

Hillmoor Ad Hoc Committee Minutes
February 2, 2024

1. Call to Order 4:03pm
2. Attendance:
 - Present
 - Mayor Klein
 - Dave Quickel
 - Skip Atwell
 - Adam St.Marie
 - Michael Krajovic
 - Fred Gahl
 - Celine Lillie
 - Paula Porubcan
 - Lawrie Week
 - Betty Volquarsteden
 - Peggy Schneider
 - Excused
 - Henry Sibbing
 - Cherie Borowiec
 - Absent
 - Karen Yancey
 - Deborah Beagle
3. Approval of Minutes:
4. Minutes approved
5. Introduction of new Parks Superintendent
6. Presentation - Habitat Restoration - Hike Bike, Ski Trails Paula P. Betty V.
 - See attached Presentation
 - Presents a Zone 6 to be considered where the hill is steep and wooded up against residences.
 - Michael K: Zone 3 where it borders 4 and 5 does need to be determined since the google map image is not accurate in its vegetation reflection.
 - Makes a Motion to: Adopt "ABC's" natural land Use ones, now amended to include 6 zones, as part of the Preliminary Conceptual Plan.
 - Fred: Seconds the motion
 - Michael K: Would you be open to just extending zone 3 and absorbing zone 6 into it since it's kind of the same as zone 3?
 - Paula: Yes that makes sense
 - Roll Call Vote: Passes, All present in favor.

- Motion by Betty V. to Share the Natural Land Use Zone information with the City Council (map and appropriate uses).
- Celine Seconded
- Roll Call Vote: Passes, All present in favor.
- Comments made on Trails and Bridges.
- Celine: Who decides what beautiful is?
- Betty: I know we talked about standards of beauty but we haven't talked more about that.
- Celine: I just want to make a comment, I saw a lot of mention about the AdHoc committee coming up with a Master Plan. From my view I thought we are giving the City Council options. Cause I think our job is not to come up with a master plan but to come up with ideas and perhaps make a first recommendation and second recommendation and then City Council takes it all to make a decision.
- Paula: I would say a lot of this is putting the cart before the horse, examples on how do we address these steep slopes? But on the other hand the conservancy grant is 95% done. Do we want to try to use it to get something that we want to have done? But what would happen is that Karen would have to take that back to her board. My understanding is that her board is very interested in getting trails through zones 1,2 and 3. I don't want to misrepresent them but my understanding is that they might not be interested in being partners in getting a landscape designer.
- Mayor: Should we get the grant the money will come to the City.
- Michael K: This is our first time to comment on the Grant Application. I would hope the GLC would stay involved.
- Dave Q: So if we get the grant we have to go through these plans?
- Mayor: I will point out we may have another source of funding for that.
- Dave Q: This was one of the number one things the community wants done so maybe we got to just do it if we get the money.
- Betty: To piggyback on that. We have to think about what we really need is a 0-5 and 5-10 year plan because it's going to take us 5 years to clear out the invasives. Midwest said that it can take 3 years for a prairie to grow. If in the first few years we give people access to see what the place is then we can develop the Master Plan and let the community be a part of that.
- Paula: In talking to Sarah about this grant you have two years to spend it. She said they often get people who are requesting extensions if research comes up that is legitimately worth considering.
- Lawrie: First of all, great job to you and your committee on this great presentation. I do have a question. I need clarification, have we submitted an application for this grant?
- Paula: We still have to submit an application for the Knowles Nelson Grant.
- Lawrie: I want to point out that the GLC has decided not to proceed with further work and advocacy regarding the Hillmoor at this time. How is this going to be addressed?
- Paula: My understanding is that Karen was given the go ahead to work with us to make revisions to the trail layout. Then they will resubmit on behalf of the City.

- Michael K: How would you decide where the trails could connect so we can score higher on the Knowles Nelson? Also, the trail design isn't carved in stone, we need a trail designer to plan this and tweak it.
- Paula: That's my understanding.
- Betty: We or the City needs to hire someone to do the Master Plan on the land.
- Michael K: If the City was given the Grant would Sam be involved in administering the money?
- Fred: This Land and Water Restoration Fund, I see no reason for not applying for that across the board.
- Michael K: The timing of the bridge and how it relates to the trails is a huge question mark and could be financially beneficial to the City.
- Mayor: I just wanted to mention one thing for those of you in the audience, this packet is all online in the meeting packet.
- Paul: I guess I see this as we need to get something on paper that isn't too onerous so that a landscape designer can feel comfortable making recommendations and their plan.
- Fred: It's my understanding that the most helpful we can be would be to come to the City Council with the Master Planner and ask for funding to implement "this" plan.
- Paul: So should I go to Karen and tell her that this is good?
- Dave Q: I feel like we should use some money to fix the frontage on Hwy 50
- Betty: Do we agree that we want a hwy 50 connection?
- Celine: Do we need a motion to charge this new group with these revisions?
- Paula: We will report back to the committee.
- Adam: Ultimately I feel like I would want to not commit the City to spending money on trails in the wetlands of Hillmoor until we spend money on playgrounds.

- Mayor: I'm not sure we are going to have an April 1st meeting.

7. Review of Project Planning Process: Mike K.

- Celine: I have a question, can you explain to me your thoughts on where you think the AdHoc committee ends its job? Are we involved to the very end? I thought we were involved to a certain point where we hand it off?
- Michael K: The initial charge for the City was essentially to thoughtfully consider concepts and make recommendations.
- Mayor: We will be renewing this again on Feb. 12 with the Council. Eventually if we get to a certain point it will have to be a different type of committee governed by an ordinance. I'm hoping that in the next six months we can be pretty close to that point.
- Fred: It's my understanding that we have been tasked with gathering that information and go to City Council with a Master Planner and here are the concepts we have. The City Council doesn't want to have to deal with all this. Anything over \$1 million needs to go to referendum anyway.
- Mayor: It may be helpful for the City Council members to hear this on Feb 12, 2024 .

8. Discussion of public communications - COW, social media, newspaper, etc. Fred G.

- There are a lot of people asking for more information on what we are doing here.
- I think people should be able to get copies of these presentations. I think we should over provide because it's the impression that we are not.
- I was thinking of asking Dennis if he could write a recap article about what we are doing. I think we need to try to find ways to make our process more transparent.
- Peggy: I think the more that's available online makes it easier. I think for the newspaper you have to have a subscription. So if it could go through the City. If we can publish the link on the City website or how to type it in on your own computer.
- Paula: Can we do a nice "Hillmoor" button on the website so people don't have to go searching.
- Michael K: Perhaps we make a schedule every 2 months to present what we are up to at Committee of the Whole. Even presenting it in front of the COW.
- Paula: Perhaps we can get someone to volunteer to do a facebook live video recap of our meetings.
- Mayor: Here's the issue we have sometime when we talk to people I say, well there was an article. We have some council members who are here and some who have never been here and say they don't know what's going on. So many people don't know what we are doing because they don't check in on what we are doing.
- Fred: I think we are tasked with keeping the people informed. It's embarrassing and shameful to hear these people criticizing our committee who is working so hard. I think all the aldermen should get a copy of these reports.
- Mayor: With your permission I will print out all the power points and give them to the council. I will get that to the COW on Monday.
- Paula: This is so important. We have to start with the City Council. They have to be able to make good decisions. I think we start with the ABC presentation.
- Fred: I think it's also very important for them to realize this is far more complex and far reaching than they can imagine.
- Dave Q: I think that's the most important thing you've said in a long time.

9. Next Meeting Date and Time: Thursday, February 15, 2024 4:00pm

- Michael K: Motion to adjourn the meeting
- Fred G: Seconds