Chairperson
Pending

Parks/Recreation and Trails Commission
Gerald Baldridge
Pat Cruikshank
Sue DeGardner
Kent Hokens
Beth Jensen
William Johnson
Lisa O’Connell
Michale Werner, 1st Alternate
Toby FitzSimons, 2nd Alternate

Greg Urban, Council Liaison
Tim Sandvik, Staff Liaison

QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE
PARK, TRAILS, and RECREATION COMMISSION
Monday, January 28, 2019 - 6:30 p.m.  City Hall

AGENDA

1. Roll Call
2. Approve minutes of October 15, 2018 meeting
3. Review of Commission Organization and Rules
4. Chair, Vice Chair appointments
5. Update meetings schedule to bi-monthly (6 annual meetings)
6. Commission Priorities – Set schedule
7. Playground Equipment at Bear Park
8. Opportunities for Native Species Plantings – Community Park
9. Parks Audit/Programming Audit
10. Koehler Task Force Updates
11. Other Items
12. Set next Meeting – March 18, 2019
13. Adjourn
Regular Quarterly Meeting of the
Vadnais Heights Park, Recreation, and Trails Commission
Monday, October 15, 2018 – 6:30 p.m.
Lakes Conference Room – City Hall

A   G   E   N   D   A

1. Open Meeting
   William Johnson – 6:30

2. Roll Call
   Present – Johnson, Cruikshank, Jensen, Hokens, Baldridge, Nyblom,
   Staff Present - Watson, Wall, Sandvik
   Absent – DeGardner, O’Connell, Werner, FitzSimons

3. Approval of Agenda
   No changes

4. Approval of July 16, 2018 Meeting Minutes
   Hoken motioned for approval – Cruikshank seconded – motion passed unanimously

5. Open to the Public

6. Introduction of new Assistant City Administrator Tim Sandvik
   City Administrator Watson gave a brief introduction of Mr. Sandvik
   Sandvik briefly introduced himself, excited to be on board.
   Hoken asked what is the process with the engineer vacancy.
   Watson noted the city received a large pool of applicants for the assistant position,
   adversely there was a limited pool of applicants for the engineer position. That process is
   temporarily in a pause. Will continue to work with SEH in the meantime.
   Commission had general discussion on the hiring process for the engineer, going
   forward.
   General discussion on other staffing positions including upcoming retirements with the
   city directly affecting the commission.

7. New Business
A. **Appoint Koehler Road Task Force Members**

Watson introduced the item, after brief description of the issue, stated that council has deemed it appropriate to form a committee to better understand the issue. Commission members asked about cost and how it being a county road would affect the cost of any potential project.

Watson noted the city may be interested in funding a study to better understand the issue to start the potential project. Watson further discussed the idea of the committee is to flush out ideas for a trail and what might be feasible including considerations for local residents.

General discussion on make-up of the committee; includes two council members and other appointees including neighborhood representatives.

Wall noted it will be important to create an East to West connection in this area and would promote connection to the school. Went on to discuss some logistics that complicated the process as this county road is a part of their own CIP.

However, this presents an opportunity to explore opportunities going forward.

Baldridge asked about the logistics of the committee.

Wall noted it would likely be a monthly meeting, 3-5 times but, no definite terms have been reached. However, the city is looking to staff the committee to start.

Johnson asked if there are commission members in the area as it would be nice to have that connection from the commission.

Commissioners noted there are some existing safety concerns even with the new stripping.

Wall went on to note there are several complicating factors including utilities and varying, individual property issues.

Baldridge noted he may be interested in serving but may have some attendance concerns.

Hokens would be interested as his background in trails and as a civil engineer would lend expertise as well.

Johnson asked if we should connect with those not in attendance, Wall said there was no expressed interest from commissioners not in attendance.

Cruikshank motioned that Baldridge and Hokens serve on the purposed committee, second by Jensen. Passed unanimous.

B. **Discussion of Potential Commission Initiatives**

Wall introduced the topic. Stated he and Sandvik have experience in this area.

Wall presented the list that was a part of the agenda and while they may be specific ideas, they are a few ideas to get commissioners thinking of having an expanded presence.

Baldridge noted the topic of pollinator friendly opportunities is appealing.

Watson explained the opportunity for a recreation programming study. This will now fall under Sandvik, an area in which he has expertise. Ultimately, this is an opportunity to explore where things are going well and where the city has opportunity to improve.
Johnson noted we have long-time “filled in the gap” of White Bear Parks Programming, but there are opportunities to explore what is working and what is not.

Wall continued to walk through the provided list, and noted all these ideas (and potential other ideas) are a good opportunity to engage potential volunteers. Johnson noted there have been challenges engaging volunteers in the past, but there may be opportunities to grow these opportunities going forward. Cruikshank asked about getting volunteers for items like weed removal and pollinator implementation.

Baldrige noted that it would be best for the city to promote those opportunities because individuals would be hesitant to do these things on their own for various reasons, but would be more inclined to participate as a part of a larger, volunteer focused effort.

Commission members noted regional efforts would be more advantageous than just our city working on things like noxious weeds, but there are opportunities to work with other regional entities. Ultimately, good to feed into the general concept of increased volunteering.

Jensen noted that communities like Shoreview have implemented ‘adopt a trail’ where groups can adopt a section of trail which promotes sustainability but also provides marketing for their group and promotes social responsibility.

There was general discussion on what kinds of plantings would be beneficial to things like pollinator friendly, vs ‘weeds’, vs etc... a “weed is a plant out of place.” Sandvik noted his expertise will help move forward, possibly explore a goal setting session in January for 2019 for the commission.

Johnson noted there are some concerns as far as budget for parks planning. Staff noted strategic planning is advantageous in the budget processing. Baldrige noted that larger projects like the Koehler trail project consume considerable more time and resources, but he remains interested in serving on that committee.

C. Planning Case 18-012: Aster Meadow Apartment Development

Wall introduced the purposed Aster Meadows plan. Since the last time the commission met, the plan has been significantly changed. Ultimately, staff would like direction as to the Park Dedication Fees.

Wall went on to further describe the current plan to sell to a developer. All information shared with the commission is directly from the City’s website (and remains posted on the website).

Commission asked if there is any portion of the land that is purposed for public park land. Wall stated there is not.

Wall went on to say there is purposed trail system, but would be used for those on the private property.

Commissioners noted that if that’s the case, park dedication fees should not be used on building such a trail.

Commissioners noted that cash would be the preferred park dedication fee.
General discussion as to the market audience, staff noted it would be a market rate building.

Johnson asked if there was a sidewalk along county road F. Commissioners supported a sidewalk there. Further, commissioners advocated for stripped crosswalks into the tot lot.

Commissioners asked about the changes since the original proposal. Staff noted the developer removed the application on their own accord. After working with the city, the developer then submitted a PUD as they were not outright compliant with existing zoning and the current Comp Plan.

Staff requests clarification on the acceptance of park dedication fees.

Baldridge motioned that park dedication fees be paid in cash, Jensen second. Passed unanimous.

Johnson concluded the parks recommended: a sidewalk on country road F to Centerville, stripping and signs in the parking lot to provide access to the tot lot, and rod iron fencing around the tot lot be included as recommendations for the purposed PUD – Cruikshank motioned, Baldridge seconded. Passed unanimously.

8. Old Business
   A. Bear Park Playground Improvements Update
   Watson noted the budget has been preliminary approved for $65,000 for the updated playground. Staff will go out to contractors to better understand opportunities. Commissioners noted this is the process that has taken place in the past. Staff will have those pieces ready for January meeting.
   Johnson – there needs to be consideration for Public Works time/resources.
   Baldridge noted the concerns associated with a connection from the neighborhood to the park/playground (Bear Park to Tessier Trail/court?).
   Wall noted this is part of the Comp Plan. But staff will look into this.

9. Upcoming City Events
   Halloween Party – October 31st, 6pm-8pm, Vadnais Heights Commons
   PJ w Santa – Details

10. Reports
   A. City Council Liaison
   Council Member Nyblom noted the park on the southeast corner of Vadnais Lake that is owned by the City of St Paul-Board of Water Commissioners and managed by the county has received some requested for usage. Members of a local group of bicycling enthusiasts suggest using the area as a BMX trail system.
   Commissioners noted enforcement has general challenges with usage enforcement.
   Commissioners noted this would be a relationship they need to grow with the County.
Watson noted we can bring the BMX group in to the committee to further understand the request.

B. Commissioners

Johnson – Signs near Heritage Park (east side) have posted signs that state (roughly) ‘pick up after dog... “Private community”’. Requesting staff to look into posted signage. Language is ultimately confusing as to whether it is private or public street/trail access.

C. Staff

Watson – Read through packet updates

Wall – Schools are working through an implementation of updating infrastructure; might be good for one of their representatives to attend a Parks Meeting in the future to be updated on the process. This working group is new (fall of 2018) so it would be best to have them join a meeting after they have established an agenda.

11. Set Quarterly Meeting for January 2019 – Date TBD

   January 28th will be checked by city staff.

12. Adjourn Meeting

   Baldridge motioned, Hokens seconded. Unanimous. 8:20pm
Memorandum:

TO: Parks and Trails Commission
FROM: Tim Sandvik, Assistant City Administrator
DATE: Monday, January 28, 2019
SUBJECT: Review Commission Roles – Chair, Vice Chair Appointments (Agenda Items 3 and 4)

Background
City staff is exploring the opportunity for increased engagement of the Vadnais Heights - Parks and Trails Commission. City Code (attached) permits the commission to advise the City Council on a variety of topics. With a brief review of code, staff will ask for recommendations on Agenda Items 5 and 6.

Code dictates the previous year’s (2018) Vice-Chair assumes the position of Chair which is Ms. Lisa O’Connell. With the vacated position of Vice-Chair, the commission shall elect a Vice-Chair from its members.

Finally, due to a recently vacated Commission position, Mr. Michael Werner has accepted the role of Commissioner moving from his former position of 1st Alternate. The City Council has the option to fill up to one more Alternate position as up to two (2) Alternates are permitted by code.
DIVISION 3. - PARK, RECREATION AND TRAILS COMMISSION

Sec. 2-107. - Establishment, purpose, authority.

The city has established a park, recreation, and trails commission for the city for the purpose of recommending and overseeing the operation of public recreation and recommending the development and maintenance of parks and trails within the city, pursuant to the authority of this division and of M.S.A. §§ 471.15 through 471.17.

(Code 1999, § 213.010)

Sec. 2-108. - Composition; member terms; vacancies; expenses; alternate members; removal.

(a) The park, recreation, and trails commission shall consist of not more than seven members to be appointed by the council. Four members shall constitute a quorum.

(b) Each member of the commission shall be a resident of the city who does not hold any elective or appointive public office. Civil service employment does not constitute public office.

(c) Each member of the commission shall serve three-year terms, and vacancies shall be filled for the remainder of the term of office which is vacated.

(d) Members shall receive an expense allowance of not more than $20.00 per meeting for the chairperson and secretary, if appointed, and not more than $15.00 per meeting for all other members, including alternates. The amount of such allowance and the basis for its payment shall be determined by the city council.

(e) The council may appoint no more than two alternates to the commission. Such alternates may attend and take part in the commission meeting but shall have no vote, provided that if one or more regular members is absent for any meeting, then an alternate (in order of seniority if more than one is present) may sit with all the privileges of a member for that meeting only.

(f) Any member may be removed by the council for cause duly found.

(Code 1999, §§ 213.020, 213.030)

Sec. 2-109. - Chairperson, vice chairperson and secretary.

The commission shall, at its first meeting of each year, elect a vice chairperson from its members. The vice chairperson shall automatically become the chairperson the following year. No member shall serve more than two consecutive years as chairperson. The commission may, at its discretion, elect a secretary from their membership.

(Code 1999, § 213.040)

Sec. 2-110. - Meetings, minutes and reports.

The commission shall hold one meeting each quarter and hold such special meetings as necessary. The commission shall provide minutes of each meeting and an annual report of its activities and recommendations to the council. The public service director shall prepare an annual inventory of park and trail equipment and facilities and trails within the city.

(Code 1999, § 213.050)

Sec. 2-111. - Power and duties.

The commission shall have the powers and duties provided in this section and may recommend expending funds to carry out such purposes by the public service director, but only to the extent that such funds are available in the approved annual budget and capital improvement plan. Purchases of items that require a quote or bids shall be approved by the city council. Power and duties of the commission include the following:

(1) The commission shall establish and oversee park maintenance policies for implementation by the public service director. Annually, the commission shall recommend park and trail construction needs to the council as part of the city's capital improvement plan and budget process.

(2) The commission shall annually review and recommend policies for trail maintenance. Trail maintenance shall be applied in a manner that is cost effective, similar to the city's pavement management program. The commission shall recommend trail construction needs to the council as part of the city's capital improvement plan and budget process.

(3) The commission shall review, recommend and monitor a program of public recreation upon property which is owned or otherwise made available to the city for such public recreational purposes. All recreation programs and special events shall be reviewed for participation and cost effectiveness to its citizens and taxpayers and avoid unnecessary duplication of school district or other programs available to the community. The commission shall recommend to the council the leasing or acquisition of further real or personal property for public recreational use as it deems desirable.

(4) The commission shall recommend improvements for recreational facilities, such as driveways, parking lots, trails, buildings, parks, athletic fields, play structures, pavilions and other necessary structures. The commission may recommend contracts and leases for the construction and operation of park facilities, but every such contract or lease shall provide that the structures shall be operated for the public use and convenience, the charges shall be reasonable and the commission shall recommend rules and regulations for use of the facilities.

(5) The commission may formulate and prescribe reasonable rules and regulations for the use of the general public of any facilities in any recreational or park area, except those rules that are established by city ordinance, in which case, the commission shall recommend such regulations.

(6) The commission shall do whatever other acts are reasonable, necessary and proper to carry out their prescribed duties as set forth herein, and advise the council on any and all matters referred to it by the council.

(Code 1999, § 213.060)
Sec. 2-112. - Park and recreation fund.

For the purpose of carrying out the powers and functions of the commission, the city has established in the city treasury a special fund to be called the “park and recreation fund.” The council may transfer to the fund such monies as it shall consider necessary for public recreational purposes. Into this fund shall be placed the various revenues or monies received by the city from gifts, bequeaths, contributions, earnings and other miscellaneous revenues. The city shall, in the same manner as the council under M.S.A. § 412.271, subd. 1, and to the same extent, audit claims to be paid from the park and recreation fund. Expenditures from this fund shall be subject to approval by the city council.

(Code 1999, § 213.070)

Sec. 2-113. - Budget.

Each year, by an established date, the public service director, under direction from the commission shall submit a budget and five-year capital improvement plan request for operations and improvements for parks, recreation and trails.

(Code 1999, § 213.080)

Sec. 2-114. - Staff liaison.

The city public service director shall be the lead staff liaison to the commission and shall assist the council liaison with communication and information as requested. All other regular employees and consultants shall cooperate with the commission to make themselves available and attend meetings when requested to do so.

(Code 1999, § 213.090)

Secs. 2-115—2-177. - Reserved.
Memorandum:

TO: Parks and Trails Commission

FROM: Tim Sandvik, Assistant City Administrator

DATE: Monday, January 28, 2019

SUBJECT: Update Meetings Schedule Discussion – Set Commission Schedule (Agenda Items 5 and 6)

Background
In discussion with Parks and Trails Commissioners, staff has the understanding there is the desire to be more involved and engaged. City Code requires the Commission to meet quarterly, and with special meetings as needed. Staff recommends moving a bi-monthly meeting schedule to provide the opportunity to give more input. Staff would like to gauge the Commission’s interest in moving to bi-monthly meetings.

Staff would also like to establish Commission priorities. As a desired schedule (quarterly vs bi-monthly meetings is established), staff will schedule the following goals (and add as appropriate).

- Pollinator friendly plantings (discussed at October, 2018 Commission Meeting)
- Programming Study (discussed at October, 2018 Commission Meeting)
- Volunteer Engagement (discussed at October, 2018 Commission Meeting)
- Partner with regional/other local jurisdictional authorities (discussed at October, 2018 Commission Meeting)
- Complete a ‘Parks Improvement Plan’ (priorities established Commissioners)
- Explore grant opportunities (priorities recommended by Commissioners, approved by Council)
- Ongoing facilities concerns (presented by Public Works)
- Address ongoing/special considerations as appropriate

The above list are all items that could be scheduled out for the entirety of the year both to help keep projects moving, but also would benefit time-sensitive items like grant funding applications.
Memorandum:

TO: Parks and Trails Commission

FROM: Tim Sandvik, Assistant City Administrator

DATE: Monday, January 28, 2019

SUBJECT: Playground at Bear Park (Agenda Item 7)

Background
Staff has contacted multiple vendors regarding playground equipment replacement at Bear Park. This is a budgeted item for 2019. After reviewing multiple considerations, staff recommends working with Minnesota Wisconsin Playground.

Attached you will find proposed design. One unique item is that a portion of existing structure is recommended to remain. Our certified playground inspector agrees it has over ten years of life remaining. Working with the contractor, they confirmed they would be able to remove existing items and replace without damage to what would remain. This also provides the benefit of installing additional equipment in the areas needing replacement most.

Following discussion, staff intends to invite neighbors to review the purposed equipment. Following the purposed Open House, staff will make recommendation to council for the purchase. Staff encourages the process to advance as Minnesota Wisconsin Playground is already scheduled into late spring for playground installations.
Memorandum:

TO: Parks and Trails Commission

FROM: Tim Sandvik, Assistant City Administrator

DATE: Monday, January 28, 2019

SUBJECT: Opportunities for Native Species Plantings – Community Park (Agenda Item 8)

Background
Staff understand the Parks and Trails Commission is interested in exploring opportunities for Native Species Plantings. In working with one of our ongoing regional collaborators – Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO), an opportunity has been identified for native plantings at Community Park.

This location was chosen as a highly visible location (for events like Heritage Days, ongoing general use of the park’s amenities, and immediate proximity to Vadnais Heights Commons).

Challenges to this project include general resource availability. Installation will require staff time and upkeep will require participation from volunteers and/or staff.

Attached to this agenda item, you will find information provided by VLAWMO. It is staff’s recommendation to advance this project only with the commitment of volunteers. City staff and staff from VLAWMO have both agreed to take time to weed as necessary (this will be recommended weekly), but would also like a commitment from volunteers.

Ultimately, staff recommends moving forward with this project after identifying volunteers as it meets the following criteria:
- It is of relatively low cost – this includes applying to the Community Blue grant with VLAWMO for assistance
- It is a highly visible project to beautify our parks
- It has been previously identified as a desired amenity by the Parks and Trails Commission
- It is a good way to promote Vadnais Heights Parks and Trails
Plants will be placed in clumps and surrounded by mulch to minimize weeding and maintenance. In Plots A and B, clumps of Little bluestem will be the focus, surrounded by sympatric prairie species, with a few shrubs for visual interest. Species selected to have blooms throughout growing season and provide habitat for pollinators. All grow in full sun and a variety of soil conditions—so are likely to thrive without a lot of attention. Some mulch is present along Plot A, adjacent to parking spots. We would expand that area. Plot B is located next to a bench at the picnic area. Plots C and D are planted with Reed canary grass. We would replace that with natives that tolerate dry to wet soils, so they will be able to survive well in this depression area.

We could start with these areas in 2019 and expand to cover the full polygon where Plots A and B are located, if people like the plantings and support expanding.

Plot A: ~ 50 x 10 feet
Include a sign with ID about featured species. VLAWMO will design and provide the sign.

Plot B: ~ 10 x 15 feet
Plot C: ~ 30 x 4 feet
Plot D: ~ 30 x 4 feet
Plot E:
Possible expansion area
Plot A

Snowberry: 2 gal pot, $20 x 2 = $40
Winterberry: 2 gal pot, $20 x 1 = $20
Little bluestem: 1 gal pot, $7.50 x 12 = $90 (yellow circles)
Prairie smoke: 6-pack planted in clump, $7.00 x 3 = $21 (purple circles, spring bloom)
Butterflyweed: 6-pack planted in clump, $7.00 x 2 = $14 (orange circles, summer bloom, Monarch food)
Prairie sage: 6-pack planted in 3-plant clumps, $7.00 x 2 = $14 (green circles)
Lead plant: 6-pack planted in clump, $7.00 x 2 = $14 (navy circles, summer bloom)
Azure aster: 6-pack planted in clump, $7.00 x 2 = $14 (gray circles, fall bloom)
Western spiderwort: 6-pack planted in clump, $7.00 = $7 (dark purple circle, summer bloom)

Total = $234

Assumes City will provide mulch (from chipped trees locally, VLAWMO will pick up and plant (but may need to borrow a city vehicle for transport)
VLAWMO will design and install informational sign
Plot B

Snowberry: 2 gal pot, $20 x 1 = $20

Winterberry: 2 gal pot, $20 x 2 = $40

Little bluestem: 1 gal pot, $7.50 x 3 = $22.50 (yellow circles)

Prairie smoke: 6-pack planted in clump, $7.00 = $7 (light purple circle, spring bloom)

Tall blazing star: 6-pack planted in clump, $7.00 x 2 = $14 (purple circles, late summer bloom, important for migrating Monarchs)

Western spiderwort: 6-pack planted in clump, $7.00 x 2 = $14 (dark purple circle, summer bloom)

Total = $117.50
Plot C and D

Cardinal flower and Turtlehead: 6-pack, planted in mixed clumps, $7.50 x 4 = $30 (orange circles)

Pennsylvania sedge: 4” pot, $4.50 x 8 = $36 (yellow circles)

Sweet grass: 6-pack planted in 3-plant clumps, $7.00 x 4 = $28 (green circles)

Total = $94 x 2 for both plots ($188)
Plant total cost (prices from Prairie Restorations)

- Plot A = $234
- Plot B = $117.50
- Plot C = $94
- Plot D = $94
- Total = $539.50
Community Blue grant for support

• City would propose CB grant with assistance from VLAWMO

• A ~24 x 36” mounted sign with information about species in the garden; includes information about Cost Share grants if residents are interested in adding natives to their yards

• Sample sign from Vadnais-Sucker Park

• Cost: ~$700
Memorandum:

TO:          Parks and Trails Commission
FROM:       Tim Sandvik, Assistant City Administrator
DATE:       Monday, January 28, 2019
SUBJECT:    Parks Audit/Programming Audit

Background
Assistant City Administrator Tim Sandvik brings approximately 10 years of Parks and Recreation experience from other municipalities in the north metro. It has been identified that Parks Programming and Parks usage (both general, and specialty) should be reviewed regularly.

Parks Programming in Vadnais Heights remains at a high participation rate, but there is an ongoing opportunity to explore updating/implementing new activities (for all ages) and partnering with other local jurisdictions. Staff recognizes this process must include the Parks and Trails Commission and conversations with all residents who are interested in contributing.

Similarly, Parks usage is important to examine as Parks activities are always changing. It is understood we have many great amenities, but again, it is the desire of staff to continue to increase the rate of parks usage. Much like Parks programming, staff recognizes this process must include the Parks and Trails Commission and conversations with all residents who are interested in contributing.

Staff would like to create a “Parks Improvement Plan” (working title), to have a document to work off going forward. This process would including updating current inventory, identifying priorities of stakeholders (Vadnais Heights’ residents, Commissioners and Council Members), identifying trends in parks usage, and creating a document highlighting these collective opportunities.
Memorandum:

TO: Parks and Trails Commission
FROM: Tim Sandvik, Assistant City Administrator
DATE: Monday, January 28, 2019
SUBJECT: Koehler Task Force Updates (Agenda Item 10)

Background
On December 6, 2018, the Vadnais Heights Koehler Road Task Force Committee met to discussion the possible implementation of a trail system.

Commissioners and staff who attended can provide updates, the meeting minutes are attached.
MEETING OF THE VADNAIS HEIGHTS
Koehler Road Task Force Committee
December 6, 2018 – 6PM

Dorie Olson - present
Larrie Pittelko - present
Charlie Evertz - present
Cindy Collova - present
Rick Halverson - present
Lucie Passus - present
Michael Schmidt – present
Gerald Baldridge (Parks, Recreation, and Trails Commission) - present
Kent Hokens (Parks, Recreation, and Trails Commission Alternate) - present
Terry Nyblom (City Council) - present
Heidi Gunderson (City Council) - present
City Staff – Watson, Wall, Sandvik, Farrell – all present
ISD 624/Vadnais Heights Elementary School – absent
Ramsey County Public Works, Joe Lux – present

Call to order – 6:00

Introduction – Council Member Gunderson introduced herself as the chair of the committee and briefly addressed the goals of the Task Force. She stressed this is an opportunity to share freely and record ideas to address during the feasibility process.

The group introduced themselves and identified their connection to the project; attendees included City Council members, residents immediately adjacent to Koehler Road, Vadnais Heights residents, representatives (staff) from the City of Vadnais Heights and staff from Ramsey County.

Both Council members discussed there are a variety of opportunities to be addressed in the upcoming feasibility process. Areas to address may include enforcement (traffic enforcement), better understanding what the options for an improved facility might be (trail, sidewalk, widening of the road, etc.). Both council members also noted this is especially important due to the proximity of the school.

Residents agreed that vehicular traffic is a significant safety concern for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Staff each introduced themselves and shared what their role in the process may entail. Mr. Watson stated that this evening’s meeting is to better understand considerations regarding a feasibility study. Mr. Wall introduced what a feasibility study may include and noted it would focus on the area indicated on the map (attached as a part of the agenda). Long term plan could include additional sections of nearby streets, but this is the section that the task force will focus on immediately. Mr. Wall also went on to introduce a Trail Map that is included in the current Comprehensive Plan; he went on to say that these types of planning documents help communities implement items piece by piece to achieve an ultimate goal. Mr. Watson shared that the elected officials and city staff have received considerable feedback regarding this section of Koehler Road, but that doesn’t mean other sections can not be studied in the future.

Mr. Baldridge noted that this project would almost certainly require some property abatement.

Ms. Collova estimated that easements on the south side would be less than on the north.

Mr. Pittelko said he believes that the road is not completely centered (with the Right of Way easement).

In responding to a question, Mr. Lux said an issue with giving additional space to only one shoulder is that walkers are supposed to walk against traffic, bikers are supposed to travel with traffic.
Council Member Gunderson noted that implementing a crossing (to accommodate for pathways on both sides of the road) would ultimately be a challenge either way. She went on to say there is a connection on the north side of properties and the trail includes a connection to the school which backs into wetlands.

Multiple Task Force Members agreed that option also poses the challenges of security/safety, and does not address improving mobility options for residents on Koehler and Searle Ct.

Mr. Wall shared two videos; one traveling in each direction highlighting the many considerations on either side of the road.

Mr. Lux and Mr. Farrell shared that relocating utilities can be done and those costs are typically the responsibility of the utility. Mr. Lux stated that implementing a trail could include State Aid money which means it would typically need to adhere to their rules. If the monies come from elsewhere, standards can be otherwise. He went on to say that long term planning does not, at this time, include a reconstruct. ADA compliance would require a 5 foot path. Implementing a curb would likely necessitate drainage improvements. Undergrounding overhead utilities can be requested, but the cost is typically prohibitive – especially so because the utilities contribute very little to that type of improvement. Costs vary, but for a project of this size a rough estimate would be something on the order of $0.5M to 2M. Installing bollards would likely not be an option as the current road is too narrow. Implementing one-way traffic would likely be deferred to the city level if that was a consideration; but could be included in the feasibility analysis. In the past, the county doesn’t support implementing one-way streets without being paired with a return one-way in the other direction.

Council Member Nyblom stated that assessments and plowing need to be considerations.

Mr. Farrell responded to the question of a crosswalk… it would be possible to implement a crosswalk at Searle Ct, but recommendation would be to install something more than striping. He went on to say that a traffic study would be helpful along with the results of a feasibility study.

Mr. Watson summarized, there are five areas that the Task Force would like to include in the feasibility study:
- Exploring usage of both sides of Koehler Rd
- Implementing a One-way
- Avoiding implementation of a pathway system in the wetlands area
- Traffic Count/Traffic Study
- Speed Study

Neighbors reiterated there are properties that don’t appear to have adequate room to implement a trail system, there are also areas that have vegetation, utilities, driveways, etc…

Residents asked if exploring a re-mill of the surface would be worth exploring despite Ramsey County recently completely this process (this could potentially extend one of the shoulders to increase space for pedestrians.

Residents asked if it would be viable to implement a round-about at the intersection of Koehler and Edgerton St, or add all-way stop signs. Mr. Lux a roundabout is not likely, but the county would be willing to explore an all-way stop at the aforementioned ‘T’ intersection.

Residents stated they would like to survey residents; especially understanding the desires of those immediately adjacent to the area in consideration. Staff recommended that a survey be completed after the completion of the feasibility study.

Staff noted that a request can be made to increase patrolling of the street (enforcement).

Hokens – can the trail be included in the feasibility study? Speed issue is separate from the pedestrian travel issue.

Mr. Lux stated that a reduction in the speed limit must come from the state level following a speed survey. This process can have unintended consequences (the state makes recommendation to set the level at the 85th percentile which means the speed limit could potentially be raised. Ramsey County can conduct a speed survey and depending
on the results, they can request that the state does or does not complete their own survey. He indicated the County
might have funding to assist the City with the expense of a feasibility report. The County will undertake speed
surveys on Koehler during normal weather conditions and also discussed getting a MnDOT speed survey done on
Koehler and County Rd E on the west (and possibly east) side of 35E.

Mr. Watson then added that in addition to the original five considerations, the feasibility study should also consider:
- An all way stop sign
- Two way bikeways
- A trail to the north of properties connecting to the school
- Sizes of a potential trail
- Meandering vs a Straight-shot, type of trail
- Additional exploration of the section going north on Edgerton St from Koehler

Council Member Gunderson said that staff will circle back with updates but encouraged Task Force members to
email the group for questions, comments or concerns.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37pm.