

**WORKSHOP MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS
MARCH 7, 2017**

The workshop meeting of the Council of the City of Vadnais Heights was held on the above date and called to order by Mayor Fletcher at 5:30 p.m.

The following members were present: Mayor Bob Fletcher, Councilmembers: Terry Nyblom, Craig Johnson, Heidi Gunderson, and Greg Urban.

The following members were absent: None.

Also present were: Administrator Kevin Watson, City Engineer Mark Graham, Planning/Community Development Director Nolan Wall, and Deputy Clerk Beckie Gumatz.

1. Discussion of Trails

- Watson explained that Mayor Fletcher asked to have a work session to discuss future trails in Vadnais Heights. He noted this discussion will dovetail with the comprehensive plan update discussion as well.
- Graham had put together a rough cost estimate of \$30 per linear foot for bituminous trail. An estimate for the boardwalks that are in some Ramsey County parks are much more expensive at \$400-\$600 per linear foot.
- This topic was previously discussed at a City Council Workshop in September 2015.
- Fletcher would like the City Council to collectively decide what some priorities should be for developing new trails without taking cost into account. After options are agreed upon, then look for potential funding options.
- Fletcher would like to see a plan for getting around the south side of Lake Vadnais.
- There was discussion of how to currently get around the south side of Lake Vadnais along Vadnais Boulevard.
- Watson noted that a potential trail along Vadnais Boulevard would require putting sidewalk on and working with three properties in Little Canada.
- It was noted that if there was enough room in the right-of-way, the city would work with Ramsey County.
- There was discussion of utilizing a city owned parcel on the south side of Vadnais Boulevard.
- Watson explained that there are many challenges along the south side of Vadnais Boulevard due to some areas having a lot of elevation change.
- There was discussion of how many times and where people would have to cross over Vadnais Boulevard to make a trail work and connect with the existing trail on the west side of the lake.
- Johnson stated his number one priority would also be to create a loop around Vadnais Lake.
- Gunderson has concerns regarding safety along Koehler Road from Centerville Road to Edgerton Street, as well as along Koehler Road from Edgerton Street to McMenemy Street. Many kids walk along Koehler Road between Centerville Road and Edgerton Street as it is close to the elementary school.
- Wall mentioned looking at Safe Routes for Schools as an option for funding that section along Koehler Road.
- Fletcher noted that putting a trail in the right of way along the north side of Koehler Road from Centerville Road to Edgerton Street has been discussed before. There is a lot of difficulty along that road.
- Gunderson asked about widening Koehler Road.

- Fletcher noted there is much more space along south side of Koehler Road from Edgerton Street to Searle Court.
- Fletcher stated that a trail along Koehler Road from Edgerton Street to Centerville Road would also help to connect people that wanted to walk or bike to City Center.
- It was decided that the western portion of Koehler Road from McMenemy Street to Edgerton Street was important to look at as well because the curve onto McMenemy can be dangerous.
- Wall mentioned taking the existing utility pole locations into account when deciding which side of the road to put a trail on.
- Nyblom believes that more people would be in favor of a three-foot wide sidewalk vs an eight-foot wide trail along Koehler Road.
- Nyblom would also like to look at putting a trail along Clover Avenue from Stockdale Road to County Road F. It is a very narrow street.
- Johnson would like information from Vадnais Elementary on how many kids walk Koehler Road to and from school.
- Graham stated that when Clover Avenue was redone adding curb or a sidewalk was discussed but never materialized.
- Fletcher noted that the city owns right-of-way from where Edgerton Street turns into Stockdale Road north to County Road F. He would like to look at this as an option as well. One issue with this area is that there is a swamp area that would need to be crossed.
- Watson mentioned that there is a city-maintained easement at the east end of Kaitlin Drive where a potential trail could go north to connect to the Greenhaven neighborhood.
- Nyblom stated that his number one priority would be to get a trail along Koehler Road between Centerville Road and Edgerton Street.
- Nyblom asked if getting a trail along the south side of Vадnais Lake should be a cooperative effort as it is part of a county trail system.
- Watson explained that Ramsey County could partner with the city on a trail around the south side of Vадnais Lake.
- Urban added that he believes that section would be a good candidate for Legacy funding from the state legislature.
- Gunderson stated that her priorities were Koehler Road from Centerville Road to Edgerton Street, followed by the western portion of Koehler Road between McMenemy Street and Edgerton Street, and then creating a loop around Vадnais Lake.
- Johnson stated his priorities were creating a trail around the south side of Vадnais Lake, the western portion of Koehler Road between McMenemy Street and Edgerton Street, and then Koehler Road between Centerville Road and Edgerton Street.
- Council Consensus top three sections to look at getting a plan for were: Koehler Road from Centerville Road to Edgerton Street, completing the loop around Vадnais Lake, and the western portion of Koehler Road between McMenemy Street and Edgerton Street, though not in any particular order of importance.
- Staff will meet with the Park, Recreation, and Trails Commission to gather their feedback.

Adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Prepared for and approved by:

Attest:

Kevin Watson, City Administrator

Bob Fletcher, Mayor