

Open Space and Recreation, Natural, Cultural, and Historic Resources
Master Plan Subcommittee Minutes
August 8th, 2023
Meeting held at the Municipal Building
Room 205, 2nd Floor
355 East Central Street 7:00 PM

At NOTE to Residents: All citizens are welcome to attend public board and committee meetings in person. Additionally, citizens will be able to continue to participate via phone or ZOOM.

Committee Members in Attendance: Chair Meghann Hagen, Glenn Jones, Rick Power, and Melanie Hamblen; Meghann Hagen

Others in Attendance: Roger Trahan, Chair to the Agricultural Commission

Via Zoom: Breeka Li Goodlander, Ginelle Lang and Patty Booker

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 by Chair Hagen.

Introduction and goals were reviewed. Starting with the OSRP from 2020, then changed to the review from 2016:

Goal 1: Leave in Increasing Public Awareness of Open Space.

1.3 Create & Implement Ample Sign Plan – especially on the Common. Member Hamblen suggested Be creative; color coded; Here's to get Maps; QR Codes. Member Hagen agreed.

1.4 Member Hagen to keep in Objectives for Outdoor Classroom; Education and Natural History Especially with Schmitt Farm. Member Goodlander added that Renovations to Sculpture Park in plans because Tri-County Science like to take students there for Outdoor Classroom. Also Member Hamblen suggested Future programs for Friends of Franklin Conservation Group; could use help with upcoming Maple Hill and Schmitt Farm

Goal 2: Preserve and Protecting Open Space land. Member Hamblen said this has been met. CPA funds Increase from 2% to 3% and public survey was positive. How to interest younger generation, Member Hagen is looking to Instagram. Positive feedback from public at Farmers Market.

2.2 Promote and protect soil, environment. DPW has put in a lot of work. Member Hamblen brought up Re-habitat and Restoration.

2.3 Preserve Natural Resources

2.4 Protect Land. Member Goodlander mentioned Chapter 61 and it is all positive

3.1 Maximize Open Space, Member Hagen brought up topics of Changes to different Age Groups and a lot of new activities. King Street Playground updates for 2024.

3.2 Interest in Braille and other disabled/special ability groups being represented.

3.3 Increase accessibility and parking in all public areas, including more bikes racks. Member Hagen will see if DPW grant was used. SNETT needs expanded parking. Skyline drive would like sidewalks to get to Riverbend mentioned Member Hamblen. DelCorte has overflow parking - need to find a way to let people know.

3.4 Provide a playground or walkable way to one on foot or bike; members will continue this discussion.

3.5 Ryan Jette just completed a great report OSRP Wildlife and Recreation Use. DCR made improvements on Grove Street.

Goal 4: Sustainability. Member Hagen asked about the Nason St Playground and will check with Ryan Jette.

4.2 Incorporate Shade trees. Member Hagen to follow up with Derek Adams on Tree City USA status and Legacy Tree program and where these fit in.

4.3 Recycle events. Member Hagen said we have met with goal.

Goal 5 Implement goals with Section 9 of OSRP.

Goal 6 Work to obtain funding. Member Hagen reviewed the next items.

6.1 Update to have a goal of increasing CPA to 3%.

6.2 Green Space Achieved.

6.3 Investigate Grant Programs ongoing.

6.4 List of Partnerships Non-Profits and other company. Member Hagen will check with Lily for current status, but likely ongoing.

Next meeting will be in September after the September 6 Town Council meeting.

Meeting concluded at 8:40 by Chair Hagen and seconded by Member Hamblen.