

# Chester Creek Single Track Trail Project

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## AG MEETING #1 SUMMARY



### **Advisory Group Meeting #1**

Thursday, December 20, 2018

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

City Hall – Parks and Recreation Department, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor

### **Project Team:**

Maeve Nevins-Lavtar – MOA Parks + Rec Project Manager

Brad Muir – MOA Parks + Recreation Natural Resources Manager

Van Le, AICP– R&M Consultants, Inc. – Planner + Outreach Lead

Jon Underwood – Happy Trails – Trail Builder

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**Project Scope:** The MOA Parks and Recreation Department is exploring options for an urban single track trail for mountain biking along sections of the existing Chester Creek Trail, from Valley of the Moon Park to Goose Lake Park.

**Meeting Goal:** To build the foundation for this planning effort by understanding community and user group needs, identified issues and concerns.

## SUMMARY

The meeting began at 6 pm. The following Advisory Group members were in attendance:

- Christina Grande
- Representative Zack Fields
- Tyndall Ellis
- Erin Kirkland
- Mark Melchert

## INTRODUCTIONS AND ROLES

Maeve started the meeting off with introductions of the project team and their roles on the project. Jon Underwood from Happy Trails was on the telephone, calling in from his home base in Fairbanks. Maeve also provided the project overview starting with the origins of the project and the funding through support from Assembly Representative Chris Constant who sponsored the project getting on the 2018 April Bonds which passed and provided \$150,000 for the project.

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Christina Grande provided background on her and Zack Fields' work on initiating the project in 2016 as frequent users of the Chester Creek Trail. Christina and Zack summarized their idea of using the existing social trails or informal trails to increase use along the greenbelt for recreation, bicycle commuting year round, improving safety by having more "eyes on the street." They added that community outreach efforts they executed were positively received as they were provided resolutions of support from North Star Community Council and Fairview Community Council.

### **SITE CONDITIONS OVERVIEW**

Brad Muir and Jon Underwood of Happy Trails reviewed the existing conditions and project constraints from site visits in October and November to "Ground-truth" the suitability of trails. Jon presented the GPS map of the site visits which included mapped social trails and a hierarchy of the ground conditions including topography, presence of wetlands, drainage as well as social constraints such as private property, camps, limited height roadway under crossings that would render each proposed trail a degree of buildability (usable, needs work, buildable/natural, buildable/needs fill, no options, existing/no actions). Another constraint is to avoid building new bridges which are costly and beyond the project's budget.

Discussions about whether loops or skills track were desired as well as future phasing, such as connecting single track trails beyond the current project scope of Goose Lake to Russian Jack Springs Park.

From the discussion, the following priorities were established:

- Safety
- Fun
- Wayfinding
- Sustainability
- Maintenance
- Multi-use
- "Gateway to biking"
- "Singletracks to schools" opportunity
- Partnerships, and funding opportunities

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### PLANNING AND APPROVAL PROCESS

Van provided an overview of the process the project needs to go through prior to construction. An open house is planned for January 24, 2019. Notifications and outreach include mailers to project area residents, including tenants and property owners, of the upcoming open house. Notifications about the project and the open house will also go to the Federation of Community Councils. The project will need to go to the Parks and Recreation Commission in February or March for their review and recommendation of moving forward for approval at the Urban Design Commission. The Urban Design Commission review target is May 8, 2019. The earliest construction could take place is July or August of this year with use of Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) crews.

### NEXT STEPS

Van and Maeve spoke to the schedule that was provided to lay out the next steps which is holding the open house in January. They asked for helping in getting the word out to interested residents, user groups and community members. Maeve mentioned that the Anchorage Park Foundation has a Schools on Trails coordinator who will be helping to include this project as part of their program.

### NEXT ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

The group decided that the need for a second Advisory Group meeting will be determined at a later date. At this point, the team will be circulating the proposed plan via email to review after the holidays. A refined concept plan will be presented at the Open House. All are asked to please attend the Open House.

The following resources were shared:

#### Links to example projects:

<https://www.vaildaily.com/news/mountain-bikers-enjoying-new-phase-of-singletrack-sidewalks-now-open-in-eagle/>

<https://www.bicycleretailer.com/industry-news/2018/08/23/golden-colorado-proposes-singletrack-sidewalks-mountain-bikers-young-and#.XB1Tsk0kvmh>

<https://dirtragemag.com/singletrack-to-school-how-one-arkansas-town-is-securing-its-cycling-future/>

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDI1qN8T-NY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MXyjSdfzJvA>

Project Website: <http://bit.ly/ccsingletrack>

Meeting was adjourned at 8 pm.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- Meeting Sign In
- Schedule
- Open House Flyer