

City of Livingston Parks & Trails Committee Meeting Draft Minutes

August 25, 2021

The Parks & Trails Committee met at 6 pm in the Community Room, City-County Building.

1) Roll Call

- Carol Goosey, Alison Shannon-Lier, Rachael Jones, Sarah Stands, Clay Bolt, Jeanne Souvigney, Connor Cavigli
- Others present and identified: Lisa Lowy, Hayes Goosey, Mark Lighthiser, Erica Lighthiser, Patricia Grabow, Richard Anderson, Heather Viera, Tori Lyons, Gayla Nicholson

2) Approval of minutes

- Minutes from June meeting: *Motion to approve by Sarah Stands, seconded by Alison, unanimously approved*
- Minutes from July special meeting: *Motion to approve by Clay Bolt, seconded by Carol, unanimously approved*

3) New Business

- Lisa Lowy, Livingston Administrative Services Director: Discussion of city board procedures for social media, outreach, etc.
 - Lisa provided draft social media policy. Reminder that we are an arm of the City. No outside advocacy; educational and informational only. Anything we want to post on any social media channel needs to be approved by Lisa Lowy first before it goes live.
 - Any requests for information that Committee members receive must go through the City's Public Information/FOI request process; Faith Kinnick will handle, not Committee members.
 - Public comments:
 - Patricia Grabow – questioned the process used to create the social media policy.
 - Hayes Goosey – likes it, thinks it's an incredible step forward to have this policy in place.

4) Old business

- Logo design:
 - The city is considering whether to do a rebrand of its own right now and Jeanne asked if we thought it wise to wait to finalize our design until that was done.
 - Clay suggests waiting to approve the final design until the city decides its process; Committee agreed.
 - Rachael will discuss this with Megan but will want to know what the city's plans and timeline are.

- Reservoir Park:
 - Plans for additional outreach include a few different steps:
 - There will be an onsite meeting at Reservoir Park, similar in format to what we did at the Farmer's Market, from 7 pm to dark on August 31.
 - We'll pass flyers around the neighborhood to gather feedback and give the neighborhood notice that we're meeting up there. Alison has already distributed to about 75 houses. She would like us to break up the neighborhood and each pass flyers out to neighborhood houses.
 - We'll consider using part of our next regular meeting to discuss the survey and what we're hearing from surveys, etc.
 - Public comments:
 - Hayes Goosey - asked if we had handed out surveys on the north side of town, how we handle survey data aka an incomplete or incorrectly filled out survey, that we should pay attention to that when interpreting that data, noted that we should try to create a system that prefers the neighborhood voices since they're primary stakeholders, also noted that we should figure out a way to have everyone comment. Thinks dog parks should not go in established areas.
 - Patricia Grabow - where can we get all the information about this park? Add to PTC 'interested parties' list, she supports everything we do.
 - Richard Anderson - he's lived up there for 41 years and he's never seen upkeep on that park; concerned about how we will take care of the park if it's built.
 - Heather Viera - she would like to see the survey.
 - Erica Lighthiser - will the survey distribution focus mostly on the north side of town? Are we considering that people might game the system and submit a ton of similar comments since the survey is anonymous?
 - Committee comment
 - Alison - *Motion to adopt a process to get this information out to the public, including asking the City about a social media post approved by Lisa, newspaper notice, and the City's recommendation on if we should add name or address to the survey, if it should be a PDF or online, and how to get the survey out to the public most effectively. Carol seconded, approved unanimously. Alison will work with Lisa.*
 - Clay suggested putting a sign in the park that shares the time of the meeting so people walking by can see it - he offered to design it.
 - Connor offered to draft the social media post and press release.
- North side trails – Recommendation on Summit Street abandonment request:
 - Jeanne advised that we have been asked by the City to provide a recommendation to the Commission on the request to abandon part of Summit Street (see links with agenda).

- Public comments:

- Patricia Grabow - she is absolutely opposed to abandonment, period, called it myopic, as it's difficult to anticipate where things will develop in the future; should not be arbitrary like this; she would like to see further public input on this. Also asked if this went before the planning board.
- Heather Viera – offered comments, clarifying which section of Summit is being requested for vacating.
- Hayes Goosey – City should not get in the habit of abandoning ROWs in any way, shape or form; opposes vacating the easement on Summit St.
- Gayla Nicholson - lives on N. 10th St. There was a requested abandonment at the end of N. 10th St. (resolution 4694) and the Commission rejected it due to loss of public access (now 6 units). She is concerned about the precedent of abandoning city property, as such she is opposed to abandoning anything the City owns. She is concerned about erosion, value to neighboring properties, viewshed affects, precedent and that people can buy property and assume they can go ask for abandonment perhaps to put more units on a piece of land.
- Erica Lighthiser – agrees with others who have expressed opposition, opposed to abandoning city property. She asked for clarification on the City process for this abandonment. Also asked why requests like this don't go to a committee before they go to the commission.
- Mark Lighthiser – offered comments, concerned, asking how our position will be stated to the commission and how that position is developed.
- Tori Lyons - If anyone was participating in the commission meeting, he asked how the abandonment benefitting the city vs the landowners was discussed at the meeting? Not discussed at Planning Board.

- Committee comments:

- Rachael - *Motion that we recommend the Commission deny the request, referencing growth policy, PTC bylaws, Trails and Active Transportation Plan. Clay seconded.*
 - Committee discussion: Sarah adds that we should request a process for abandonments be updated to reference the growth policy and city committees before any decisions are made. Also suggests that designs from the developer should be made available before any abandonment request is approved.
- i. *Committee unanimously approved Rachael's motion.*
 - Rachael will draft this recommendation to send to the Commission for its Sept. 21 meeting since Jeanne will be on the road.

● Mayor's Landing:

- Jeanne - no action taken; LBC should submit its proposal to the City Manager.

● Updates:

- Wishberry Hollow: Connor - went great, nothing else to report outside it will be back next year.
- Trails & Active Transportation Plan: Sarah - draft coming soon on this, meetings coming soon too for further feedback.
- Green Acres Park: Jeanne – Latest feedback from residents is that the number one priority appears to be to replace play equipment that was removed by the county for safety reasons.
- Woodlot: Rachael - No updates outside the fact that there is a new PHS Facilities Director and progress will be slow until he gets up to speed on it all.
- Social and other media: Connor agrees to be the point person on social media for the committee (per Lisa’s presentation).

5) Public Comment

- Heather Viera - asked if there has been any progress on getting a legal easement on the Summit St Connector Trail. Her land borders the trail and her understanding from when she bought her land was that there is a city easement about 20 yards from her property line.
- Tori Lyons - historic use can be used to establish an easement in legal precedent so perhaps that can be used to establish an easement on the property for Summit St. Connector Trail.
- Patricia Grabow - discussing Front St, she says there was an agreement with MRL to have an easement on the south side of Front St. for a bike path, is wondering why it is that this was abandoned or forgotten. She is offering to explore what happened to that agreement and let us know what she finds out.

6) Committee Comment

- Alison - Dan from N Yellowstone St. wants to see the bike path repaved, asked because he is willing to donate some money towards it and wants to know who to ask. We will direct him to Mike Kardoes.
- Jeanne - We will explore moving the November and December meeting dates because they are near Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays
- Jeanne - Rachael’s term is up at the end of December. Rachael - is interested in reapplying potentially.
- Jeanne - We will elect new officers in January and Jeanne does not intend to serve again as chair, as she has been in the position for almost 5 years. No one stepped up last year so she’s giving plenty of notice this year.

7) Adjourn meeting

Rachael – Motion to adjourn, Sarah seconded, approved unanimously. Adjourned at 7:55 pm.