



## CITY OF ELK GROVE TRAILS COMMITTEE

### Committee Members:

Mark Mendenhall, Chair | Sharon Anderson, Vice Chair  
Timothy Jordan | Merwin Rose | Steve Zehnder

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**Regular Meeting of the Trails Committee**  
**Monday, November 19, 2007 at 6:30 p.m.**  
**City Council Chambers, Elk Grove City Hall, 8400 Laguna Palms Way, Elk Grove, CA**

### MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:** Chair Mendenhall called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM with Committee Member Zehnder absent.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:**

Ralph Torres, a member of the public, expressed concern about deteriorating, disconnected, dead end, and disappearing bike lanes in Elk Grove, especially along Bruceville Road between Elk Grove Boulevard and Laguna Boulevard and along Waterman Road south of Bond Road. He noted the difference between recreational bicycle riders and bicycle riders concerned with speed and stated that trails are no substitute for bike lanes. He requested the Trails Committee designate bicycle and pedestrian routes by the expected speed of the user along that route. The Committee explained that the City was developing a plan to replace the Bruceville Road bike lanes with off-street trails on both sides of Bruceville Road and that the bike lanes along Waterman Road south of Bond Road would be installed with the widening of Waterman Road.

John Smoley, Planning, reported back on three questions raised at the October meeting of the Trails Committee. In the vicinity of the proposed Sutter hospital on Big Horn Boulevard, Mr. Smoley noted that David Yatabe, the City's Traffic Engineer, stated that the location of traffic lights at Monetta Drive and Village Tree Drive are close enough to the planned trail crossing of Big Horn Boulevard just south of Long Leaf Drive to route trail users to one of those two signalized intersections. Should trail use become heavy enough, the City could contemplate some sort of trail crossing directly across Big Horn Boulevard where the planned trail intersects this road. Mr. Smoley then stated that the E-Tran bus bench placed in the middle of the trail along Franklin Boulevard just north of Blossom Ridge Road would be moved to one side of the trail. Finally, Mr. Smoley noted that the Planning Director determined that the planned trail along Bradshaw Road was most appropriately located on the western side of the road.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion: Approve the agenda of the November 19, 2007 Trails Committee meeting.

Action: Mendenhall/Jordan, 4/0/0

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion: Approve the minutes of the October 15, 2007 Trails Committee meeting.

Action: Mendenhall/Jordan, 4/0/0

**5. PROJECT UPDATES AND STAFF REPORTS**

A.

Application Number: EG-07-132  
Application Title: Jones Family Park Metro PCS Monopine Conditional Use Permit  
Assessor's Parcel Number: 115-0170-085-0000  
Property Address/Location: 8840 Shasta Lily Drive, Elk Grove, CA. 95624  
Project Description: Applicant requesting a Conditional Use Permit to install, operate, and maintain a 70' tall monopine design tower with 15' x 25' lease area. The lease area will be located near the parks northeast corner. Kyra O'Malley is the project planner.

The Trails Committee had no comment on this project.

B. Pave at Water Basin, Tributary at Stonebrook (Trails Master Plan Priority Trail Project J) – Stephen Jackson, Public Works, will solicit Committee input on this City project.

Motion: Construct a paved 10' wide asphalt trail along the entire length of the project. Improve the street crossing, especially on the eastern side, to eliminate poles and other obstructions in the trail. Install devices to slow both vehicular and bicycle traffic at the intersection. Decomposed granite is an appropriate trail shoulder surface material.

Action: Mendenhall/Anderson 4/0/0

C.

Application Number: EG-07-100  
Application Title: New Parish Catholic Church  
Assessor's Parcel Number: 121-0220-008  
Property Address/Location: 8800 Bradshaw Road; The project site is located on the west side of Bradshaw Rd, approximately 200 yards north of the intersection of Bradshaw Rd and Sheldon Rd.  
Project Description: The project consists of a Conditional Use Permit and Design Review to construct and operate a Catholic Parish in the AR-5 zone. The project is proposed to be constructed in 3 phases: Phase 1) a 600 seat building and a 4 bedroom Rectory along with associated parking and landscaping; Phase 2) 1-story K-8 elementary school along with playfields; Phase 3) final build-out of main church (1200 seats total ) and additional parking. Sarah Kirchgessner is the project planner.

Motion: Construct an off-street, bicycle-pedestrian-equestrian trail to the standards of the Trails Master Plan running north and south along the projects frontage on the western side of Bradshaw Road. The trail may take the place of the planned sidewalk.

Action: Mendenhall/Rose 4/0/0

D. Annual Report of Committees – Kara Myers, Assistant to the City Manager, requested input from the Trails Committee on the Annual Report of Committees to be prepared for City Council. She asked the committee to work with their staff liaison to develop a list of accomplishments listed in bullet form. The Committee noted that it wished to focus the City Council's attention on future actions, rather than past accomplishments, in light of major setbacks the Committee feels trails in Elk Grove have suffered during the past few months. Ms. Myers noted that the report could include a goals section. She stated the tentative date to present these reports to the City Council was February 13, 2008. The Committee agreed to work with their staff liaison to prepare this list, but indicated they wished to improve their communication with City Council in ways beyond this.

- E. Trails Committee Communication – Christine Crawford, Planning Director, requested input from the Trails Committee on improving Trails Committee communication with staff, the Planning Commission, and City Council.

The Committee expressed their concerns that the City's specific plans, which supersede master plans such as the Trails Master Plan, do not meet the intent in the Trails Master Plan in providing trails for uses beyond recreational activities. The Trails Master Plan states that trails should connect residential areas with schools, shopping, workplaces, and other high-use destinations. Trails along creeks, coupled with bike lanes along multi-lane roads with high volumes of vehicular traffic simply provide too few routes. Chair Mendenhall used the example of the Elk Grove Promenade, noting that the Lent Ranch Special Planning Area was 295 acres big, that the mall was 1/3 of this size (107 acres), that the mall alone would contain 5,200 parking spaces, and the special planning area would contain an estimated 12,000 parking spaces. He noted how easily it could become Arden Way, given the lack of off-street trails in the Lent Ranch Special Planning Area.

The Committee also used the Southeast Area Specific Plan and Sterling Meadows as examples of limited off-street trails oriented along creeks as nice for recreation but decidedly lacking in meeting the standards of the Trails Master Plan related to off-street connections from residences to schools, shopping, workplaces, and other high-use destinations. Chair Mendenhall pointed out that the vast majority of land around creeks in Elk Grove is designated for residential, not commercial development.

Chair Mendenhall went on to say that expanding sidewalks that are not well used along major roads (often due to their long stretches with few pedestrian exit and entrance opportunities) into trails is one way the City could meet the intent of the Trails Master Plan, since long distances are far less of an issue for cyclists. He also felt it is not too late to convince the mall developer to do the same with planned sidewalks in that special planning area. Ms. Crawford agreed that this might be a possibility. John Smoley, Planning, noted that the Trails Committee had suggested this previously and that they had been told that the Elk Grove Promenade's infrastructure plans had been completed long ago and could not be altered.

Ms. Crawford noted that staff could require developers to install trails if those planned trails were indicated on the Trails Master Plan map, even if the planned trail locations had to be adjusted. She asked why trails in these three areas the Committee noted were not depicted on the Trails Master Plan Map. The Committee stated that they were told by staff to wait until the Southeast Area Specific Plan, Promenade project, and Sterling Meadows project were sent to them for review before making specific requests related to trails in these areas. The Committee also noted that designating planned trails on the Trails Master Plan map does not always permit the committee to connect specific land uses like residences with schools, workplaces, etc. Mr. Smoley noted that the Trails Master Plan states that the Trails Committee may amend the Trails Master Plan map and that the Trails Committee could do that.

Ms. Crawford stated that she would like to explore these issues further and report back to the Committee at a later date. The Committee requested review of the Southeast Area Specific Plan at their December meeting, stating that they would consider ways to address these issues in light of the specific plan development review process.

- F. Safe Routes to School Grant Project Update – Gary Grunwald, Public Works updated the Committee on the status of this project. He stated that the existing trail would remain in place during the bridge construction and that the trail would be extended to the bridge east of the current crossing. He presented a site plan and bridge specifications, stating that the bridge structure would be six feet high from the concrete deck to the top of the structure and twelve feet wide. Committee members inquired as to why the deck would be made of concrete than wood. Mr. Grunwald indicated that, while concrete was a more expensive material, it was easier for

maintenance and persons with disabilities. He also noted that the existing low-water crossing would be demolished and the creek restored. The total cost of the project would be \$1.5 million, with \$450,000 of that coming from the Safe Routes to School grant awarded to the City. Mr. Grunwald indicated he would report back to the Committee with additional updates in the future.

- G. Rail Stop Project (southwest corner of Elk Grove-Florin Road and Sheldon Road) - Gary Grunwald, Public Works updated the Committee on the status of this project. He noted that the planned trail will be routed under the existing railroad bridge. This may require the trail have a sump pump to keep the trail free of water. It may also require a fence over the top of the trail to prevent debris from falling down onto trail users from the railroad tracks above. Based upon the City's current estimates, the trail will be flooded by a storm once every ten years. Mr. Grunwald indicated he would report back to the Committee with additional updates in the future.
- H. Operational Improvement Project at Elk Grove-Florin Rd. and Elk Grove Blvd. - Gary Grunwald, Public Works requested input from the Committee on the planned reconfiguration of vehicle and bicycle lanes at this intersection. He noted that the project would result in an increase in vehicular lanes, but that all lanes would be narrower than the ones that currently exist. He noted that there would be no change in the locations of current bike lanes, but that those would also narrow. The Committee and members of the public requested staff do a better job preventing parents from illegally parking in front of Kerr Middle School (blocking the bike lane) when dropping off and picking up their children from school. The Committee also requested staff remove all utility poles from the sidewalks at that intersection.

**6. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' FORUM**

N/A

**7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- A. Review of the Southeast Area Specific Plan

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned around 9 PM.

**ADA COMPLIANCE STATEMENT**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Planning Commission Secretary Laura Gray at (916) 478-3620. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to his meeting.

Information on the Elk Grove Trails Committee is available on the Internet, at <http://www.egplanning.org/trails/>