OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTES
JULY 26, 2018 / 6:30-8 PM
Municipal Services Facility – 979 Highland Avenue

Committee Members Present: Kevin Adams, Tom Blake, Fred Dillon (notes), Barbara Dee, Jane Eberle, Andrew Gagnon, Kate Gatti, Dan Hogan, Ashley Krulik, Sharon Newman, Richard Rottkov, Patti Smith, Kat Taylor, Andrew Gagnon

Staff Present: Forrest Bell, Margaret Burns, Jessica Kimball, Elizabeth Perry

1. Planning for the Public Forum
   o Jessica provided overview of the presentation for public forum and received the following feedback for particular slides:
     ▪ GOALS SLIDE
       • Land Bank: consider discussing what it is and how it works and emphasize how it’s separate from Land Trust
       • Refer to ordinance and how it specifies Council oversight
       • Tex / Planning Director and/or Manager would also be closely involved
       • ~$800K currently in fund primarily for acquisition (as opposed to maintenance)
       • Open Space Plan should:
         o Emphasize City’s desire and ability to maintain open space in an urban setting – it’s how we define our City
         o Sustain interest in protecting / preserving OS
         o Be used as marketing tool to attract businesses and residents
     ▪ VIRTUAL TOUR SLIDE
       • Make n’hood map names bigger / more prominent or create legend
• Send print version of map to Richard and Tom for review
• Facilitators will orient groups at beginning of small group sessions

2. Community Survey Results Update
   o 7 weeks: 5/24/18 – 7/12/18 (716 responses)
   o 88% of respondents considered OS very important; 11% somewhat important; 1% not important
     ▪ Probably a bit of built in bias for folks inclined to take survey
   o Respondents by n’hood: Meetinghouse Hill had most respondents
   o Most respondents have lived in City for > 15 years
   o Most respondents own home (90/10 own vs. rent)
   o Top 6 OS locations: Bug light, Willard, Mill Creek Park, Greenbelt, Hinckley, Spring Point Shoreway (many other favorites as well)
   o >80% of respondents live within 10 mins of OS
   o Most respondents thought ease of access to OS was generally pretty good
   o Most respondents thought most types of OS should be prioritized for preservation – esp trails and water access / water resources
   o Most respondents thought goals for OS preservation should focus on natural and habitat resources and also believed all other categories were important too
   o FEEDBACK ON SLIDES:
     ▪ Not sure we need to present demographic data in detail
     ▪ Consider grouping similar types of responses for more logical progression

3. SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES OVERVIEW (refer to facilitator’s packet)
   o 1ST question / mapping exercise for connectivity (15 min): connect OS to n’hoods and each other via trails and streets – facilitators / helpers will also use flip charts to keep maps neater
     ▪ Check with bike/ped committee for how to handle questions about access for cyclists
○ 2nd question / mapping exercise is about inventoried (25 min): collect data that we don’t already have using colored dots (actually start with this one – put before connectivity exercise)
  ▪ Consider using different colored highlighters for trails, bike routes, etc.
○ Focus on flip charts – get folks to step away from the maps
  ▪ Strategies and next steps: ideas about preserving additional OS; how to engage public in review of ideas / strategies at next public forum

4. GROUND RULES
○ Pretty basic and will be on display for duration of evening
○ FEEDBACK: too soon to focus on consensus; just want to get inclusivity as much as possible
○ Discussion of whether to limit allocation of colored dots
○ Consider adding another colored dot for parks? Or don’t really need to emphasize since City already owns these properties – can accentuate in the next forum.
○ Orange dots could be used for potential private properties without explicitly mentioning; reemphasize that this isn’t intended to be a private land grab!

5. FACILITATOR PACKETS (refer to packet)
○ 2 opportunities to provide info anonymously
○ No debrief after meeting; just retain notes
○ Announce date for next Community Forum: Thurs 10/25/18
○ Don’t use post-its due to potential loss of info – record comments on flip charts and/or maps instead
○ 8 OS committee members volunteered to facilitate
○ Important to be there at 5PM
○ Forrest and Jessica will float or facilitate as needed depending on who shows up
○ Time keeping will be critical
6. Additional Discussion Topics

- Question about refreshments and funding availability: Manager allocated additional funds (Tom will have Clerk handle it)
- Start thinking about what we want the community to know about the project
- Housekeeping detail: all boards / committees required to keep attendance and submit attendance report – and also be sworn in (include sign in sheet with these minutes)

NEXT MEETING DATE: 8/23 (always 4th Thursday)
Open Space Committee Attendance Roster

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