

Trails Advisory Committee

Date: January 10, 2024

Location: Microsoft Teams

Open Public Meeting Act Policy

Roll Call

- Tara Kenyon, AICP/PP, Consultant
- Vanessa Jones, Chair
- Anne-Marie Orlusky, Vice-Chair
- James Kuligowski
- Jignasha Patel
- Robert Kovacs
- Christopher Gonda
- Alex Kharazi, Council Liaison

Introductions and Welcome

- Councilman Alex Kharazi new liaison to township council
- Robert Kovacs, new member of TAC
- Michael Morosco, Intern Rutgers University

Annual Reorganization of Franklin

- Nomination for Chair
 - VJ nominated by JK, Second by CG
 - Vote: All in Favor
 - Vanessa noted goal setting for next meeting
- Nomination for Secretary
 - JK nominated CG, Second by RK
 - Vote: All in Favor

Approval of November Meeting Minutes

- Comment by Anne Marie, dictated change.
 - Resolution for CBT to be included in December Minutes
- James Motion to Approve, Second by Anne Marie
- Motion to approve minutes, as amended with CBT resolution attached, by AO
 - Aye: Vanessa, Jim, Anne Marie
 - Abstain: Robert, Jignasha, Chris

Approval of November Meeting Minutes

- Motion to Approve October Minute, JK. Second, AO
- Vote: Aye: Jim, Anne Marie, Chris
- Abstain: Jignasha, Robert

Public Comment

- Motion to open public comment, AO, second, CG
 - Vote: All in favor
- Introduce Pravesh Lal
 - Pravesh is a resident who is interested in joining TAC
- Motion to close public comment, AO, second CG

Pathways & Trails Plan

- Review of Updates by Tara
 - Discussion to include notable features along DeMott Lane and JFK Boulevard paths.
 - Review of Finalized Maps and elements as per TAC recommendations for Pathways & Trails plan.
 - Tara dictated next steps for the final draft to go to Mark Healy, Planning Director for comment, then to be presented to Planning Board for adoption into Township Master Plan.
 - Committee agreed to forward the plan to Planning Director
 - AO indicated missing information for educational activities and promotional and event information

Site Plan Review

- Vanessa explained the purpose of the Site Plan Review, for new members and attendees
- No sites for review.

New Business

- Local Health Assessment & Action Plan was presented to Township Council
 - TAC to review plan and Tara will deliver a presentation on relevant
 - Councilman Kharazi added that the Advisory Board of Health will also identify 3 items to emphasize equity.
 - Wards 1 and 4 have significantly different values for life expectancy
 - VJ - Access to trails is understood as a social equity concern

Old Business

- Micromobility Study
 - Environmental Commission will draft a plan and hire consultant for temporary budget item.
 - Possible agenda item in Feb.

- Naaman Williams Green Infrastructure Project
 - DPW has paved the path
 - Drain has been installed
 - DPW will deliver project update to Tara
 - Community Engagement will begin in Feb.

- Memorial Plaque to remember Melba Battin at Negri Nepote Preserve
 - Tara received a quote for a bronze plaque (\$300)

- Security Cameras
 - Twp to install cameras at all parking areas over the course of several years.
 - The current camera estimated cost is \$2500
 - AO requested to prioritize Negre Nepote Grassland with signage

- Trail Walks & Events
 - No events scheduled or proposed at this time.
 - Jignasha suggested in anticipation of spring
 - Comment by Councilman Kharazi to invite school groups and organizations for educational events, and to increase promotion through Township newsletter and additional opportunities, including council meetings.
 - Discussion included reactivation of the Bunker Hill Environmental Center.
 - VJ offered that promotional maps would be beneficial, along with developing additional signage, would attract more trail users.
 - JK supported that the maps were effective, though the number of events to engage community members are less frequent.
 - Parks & Recreation have been a valuable partner for promotion.

- Trail Conditions & Updates
 - VJ expressed interest in electronically recording monthly TAC updates and to monitor the progress of each DPW request.
 - A new system can create more accountability for the concerns and record keeping of requests.
 - Questions about whether the system would be public or internal for TAC members.
 - Additionally, the Township has a system to report safety concerns and photos to DPW on the Township website.
 - AO Negri Bird Blind, pond, are getting overgrown. Surface material is degrading. Bird Blind flooring is degrading.
 - Trail adoption opportunities for new members. Trails to be adopted
 - Environmental Center
 - Butler Road
 - Middlebush - accepted by RK
 - Bunker Hill (VJ)
 - Chain barrier is down

- Wooden sign is missing
- Kiosk is empty

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn, AO, seconded by JP.