

MINUTES NO. 33
PARKS, OPEN SPACE & TRAILS COMMISSION
March 29, 2016
Special Meeting
Tiburon Town Hall---Council Chambers
1505 Tiburon Boulevard, Tiburon, California

CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting was called to order by Chair Winkler at 6:03 p.m., Tuesday, March 29, 2016 in the Town Hall Council Chambers, 1505 Tiburon Boulevard, 1st Floor, Tiburon, California.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Winkler, Vice-Chair Allen (6:13 p.m.), Comm. Feldman, McMullen, Thier

Absent: None

Ex-Officio: Pat Barnes, Director of Public Works/Town Engineer
Scott Anderson, Director of Community Development

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- There were none.

MINUTES

Minutes of the January 19, 2016 regular meeting were approved as submitted by a vote of 4-0.

COMMISSION AND STAFF BRIEFING

- There was none.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. TRESTLE TRAIL: Consider Recommendations to Town Council Regarding Proposed Improvements to the Trestle Berm Portion of Blackie's Pasture

Director Anderson presented the staff report. Jim Wood, project applicant, described the proposal in some detail using slides and mounted graphics. Chair Winkler opened the floor to public comment.

Petey Stein spoke in support of the project.

Joyce Tayer, a Reedlands resident, expressed support but was concerned about bicyclists and skateboarders using the path because of the potential for collisions with pedestrians. Kathy MacLeod said she would want to see the pathway open for bicycle use as it was lengthy and not all people are mobile.

Tobey, a Tiburon youth, expressed support for the path but also wanted a bicycle bridge crossing Tiburon Boulevard from the end of the railroad berm.

There being no further public comment, the item was returned to the Commission.

Commissioner McMullen said he thought the proposal would be less inviting than the current unimproved berm for bicyclists to abuse because of the gravel ballast and increased usage by pedestrians. He applauded the Tiburon Peninsula Foundation (TPF) efforts and those of the proponents and expressed his support for the project as proposed.

Commissioner Thier also thanked the TPF and expressed support for the project.

Vice Chair Allen said the proposal builds on other recent successes at Blackie's Pasture, including the earlier TPF clean-up work and the just-installed picnic table areas, and extended his thanks to the sponsors along with his support for the proposal.

Commissioner Feldman indicated that this was a great project and clarified that some of the remaining outstanding issues, such as initial funding and on-going maintenance, would need to be resolved by the Town Council.

M/S (Their/McMullen) to forward the Town Council the Commission's strong recommendation of support for the project as presented, subject to resolution of the outstanding issues as described in the written staff report. Motion carried 5-0.

2. BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN UPDATE: Review and Make Recommendations to the Town Council regarding Adoption of the Master Plan Update

Director Barnes presented the staff report using a slide show and responded to questions from the Commission.

Chair Winkler stated that at the Commission's direction, changes were made to the draft Plan following the January 2016 workshop, especially with respect to slowing down fast-moving cyclists when using Greenwood Beach Road and potentially diverting them onto Tiburon Boulevard. He assured those in the audience that their concerns had been heard and the Commission and Plan revisions were responsive to those concerns.

Harry Heath, Greenwood Beach Road resident since 1959, stated that he was glad to see the proposed Class II bike lane proposed on Tiburon Boulevard and the other steps proposed to slow down cyclists using Greenwood Beach Road. He expressed dissatisfaction that the Commission Chairman was not a Tiburon resident.

Kathy MacLeod, Belveron resident, opined that children need to be considered and that for safety reasons they should be using Greenwood Beach Road and not Tiburon Boulevard. She stated that sharrows or striping would help educate riders and improve safety.

Bruce Abbott, Greenwood Beach Road, stated that the situation on Greenwood Beach Road with respect to cyclists is not static and is worsening as the years go by. The neighborhood has no objection to children riding their bicycles on the street, nor people using it to reach work destinations by bicycle. He objected to the explosion of recreational users that is spiraling out of control and creating safety problems, and indicated the Greenwood Beach Road situation demands a CEQA analysis. Speeding bicyclists and large numbers of them, often rude, are creating a powder keg in the neighborhood with a short fuse.

Sidsel Moeller stated that the Bay trail users are making the situation on Greenwood Beach Road intolerable; bikes don't yield and are often verbally abusive to residents. She insisted that the Bay Trail alignment be moved off Greenwood Beach Road.

Pam Snellgrove, Greenwood Beach Road, praised the Town and community for the beatification of the Blackie's Pasture area in recent decades. She thanked the Commission for the beginnings of a response with the changes to the Master Plan since the last meeting. She asked the Town to support its residents in having the Bay Trail relocated and to work with the County of Marin to address signage and other issues that were encouraging use of Greenwood Beach Road by cyclists. She requested that the neighborhood have a dialog with Town staff prior to approving any of the signs proposed to discourage fast riders from using Greenwood Beach Road, as the neighborhood had a keen interest in exactly how the signs would be worded. She also suggested alerting the bicycle clubs to the problem and enlisting their cooperation in changing the behavior of, and the route used by, their members.

Patrick Seidler, representing Transportation Alternatives for Marin, requested that the Plan contain mention of a Class IV bike path along Tiburon Boulevard and East Blithedale Avenue from Blackie's Pasture in Tiburon to Camino Alto in Mill Valley. Mr. Seidler stated that this would allow him to apply for grant funding to study this bike path. Mr. Seidler mentioned federal money and past projects promoted by Transportation Alternatives for Marin. Mr. Seidler stated the grant money would come through the

Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM). Mr. Seidler described the Class IV project as plastic and paint that could easily be removed.

The Commission commented that it was very later in the process to raise such a suggestion; that two public meetings had been held starting in May 2015 and that this was the first mention of a Class IV path concept along Tiburon Boulevard. Mr. Seidler recognized that he was raising this idea late in the process. He stated that he had been busy over the past year resolving threatened litigation against SMART regarding the bike facilities along the SMART route that had been promised but not built.

Commissioners noted that nearly all of the length of the Class IV route that Mr. Seidler was discussing was outside the Town of Tiburon. Mr. Seidler recognized that the majority of the path was in the County not the Town, but he stated that regional consistency was important. Regarding consistency, staff noted that the Town's draft Plan includes a Class 1 path along Tiburon Boulevard from East Strawberry Drive to Greenwood Cove Drive, and a Class II bike lane along Tiburon Boulevard from Greenwood Cove Drive to Blackie's Pasture. The County's draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan also contains these elements. The Town and County Bicycle Plans are consistent. Mr. Barnes also noted that the Class 1 path from East Strawberry Drive to Greenwood Cove Drive was similar to what was being proposed [the Class IV route], and extended over a much smaller distance, yet had an estimated price tag of \$2.6 million. The Class IV proposal would have a much higher cost than that.

Extensive discussion ensued by the Commission on the Class IV bike path request. Commissioner Thier moved to include language that would encourage the Town's participation a study of a Class VI route. Mr. Seidler repeated that this action needed to recommend a Class IV bike lane running from U. S. Highway 101 to Blackie's Pasture.

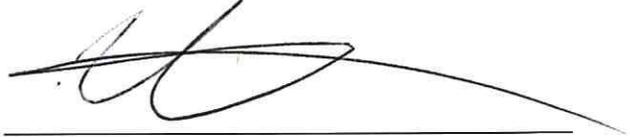
Commissioner McMullen noted that this Class IV proposal seemed to be a new and very different project than those in the draft plan. He felt this proposal was sufficiently new and different such that the public should receive notice of it and have the opportunity to comment.

The consensus of the Commission was that this particular suggestion, because of its late-breaking nature and the lack of any information or analysis being available or any opportunity for public input on it, be discussed separately by the Commission at a future meeting and not included in the draft Plan moving forward to the Planning Commission and Town Council. Commissioner Thier modified her motion accordingly.

M/S (Thier/McMullen) to recommend adoption of the Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan to the Town Council as submitted. Motion carried 5-0.

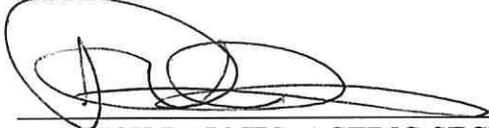
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.



PETER WINKLER, CHAIR
Parks, Open Space & Trails Commission

ATTEST:



PATRICK BARNES, ACTING SECRETARY