bike lane.

Commissioner White stated, although Commissioner Thrasher is not here today because of illness, he has been one of the driving forces behind our bike routes and trail system. White also thanked Staff for their efforts in updating the maps to reflect changes suggested at the last meeting.

Bill Millager, 12304 Cannon Road, stated he has been taking lots of photographs of the trail construction and is absolutely delighted in what he sees in the construction quality, contractors working on the trails, and City Staff involved with the trails. Millager had a question concerning the TC-4 trail shown on the map. City Planner Smith said he would get the maps corrected. Millager said he was waiting for the trail system at Guido's to get started. Millager said he sees

that as the hub for the City trails. Commissioner White thanked Mr. Millager for the photos and emails that are sent each week concerning the City’s trail system.

Dwight Heasley, no address given, said he is a user and designer of the trails. Heasley suggested a 14’ right of way for the bike routes. Commissioner Shupe asked Mr. Heasley if he were suggesting that the center line be offset to allow that. Heasley said yes if the total width would allow that to be accommodated.

The Public Hearing was declared closed.

Shupe asked Planning and Transportation Director Glass if our existing corridors for bike lanes were the 11’ to 12’ width. Glass said yes. City Planner Smith said some may even be down to 9’ , but most are 30’ back to back.

Shupe said a lot of time has gone into planning our Greenways Trail System and bike routes and thanked all of those involved for their part to get us where we are today.

APPROVED.

Motion by Shupe, second by Campbell to recommend the proposed Greenways Trail System to City Council for approval. Roll Call Vote: Yes – Campbell, Gosserand, Mills, Shupe, and White. **Motion carried.**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:17 P.M.

ATTEST

APPROVED

Chad Campbell, Secretary

Don Spann, Chairman