



GREENWAYS COMMISSION of BOWLING GREEN and WARREN COUNTY MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES

February 13, 2017

ATTENDANCE

Commission Members

Jennifer Tougas, Chair; Senad Veletanlic, Felicia C. McLean, Linda Dickerson, Tom Lawrence, Jeff Stein, Jason Marshall, Nellie Franz.

Not in Attendance

Tim Robinson, Phil Lienesch, Chip Winger, Johnny Johnson.

Ex-Officios

Greg Meredith, City Public Works
Deneatra Henderson, KYTC
Josh Moore, County Public Works
Chris Kummer, Warren County Parks & Recreation

Guests

Brandy Zachary, ACES (representing Chandler Park)
Leah Spurlin, Warren County Parks
Doug Kimbler, BGMU
Kevin Kirby, BGMU
Helen Siewers, Cave Country Trails

Staff

Miranda Clements, Greenways Coordinator
Ben Peterson, Executive Director
Karissa Lemon, MPO Coordinator

I. CALL TO ORDER / DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

With the arrival of enough members for a quorum, Chair Tougas called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

A quorum was determined with eight (8) Commission members in attendance.

II. INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER, Felicia Cartwright McLean

Jennifer Tougas introduced and welcomed Felicia Cartwright McLean to the board. Ms. McLean said that she works at Bell Orr Ayers and Moore and is a recreational cyclist and enjoys using the greenways herself. She looks forward to contributing to the work of the Greenways Commission.

III. APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES, February 13, 2017

Chair Tougas asked the Commission members for comments or edits on the summary minutes of the February 13, 2016 Commission meeting. With no corrections, she asked for a motion.

ACTION: A motion to approve the February 13, 2017 Minutes of the Greenways Commission Meeting was made by Linda Dickerson and seconded by Jeff Stein. With no further discussion, Chair Tougas asked for a roll call vote. All were in favor. The Summary Minutes were APPROVED.

V. REPORTS/PROJECT UPDATES

Hobson Grove/Riverfront Issues

Miranda Clements reported that Kevin Kirby with BGMU let us know that there has been illegal dumping and activity occurring at the riverfront greenway between Hobson Grove Park and Church Street in Delafield. Doug Kimbler, Treatment Plants Supervisor, showed photos of construction debris and brush stating that the greenway has been turned into a dump. He said that BGMU staff check the river on a daily basis and are concerned that the debris will end up in the river during flooding. They are also concerned for the safety of their employees and are not comfortable sending staff down there alone. Mr. Kimbler said that BGMU is supportive of the work of the Greenways Commission and wants to bring this issue to the Commission and work together to address it. Josh Moore, WCPW, stated that the intention when the Greenway was constructed was to keep the gate to Hobson Grove Park locked so that only the police department accessing the shooting range and BGMU would have access. Pedestrian access would also be provided. There was discussion about locking the gate again. Jeff Stein added that when a greenway is constructed, it becomes part of the park system and was to be monitored by police on the mountain bicycles and added that security call boxes, similar to what WKU has, would be advised. However the cost of those might be prohibitive due to the necessity of connecting to power. Linda Dickerson suggested fencing and Josh Moore stated that two gates and fencing were part of the original project and the intention was for it to be locked; as it is, anyone has vehicular access; the second gate to the Police Shooting Range, is working fine. Ms. Clements said that the gate is still there but is overgrown; Doug Kimbler offered to help clear the growth off it; Doug Kimbler said that they would be happy to assist Senad Veletanlic who adopted the trail as part of the Adopt-A-Trail program.

Greg Meredith said that when greenways are constructed, safety needs to be taken into consideration and that it should not be assumed that problems will be taken care of later.

Kevin Kirby added that he has only seen one family walk the trail and that if people felt safer and if vehicular traffic was not permitted, it may see more use. Ms. Tougas said that it was a similar situation at Weldon Peete Park where increased use has resulted in increased safety. Jeff Stein added that it is one of the most beautiful greenways and is a true greenway through nature.

Security cameras were suggested as a way to deter dumping and other activity.

The board thanked Doug Kimbler and Kevin Kirby for bringing this issue to their attention and that it will be discussed at the Greenways Working Committee next Monday, February 20.

Chandler Park/Greenwood Mall Greenway Easement

Ms. Clements showed photos and a plat explaining that there is a 20' greenway easement between Cave Mill Road and Greenwood Mall. A sidewalk has been constructed along part of the easement route along Chandler Drive but that there is a short gap that the current owners, Chandler Park, would to close with sidewalk, rather than a greenway. Ms. Clements stated that closing the sidewalk gap with sidewalk makes sense. To do this, the 20' greenway easement would have to be reduced or removed.

Brandy Zachary, ACES, asked that the greenway easement be reduced to 10' or less to accommodate plans associated with a hotel development. She said that sidewalks were required by the Planning Commission for the entirety of Chandler Drive to be constructed as each lot was developed. She said that sidewalks have been built except for the two remaining undeveloped lots. One of them is the lot in question which the developer is planning to build a sidewalk on.

Action: A motion was made by Jason Marshall that the Greenways Commission recommends a reduction of the 20' greenway easement along the specified portion of Chandler Drive to allow for a sidewalk instead of a greenway. The motion was seconded by Linda Dickerson. All were in favor. The motion was approved.

Warren County Parks/Greenways Partnership

Ms. Clements invited Chris Kummer, Warren County Parks & Recreation, to share his proposal to add the paths in the Warren County Parks to the Greenways system and to ask for the Greenways Commission approval to do so. He said that currently trails in two of the seven county parks are part of the greenways system (Michael O. Buchanan Park and South Warren High School greenway.) Mr. Kummer provided a slide presentation showing the trail and walking paths in each of the parks, Ephram White, Ed Spears, Basil Griffin, Phil Moore, Michael O. Buchanan, G. H. Freeman and Romanza Johnson Park. He reviewed the type of materials, maintenance and security measures. He said all of the trails are within county park system and are locked at night by staff and monitored by KSP and the Warren County Sheriff's office. He discussed the many walking trail events at the county parks such as running and walking events and tournaments.

Mr. Kummer concluded that if the WCPRD are added to the Greenways system, the WCPRD will continue to maintain their trails by spraying, cleaning up litter, filling ruts, adding gravel as needed and mowing trails. He said that they will pay for 5 Greenway signs at each of the trails at the beginning of the fiscal year (7/1/17). He said the planned trail along Nashville Road to Woodburn most likely will be maintained by his department and that they pride themselves with their parks. Mr. Kummer said that he is planning to attend Warren County Fiscal Court with Ms. Clements to report to the County Judge Executive and the Magistrates that we are forming a partnership to bring Warren County Park trails into the Greenways system and that interviews have been set up at WBKO and WNKY in March to publicize the partnership and Greenways in general.

ACTION: A motion was made by Tom Lawrence to incorporate trails in the Warren County Parks into the Greenways system. The motion was seconded by Jeff Stein. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Cave Country Trails/Bike Route 23

Helen Siewers, Project Director of Cave Country Trails and Executive Director of the Friends of Mammoth Cave, provided an update of the Cave Country Trails project and the Bike Route 23 proposal. She said that the effort is to create a network of trails in the four counties (Barren, Edmonson, Hart and Warren) surrounding Mammoth Cave. She said the goal is to activate adventure tourism in these counties, which was one of the original goals in the 1920s for Mammoth Cave. Work started 2 years ago, have had over 150 participants in public meetings, have identified and prioritized over 50 trail segments in the four counties with the idea of connecting places – towns, schools, parks, etc.

Helen discussed the National Corridor Plan of the United States Bike Route System US Bike Route 76 which goes through Kentucky and which brings 500 to 600 cyclists per year to the area. She said there are other routes, one of which is Route 23 which goes through Warren County from Tennessee and intersects with US Bike Route 76. Ms. Siewers showed slides of typical signs that would identify the bike routes. CCT is doing some of the local work to have this route approved by AASHTO and local volunteers or contacts are needed in each of the counties to assist in this process. First step is the evaluation and approval of the route and the second step is to have the route signed. Adventure Cycling Tourism provide detailed bike route maps that can be used if signage has not yet been installed. She said that the signage not only helps with safety, it helps with branding and economic development.

Ms. Siewers presented the four county map showing the proposed trails and stated that in Warren County the focus was on the potential trails in the north east corner of the county, which joins Edmonson and Barren Counties. She said that local knowledge about potential trails would be helpful. Linda Dickerson suggested a crossing on Sportsman Lake Road over Drakes Creek. She showed the ranking for Warren County and said that the results have not been tallied yet. Ms. Clements stated that the CCT's process has been a good planning endeavor for greenways in the north east part of the county. She said one of the most recommended trails was a loop to connect the historic communities (NR listed) of Smiths Grove and Oakland and that Smiths Grove has expressed an interest in Trail Town Certification. She said the collaboration and partnership with Cave Country Trails is positive when

seeking grant funding for greenways. Ms. Siewers said that Cave City, Park City and Mumfordsville are seeking Trail Town Certification which, if Smiths Grove obtained it, all entrances to Mammoth Cave would be designated trail towns. The certification demonstrates that the town has the necessary amenities in place to provide tourists (cyclists, etc.) with needed facilities, such as trails, lodging and restaurants.

Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grant Opportunity

Ms. Clements stated that she is considering applying for a RTP grant for improvements to the riverfront greenway that was discussed in the meeting today.

Ms. Tougas suggested postponing the remaining items on the agenda until the next meeting due to keep the meeting to one hour.

Regular Meeting Date Change

Ms. Clements said that the only item needing action was the change of the regular meeting date to the second Monday of the month instead of the first Monday to avoid holidays and city/county school spring breaks. All were in favor of moving the meeting. Jennifer said that the next meeting will be on March 13, 2017.

Nomination of Officers

Elections of officers will take place at the March 13 Greenways meeting.

VII. ADJOURN

Ms. Tougas announced that the next Greenways Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 13 at 4 pm and that the next Greenways Working Committee Meeting is next Monday, February 20, 2017.

With other business deferred until the March meeting, the meeting was adjourned.