

**COMMUNITY TRAILS COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
January 8, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Community Trails Committee of the City of Highland was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Vice Chair Fogerson at the Donahue Council Chambers, 27215 Base Line, Highland, California.

Present:	Vice Chair	Erwin Fogerson
	Member	Richard Bowman
	Member	Michael McMillan
	Member	Brent Merideth
	Member	Clayton Troxell

Staff Present: Lawrence Mainez, Community Development Director
Carlos Zamano, City Engineer
Scott Rice, Consultant Landscape Architect
Travis Trejo, Assistant Planner
Camille Duarte, Administrative Assistant III

Pledge of Allegiance led by Vice Chair Fogerson.

COMMUNITY INPUT (ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA)

Public Speaker Bob Hitchman stated the Annual Trails Day event in June 2023 was great. It was a beautiful day; it was well organized and there was a ton of people who participated. Last meeting, we spoke about how we had problems with the motorcyclists on the trails and I had to speak to the Sheriff's Department about the man who pulled a weapon to shoot the motorcyclist because he was mad. They said they would get involved but that was 6 months ago and since then I have not seen anything. The captain said he was going to bring an off-site team to try to catch him but that does not work because you have to have it in real time. All the interpretive signs are all gone, they are all vandalized.

Vice Chair Fogerson asked is it possible to have a maintenance plan that we discuss at each meeting?

Community Development Director Mainez stated we cannot take any action since this is only community input. I follow up and invite our Public Works Manager Jim Richardson to our meeting, and he can give us an overview.

New Member Clayton Troxell introduced himself to the members and staff.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Minutes from May 18, 2023 Special Meeting.

A MOTION was made by Member McMillan, seconded by Member Bowman, to approve as submitted. Motion carried, 5-0.

2. Rules and Responsibilities

Community Development Director Mainez presented the staff report.

Trails Committee received and filed Staff's presentation on Rules and Responsibilities.

BUSINESS ITEMS

3. 2024 Citrus Harvest Festival

Assistant Planner Trejo presented the staff report. What time slots work best for you all?

Member Bowman stated I will come set the booth up in the morning.

Member Merideth stated I am available for all shifts. I can take the lunch shift as well.

Member Fogerson stated I am open all day.

Member McMillan stated mornings do not work for me since I am in Palm Springs, but I can try to make it in the afternoon.

Member Troxell stated I need to overlook my schedule.

Community Development Director Mainez stated if you need more time to think about it you may reach out to Assistant Planner Trejo. Does anyone have any suggestions on what we should display?

Member Merideth stated we need more ability to place the displays. We had great posters, and we did not have many places to put them on, maybe more easels. If we can get more maps printed out to hand out to residents would be great as well.

Assistant Planner Trejo stated these are great ideas, we can finalize this at the next meeting.

Trails Committee received and filed Staff's update on the 2024 Citrus Harvest Festival.

4. Update on the Recreational Trails Program Grant (RTP)

Assistant Planner Trejo presented the staff report.

Community Development Director Mainez stated if our Consultant Landscape Architect Rice or City Engineer Zamano could give us a timeline regarding this project.

Consultant Landscape Architect Rice stated the excellent news is we finally made it through the environmental process. We are at a point where we are going to get these plans out to bid. The contractor is going to have to procure a certain graphic, it does not matter what the graphic is, it does change the price. Realistically, we are looking at March 2024 and with a three-month bid process, we could work at the location in June or July. Regarding the construction timeframe, there's not a lot of work to do, but we have to provide the contractor with a big enough window since there is a lot of work on the streets right now.

City Engineer Zamano stated a critical task that was completed at the end of last year was the agreement and without it we cannot get reimbursed for the work that we have done so far. Luckily, the agreement came in and City Council authorized City Manager Hughes to sign it. We are currently in the process of working with the State Parks and Recreation Department to get things underway. I think the project could be completed before the next rainy season. This is going to be an interesting project for a contractor because it is not exactly the easiest area to work, the contractor is going to have to take their equipment up and down and regrade the area that has been eroded over time to provide better drainage. We are also going to improve how it works functionally to make sure it is long term. In the two-year budget that City Council approved, I included some extra funds in this project with the expectation that we were going to bid later and that the bid may come in higher. We do not know what the bids are going to be priced at, however, fortunately we have been doing a better job now of pricing out these projects.

Vice Chair Fogerson stated these kind of projects are very hard to estimate because they are so unusual, and the access is always hard. Is there any environmental permits? Do you have a nesting bird survey?

City Engineer Zamano stated there are certain provisions that we have to do such we cannot be working during the nesting bird season.

Community Development Director Mainez stated there's a couple of features that I was hoping our Consultant Landscape Architect Rice could articulate the staging education component, we still have the bridge there, but I am not sure the bridge is going to be a part of the project.

Consultant Landscape Architect Rice stated the bridge is a very expensive item, so we hope so. The bridge would allow a much more accessible connection to what Community Development Director Mainez is describing that we call that an educational area. The topography is ready, there is a perched area where there is a beautiful view of the wash and the mountains. The trail is fairly wide before you get to the education area is where it crosses through kind of a ravine, and that is where the bridge would go over. Most hikers and mountain bikers will have no problem getting to that point; however, we are setting it up so that there is an ability to get people out there. A realistic estimate to add the bridge into the project is edging it.

Member Merideth stated I was hoping there would be ability for Highland to do a package deal on bridges to replace where the Shelton Trail, about a mile north where it got washed out in 2010. What happens to the existing signs that are there?

Consultant Landscape Architect Rice stated they are slowly disappearing and falling apart.

Member McMillan asked do you envision the trail system being closed during construction?

Consultant Landscape Architect Rice stated absolutely. From the western edge of the project, it would not affect anything going towards Shelton Trail west, but just the liability of having the project equipment out there, I do not think they are going to pull the equipment every night. From the Natural Parkland Trailhead all the way to Plunge Creek would be closed during that time.

Trails Committee received and filed Staff's update on the Recreational Trails Program Grant (RTP).

5. Update on the Highland/Redlands Regional Connector Project (bikeway/trail along Orange Street between City of Highland and City of Redlands)

Assistant Planner Trejo presented the staff report.

City Engineer Zamano stated we intended to construct the entire project, however due to the environmental mitigation impact, with the San Bernardino kangaroo rat, we unfortunately had to forfeit the funds that we received from ATP. SBCTA is helping both Highland and Redlands through the Federal Carbon Reduction Program to help fund the areas of the project outside of the environmentally sensitive area. City of Redlands is going out to bid soon for their portion of the project and on our side, we should be going out to bid within the next few months. SBCTA is currently looking at trying to reduce the impact area on Orange Street by revising the scope of work in an effort to try to bring down the cost. The sensible way to do that is to reduce the footprint of how much we are impacting. The ATP funds that will be requested will help cover the construction and environmental mitigation fees that are part of the cost of the project. City of Highland and Redlands would then be required to contribute a share of the cost to the grant. The grant will contribute 80% of the cost and the 20% will be shared by the agencies.

Member Merideth asked on the Class 2 portion, what kind of bikes lanes are being proposed?

City Engineer Zamano stated single line. We have limited room on Orange Street to construct the bike lane in this area. it is a six-foot-wide bike lane and there is a left turn pocket also to the single lane which one lane going north, one lane going south.

Member Merideth stated that is unfortunate. The speed limit on Orange Street is 50 mph, but the bike lane is only 6 feet.

City Engineer Zamano stated my mistake, I was speaking on the section of Orange Street north of Greenspot Road. The portion that is within the environmentally sensitive will be Class 1. There will be a separation between the bicyclists, pedestrians, and motorists. This center portion of the project will not be ready to construct for at least another two to three years.

Trails Committee received and filed Staff's update on the Highland/Redlands Regional Connector Project and provide comments as appropriate.

6. 28th Annual Community Trails Day

Assistant Planner Trejo presented the staff report.

Community Development Director Mainez stated recently I spoke to San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District and gave me an update on their Master Plan working through the process for that large parcel they own for water reclamation and conservation. They pitched the idea of using the event again as an outreach effort to the public and

receive comments on their Master Plan, but they did indicate that they want to downsize the event this year. They do not want a food truck, only a couple of booths, so it is a budgeting issue for them.

Assistant Planner Trejo stated our budget for this year is \$1200 and majority of budget will be allocated towards advertising through several different avenues. We did receive the street banner last year so we will have that for this year. The banner will be placed above Base Line near the freeway by the Starbucks 30 days prior to the event.

Vice Chair Fogerson stated option two is going to be very difficult because they have a project in construction. As you know enhanced recharges being built and it involves a lot in this area right here (pointing to PowerPoint) and have construction vehicles at that location. Of course, Option 3 is going to take an agreement with Flood Control along the access Road because we do not have an MOU with Flood Control, so you will need a day use permit from them. If you have an event that is off of a major street where people have a chance to see that there is an event, we might get people who stop out of curiosity. At the Tres Logos property, it is harder for people to find the location because it is hidden.

Member Merideth stated if we do option two, just a suggestion we can put the staging point closer to the bridge and give the people the option to go around the borrow pit. Another option is to just hang around the bridge with a couple of tents that would adjust option two.

Vice Chair Fogerson stated there is a lot of liability with option two.

Member Bowman stated I think option 3 be a good because you have good visibility up and down Greenspot Road and more locals live out in that area.

Vice Chair Fogerson stated I agree. There is also trails by the new homes off Greenspot Road.

Community Development Director Mainez stated yes, Beazer Homes.

Vice Chair Fogerson stated you can go up Plunge Creek, up and around but it does go through the HOA so we might have to speak to them.

Community Development Director Mainez stated Assistant Planner Trejo will show us a list of trails for the next meeting in that area. Is everyone ok with the date of June 1st, 2024 for the Annual Trails Day?

A MOTION was made by Member McMillan, seconded by Member Merideth, to approve the Annual Trails Day on June 1st, 2024. Motion carried, 5-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Member Merideth stated regarding the Costco on Greenspot Road and the existing bike lanes which are the minimum width and color it is going to get extremely busy with the new construction. I am wondering if the City of Highland would consider painting those bike lanes green at a bare minimum and do curb protection or improved safety.

City Engineer Zamano stated currently we do not have anything in the works under the five-year Capital Improvement Program to do such an improvement on Greenspot Road, however we do have some median and parkway improvements. We can look at that and see if we have enough in the budget to incorporate the striping, which is a reasonable ask that you are requesting.

Community Development Director Mainez stated just to add to the Rules of Order, since it is announcements, we cannot make any decisions. We can give some thought to it and bring it back as an agenda item or a formal recommendation to City Council, this will have to go to a subcommittee and City Manager approval.

City Engineer Zamano stated that would only be true if we were going to be adding cost. What I can do is share this notice to our City Manager that the Committee is asking for this request and if we have enough in our budget then we could proceed with that.

Community Development Director Mainez stated it is discussion tonight and it is not a formal directive or approval. Other members need to see an exhibit to see what exactly is being proposed, it is just a formality.

City Engineer Zamano stated that is a good idea. We do have some green painted bike lanes on 5th Street and Del Rosa Drive with the SNRC project which is a small portion.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Vice Chair Fogerson declared the meeting adjourned at 7:42 P.M.

Submitted by:

Approved by:

Camille Duarte,
Administrative Assistant III

Erwin Fogerson,
Community Trails Committee Vice Chair