

Hillmoor AdHoc Meeting 1/04/2024

Attendance

Present:

Mayor Klein  
Dave Quickel  
Skip Atwell  
Henry Sibbing  
Adam St. Marie  
Cherie Borowiec  
Michael Krajovic  
Fred Gahl  
Celine Lillie  
Karen Yancey  
Norine Smyth/Betty V.  
Peggy Schneider  
Paula Porubcan  
Lawrie Weed

Absent:

Deborah Beagle

3) Approval of December 7, 2023 Hillmoor Ad Hoc Minutes:

- Correction to minutes: First Paragraph, meeting between the Y and the ABC group, should read, "Mike Kramp meeting with Mike Krajovic of the ABC committee." Not the whole ABC committee.
- Karen Yancey met with the superinendant and a representative of the school board

4) Review of the Mission Statement and Goals of the Committee

- "We envision Hillmoor as a cherished place where we enrich our lives by connecting with Nature, ourselves, and others. We have established five areas to be addressed as major objectives for improving the Hillmoor property.
  - Natural Preservation
  - Outdoor Recreation
  - Sense of Community
  - Connectivity to the City
  - High Quality Structures

5) Conservancy Report: Karen Yancy

- "Concerns were expressed about the tunnel under hwy 12. When the DNR was working on this they were also working on trails going under hwy 43. What Don Root and I are going to do this spring we are going to try to go up the river again and see what barriers we can get removed by the DNR.

- "There has been concern expressed about the trail system. The three of us will be making some adjustments to our plan and we will be doing two bridges instead of four. The city will be redoing the one that is there now which is budgeted to be replaced this year. The third bridge will be removed and one of the trails will be redone.

Paula:

- Question about the culverts, do you know anything about those and how they compare to our tunnels?
- What group made a decision to only have trails and bridges? Who made that decision?

Karen:

- No group made that decision, it's what we will have to do.

Paula:

- So you will come back to all of us with a revised plan?

Karen:

- Yes.

Paula

- So, when will we have that?

Mike Krajovic:

- So your committee will come up with a draft that presents to us?
- Would you be open if we sent you suggestions while you were working on it?

Paula:

- Yes, that would be great.

Mike K:

- Is the money that would be applied to the state, is that money that would be given to the Geneva Lake Conservancy and then the city gives that money to the GLC?

Karen:

- No, so the funds will go to the city, and the public works department will get the estimates from the contractors.

Peggy:

- I have questions about the bridges. The Hillmoor bridges that go over the White River are the bridges that we have spoken about over the years but we didn't have the money for those over the years.

Mayor Klein

- I will double check but I believe they budgeted for that this year.

Paula:

- There are so many things involved in where bridges and trails go and how that integrates with all the other things we are doing on Hillmoor. Peggy's information is part of what we all need to be sharing with each other. Can we get all of this information so that when our group comes with the draft for the wetland trails we can be ready to talk about it instead of going back home and rethinking it. So if we can get that information ahead of time it would be helpful.

Mike K:

- If the city does have money for another bridge that could be used as matched from the grant.

Karen:

- I'm not sure if the money from the grant can be used like that.
- This company builds beautiful bridges.

Mayor Klein:

- Karen, you were kind enough to seek private funding and got 25k.
- I am also investigating other sources of donations to fund the matching grant.

Paula:

- Back to the kayak topic. I am concerned a bit about the safety of that. I seem to remember that we get extra points for having the kayak launch. Is that true? Would it jeopardize the grant application?

Karen:

- I would have to check. But I do not think it has anything to do with the grant.

Betty:

- I wanted to second the idea of everyone giving us information like Peggy's information.

Adam:

- Can you help clarify how many bridges and where they would be.

Karen:

- There will be two bridges in the wetland area and the third bridge the city is handling in the disc golf area.

## 6. Review of focus groups and their progress, including potential YMCA focus group

Adam: the Playground/Nature Center/Visitor Center can present in two weeks. We would need about 30 minutes for the presentation.

Mayor Klein:

- The YMCA has asked us to create a small group to explore their use of the Hillmoor
  - Peggy Schneider
  - Michael Krajovic
  - Fred Gahl
  - Skip Atwell

Fred Gahl: I believe we should be ready no later than the second week of February.

Lawrie Weed: We need hard numbers on the Golf Course.

Hank Sibbing: Maybe it's a good time for me to share what's on my mind. I think City Council saddled us with the job of creating a vision for what the community wants out there, not to figure out how to make it financially work. I believe once we present the vision we will need feasibility studies etc to really get an idea of how much these will cost. I just think we are going way beyond what we need to do at this time, we should present to council what we have so far and that we should let them tell us what they want us to do next.

Adam: Why haven't we made a motion to ask for funds to hire feasibility studies?

Fred: We would like these amenities so let's do a high level business plan to be able to figure these things out.

Betty: I believe we need more input from people under 50. We have only one person here with young kids and if we did some outreach and hear from more people. What I remember from the community was they wanted a safe place for kids to ride bikes and explore forests.

Fred: That's what we are doing. We are doing deductive reasoning to get to those conclusions.

Paula: I do not think it is our committees jobs to find funding sources for these items. I think our job is to come up with our master plan. Then I think it is up to the City to hire someone like Wayne to come in and do the Master Plan.

Fred: I don't think it's an individual's task but I do think it's our groups task to figure out a master plan and feasibility of that plan.

Hank: The ABC group did a great job with the zones.

Celline: We could present this plan in zones and say, this is a recipe card and there are alternatives you can consider.

Hank: I mean aren't we at the point after 12 months where we can talk about this stuff.

Celline: We can tell City Council this is what we think we can do in these areas, what do you want us to do about it?

Hank: We will need some money to figure this out.

Fred: Isn't it time to make a motion or put something on paper of what we have in mind here and get some feedback from them? Can we do that by February?

Mayor Klein: We need all the sub groups to submit and present their research by the end of February.

Mike K: My message to the groups would be do the best you can with cost estimates.

Karen: I like Hanks idea of placing on a master plan where we think these things should go.

Mayor K:

The scenario that Karen said is where we want to go. We want to have a general plan on paper and present that to the public. But we know that costs are going to vary.

I think that if we plan to do this by the first of march then that would be a good timeframe.

Why don't we follow up with Wayne about how much a preliminary plan could be. You also mentioned you might have a source of funding for that?

Karen: Possibly.

Adam: I think we should take the zoning plan put out by the ABC group and then ask for money from City Council to hire a Master Planner to present our plan in a way that is well branded and visually stunning.

Karen: Yes, I agree.

Cherie: Yeah that sounds right.

Hank: Yes, I also Agree. Once we get this plan out we can have public input on this plan. We can hear what they like.

Dave: My son gave me the best opinion on this and that was that it took 18 years before they built a fountain in Central Park. But if we don't have enough money in the City to even go clean up Hillmoor then what are we talking about money to spend on presentations.

Hank: It would be good to know if City Council didn't want to spend any money on Hillmoor. Then we can stop wasting time.

Fred: To Betty's point, when we

Mike K: Mayor, are you thinking of holding public input session? It's been about a year so to me there would be no harm in having another session in January rather than waiting until March, asking for money, getting it in June, then we could have some more input from them.

Karen: I thought we wanted to wait until we had a professional presentation?

Fred: My opinion is that if we went and had an open session people would be wondering what we have been doing this last year.

Celline: We can show them our map and have placeholders for different ideas.

Adam: I think we can print out posterboards with ideas and present them on eisels and have a public input session with the materials that we have. We can get the professional version after that meeting.

Mayor Klein: Karen, can you reach out to Wayne and find out about the cost for a preliminary master plan for presentation and visuals?  
Also the road work got moved to 2027-28

Celline: Do you know how much input the City has on hwy 50? Does the DOT say here is where the entrance to Hillmoor can be or can the City say here is where we have the entrance.

Hank: It seems like what we do with Hillmoor would effect this? Seems like we need to plan this with them.

Adam: Are we setting a date now for Public Input?

Paula: I think a Public Input in March would be good?

Mayor: Yes, let's talk about a date next time we meet.  
- Anything else for today?

Mike K: Motion to Adjourn 5:33 pm

Karen: Second

All in Favor.