

Columbia City Council Pre-Council Minutes

Tuesday, January 22, 2013 6:00 p.m.

City Hall – Conference Room 1A/1B

701 East Broadway

Council members present: Mayor McDavid, Fred Schmidt, Mike Trapp, Gary Kespohl, Daryl Dudley and Barbara Hoppe

Absent: None

Mayor McDavid called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor McDavid made a motion for the City Council of the City of Columbia, Missouri, to hold a closed meeting in Conference Room 1A/1B of City Hall, 701 E. Broadway, Columbia, Missouri, at approximately 6:30 p.m. to discuss the purchase or sale of real estate as authorized by Section 610.021 (2) of the Revised Statutes of Missouri. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kespohl.

The motion was approved and recorded as follows: VOTING YES: MCDAVID, SCHMIDT, TRAPP, KEPHOHL, DUDLEY, HOPPE. VOTING NO: NO ONE.

Grindstone Trail:

Mike Hood and Mike Griggs, Director and Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation, provided options on the Grindstone Trail which will be an item on the regular council agenda in the future.

Mr. Hood noted that Phase I was a \$1.57 Million dollar project identified in 2010 through the Park Sales Tax ballot issue and was a voter approved ballot issue from November 2010.

All State Consultants looked at 10 initial routes before narrowing down to five routes, which would align and route a trail from Grindstone to Maguire Blvd. Alternate routes were considered and the engineering study recommendation was that the orange route was safest, the most accessible to the broadest range of users and the most likely to encourage frequent use. Based on the original recommendation, the route would fall on City, Homeowner Association common land, University of Missouri, MODot, Business and Private properties. Staff asked if there was a way to avoid the trail passing through private lots, and engineers indicated a second route, which would move the trail a few feet south, taking it off the private land and onto Bluff Creek Estates Common area. Cost analysis showed that this would be a breakeven cost.

Mr. Hood noted that an environmental assessment is only required by the EPA for projects using federal funds, which this one did not. The consultants still assessed environmental impacts noting 70% of the proposed orange route alignment would be in already disturbed land, 50% of the proposed violet

alignment or 81% of the proposed alternate blue alignment would be along existing sewer easements or other infrastructure. The proposed routes would comply with environmental laws as the project proceeds.

Mr. Hood added that the funding for the recommended route now exceeds budget by \$600,000. Options for funding include; using park staff to construct the trail and contract the bridges, transfer fund balance from the Hominy Trail Project (about \$275-\$300,000), construct gravel trail instead of concrete, utilize Park Sales Tax contingency funds or a combination of all options.

Mr. Hood continued to explain that there was a Public Input Meeting in early August 2012 as well as an online survey. 63 response cards were filled out at the Interested Parties Meeting at Waters-Moss and 20 online surveys were submitted. Of those, 55 approved the Grindstone Trail and 28 opposed.

Mr. Hood noted that Council had requested Commission feedback on the project and they were to provide Council with feedback as to whether the Commission supports the concept of deferring the Grindstone trail project and utilizing its funding to assist in completing high priority projects identified through the GetAbout Planning process; as well as provide Council any feedback they might have in regard to the preferred priority order of the nine projects being considered for funding. These issues were reviewed by the Bike and Ped, Disability, Environment and Energy and Parks and Recreation Commissions with results of three opposing and one in support. Commissions that voted "no" supported funding the Grindstone Creek Trail as proposed.

Based on Commission feedback, the priority project list shifted somewhat. The five projects that could be funded included; Hinkson Trail: Conley, Clark Lane Sidewalk East, County House Trail West, Clark Lane Sidewalk West, Shepard-Rollins East-West.

Mayor McDavid felt that since the trail could be moved off private property, then this new option should be sufficient for favorable approval.

Council Member Dudley suggested that there could be a potential problem with the trail being underwater at times since it would be close to the creek. Council Member Hoppe added that Bluff Creek is strongly opposed to having the trail on the proposed common ground and even though the trail may not be on the Baker property, it would still impact their view and privacy. Mr. Baker is not in favor of the new trail off his property.

Mr. Hood added that some trees would be removed and others replanted as usual practice. Council Member Schmidt felt that asking for common ground seemed more appropriate than asking for a private backyard.

Mr. Hood explained the Council options at this time. Council could discuss the Grindstone Creek Trail and GetAbout issues separately; approve the entire Grindstone Creek Trail Project as recommended; approve a portion of Grindstone Creek Trail Project and defer remaining balance to GetAbout Projects; (This could be done two ways: Connect Waters-Moss to Grindstone Nature Area. Estimated cost: \$600,000 or Connect east end of trail from Maguire to

Hollywood. Estimated cost: \$687,000) or approve deferring all funds from Grindstone Creek Trail project to GetAbout Projects.

Mr. Hood. Explained that the next steps will consist of a formal report to Council bringing all Commissions recommendations to Council and have a Public Hearing on the Grindstone Trail project, at which time Council could direct staff on how to proceed. Mr. Hood also suggested skipping on directly to the Public Hearing without formal report from Commissions. The Council agreed that a formal report was preferred.

A link to the entire presentation can be viewed here:

<http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Council/Commissions/downloadfile.php?id=7863>

Real Estate Transaction:

This portion of the meeting was **closed** to the public to discuss the purchase or sale of real estate pursuant to the provisions of Section 610.021 (2) RSMo.

Other Topics Council Wishes to Discuss:

None.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:58 PM.