

City of Poulsbo

Mary McCluskey, Parks and Recreation



Poulsbo Urban Trail Plan

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 13, 2011; Poulsbo City Council Chambers, 6:00 pm

Present: Bruce Ramsey (Kitsap Volkssporters), Edie Lau (resident, user), Kate Nunes (resident, user), Barbara Smithson (health profession) Linda Berry-Maraist (City Council), Alyse Nelson (Planning Department), Ryan Farncomb (Engineering Department), Alex Stone (National Park Service), Mayor Erickson, Mary McCluskey (Poulsbo Parks and Recreation)

Molly Lee and Jan Wold, residents

1) Recap of agency and public review

Mary reviewed progress with the review of the trails plan since September. There were citizen comments, but no outside agency comments. The plan had been sent to a variety of agencies including the Suquamish Tribe, Wa Dept of Fish and Wildlife, WSDOT, Community Trade and Economic Council, Recreation & Conservation Office and more.

The Parks and Recreation Commission and Planning Commission also reviewed the plan. Both were supportive, and had some good comments, most which staff has already incorporated into the draft plan. There were citizen comments regarding the environmental concerns of putting a trail through an environmentally sensitive area.

The City Council was also complimentary of the plan. At least one council member had concerns about the sensitive nature of Johnson Creek, and the placement of the pink conceptual line through Johnson Creek. He asked that the committee look into any possible alternatives to the plan.

The trails committee had discussion on these pink conceptual lines on the trails map, and what they really meant. To the committee members, these lines represent possible connections in different areas where there are many unknown factors. Most of these pink lines go over private property, and it is well documented that no trail will be built if the private property owner does not want it there. Conceptual lines are used for planning purposes.

Mary Carter commented that the citizen survey indicated people want to walk in a pleasant environment; and to only use sidewalks when it is necessary. A forested experience is different that a street experience, and Poulsbo will have both.

There was talk about a right-of-way piece that runs between Cedar Lane and Liberty Road. If that is the city's ROW, it would add a known piece to the trail. The mayor also reported that she has asked planning and public works to research all utility easements or ROWs so the committee can consider them for the plan.

2) Alternate conceptual trail – West Poulsbo

After some discussion by the committee, it was agreed that the West Poulsbo/Johnson Creek conceptual line could be moved out of the buffer area in order to alleviate environmental concerns.

3) New Maps

Following a suggestion from the planning commission that the maps were too small, Alyse was able to split the city into 3 areas, add 20' contour lines, add hill-shade, and do a blow up of each section so it is easier to read.

She may also try an aerial as the backdrop of the main overall map. The committee really liked the new look, and felt that the colored maps were best. Alyse will make the few changes that have been discussed.

4) Moving forward and reorganization of the Trails Committee

After some discussion, it was agreed that the Trails Committee should get together quarterly, as there are still things to do, events to plan and budget recommendations to make each year. Mary will set this up.

5) National Trails Day – Saturday, June 4

Mary will get a group together to plan an event.

6) Celebrate!

Thanks was made all around – to Alex and the NPS, to staff, and to citizens who work hard on this plan for 25 months.

Poulsbo Trails Vision Statement

The Poulsbo trail system embodies the community spirit that distinguishes our city, linking the places we live, learn, work, play and find inspiration. Trails reconnect us to ourselves, and lead people of all ages and abilities to greater health and self-sufficiency. Our trails, like branches, support Poulsbo and reach out to connect neighbor to neighbor; land to water; people to nature; homes to businesses; city to countryside; and Poulsbo's history to our future