

Minutes

Kachemak Drive Path Committee Meeting

March 18, 2011

Friday, 5:30 Cowles Council Chamber

Submitted by Dave Brann

Meeting called to order at 5:34 pm

Comm. members present: Joe Litchfield, Beth Cummings, Bumppo Bremicker, Dave Brann, Dave Clemens, Ingrid Harrald

Comm. Members absent: Linn Burt

Agenda approved

Minutes approved

Public comments:

A concern expressed about the safety of having one or more crossings of Kachemak Drive. Support for widened shoulders, striped or painted with adequate signage as best choice.

Another person suggested the idea of a push button crossing light at Kachemak Drive and East End Rd.

Pending Business

Path Location Options-one suggestion to have two road crossings in order to avoid numerous driveways and businesses on west side of K. Dr., esp. in area of boat yard.

Much discussion on idea of wide shoulder option with questions about minimum desired widths for safety of cyclists. Examples of bike path, bike lane and widened shoulder from the Homer Non-motorized Trails Plan were shared as well as diagrams of how those options might look. Noted that a wide shoulder path wouldn't be safe for young children. Safety for all concerned continues to be a major topic.

Brief discussion of cost using 1.5 million per mile for separated path. So a 3.7 mile trail could cost 5-6 million dollars. No one envisions that scope of a project at this point. All agree much can be done with volunteer effort, both in building a trail and maintaining it.

More discussion on widened shoulder options, a drawn diagram on a flip chart clarified the idea of narrowing the travel lanes to 10-10 ½ feet, repainting the fog lines, paving the existing shoulder (not widening the road) to create a 2, 3, or 4 foot paved shoulder. The Florida bike path project with painted shoulders was mentioned as an idea to look at.

Discussion moved to a separated pedestrian/bike path from the end of the spit to the beach access road across from the airport. Path suggested to be a recreational pedestrian / bike path. Possibly using dredge materials to fill section along the beginning, adjacent to the road, perhaps 300 ft. It was suggested that the rest of the trail be developed above the tide line but below the tree line. The total length of this section would be approx. 2400 ft. It was stated the trail would have to be above the 26 ft. tide line (according to Carey Meyer as per conversation with a committee member) and therefore it would also be out of the Critical Habitat Zone. Committee member Cumming wanted support of committee to continue doing research on the separated path along the beach. The committee agreed research should continue.

A suggested outline of steps would be:

1. Walk the proposed route
2. Flag the proposed route

3. Pay to have the proposed route surveyed
4. Use volunteers to cut brush

Concerns were raised about doing things without city approval, it was mentioned that the city has a trails guideline manual which needs to be followed including ADA guidelines. It was noted the Lease Committee might have to way in on use of the land and the City Council would have to give final approval.

It was agreed that the widened shoulder type of bike path and a separated pedestrian / bike path are not exclusive, that both can and should be pursued. It was agreed that the widened shoulder might be the cheapest and quickest option. It was agreed by consensus the repainting road lines and perhaps paving shoulders would be a good first option to pursue.

Who is going to do what?

Ingrid and Dave B. will continue to try to contact Regional Planner from DOT

Dave C. will get together with Kevin Walker to talk engineering, roads etc.

Beth will continue to research obtaining dredge spoils and what needs to be done to create a separated path along the shoreline.

Ingrid asked each group to write up their findings to include in the next packet.

There was a brief discussion of the Public information meeting to be held the first week of June. Committee should have fleshed out ideas and be able to provide options to the public and to be able to answer the many questions / concerns that will be brought up.

As per request, meeting dates were set for Thursday, April 21 at 5:30 and Wednesday, May 11 at 5:30.

Comments from the audience; Pursue a happy medium. Look at getting shoulder paving done when a batch plant is in town doing other road projects. It was noted that dredge materials will be moving off the spit, perhaps even sold.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm