



CITY OF ELK GROVE TRAILS COMMITTEE

Committee Members:

Mark Mendenhall, Chair | Sharon Anderson, Vice Chair
Lisa Dixon | Timothy Jordan | Steve Zehnder

Regular Meeting of the Trails Committee

Monday, March 19, 2007 at 6:30 p.m.

City Council Chambers, Elk Grove City Hall, 8400 Laguna Palms Way, Elk Grove, CA 95758

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:** Mark Mendenhall called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM with Lisa Dixon absent, arriving at 6:45 PM.

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

On Wednesday, March 14, City Council Member Gary Davis appointed Timothy Jordan to take the place of Merwin Rose on the Trails Committee. Chair Mendenhall presented a plaque to Merwin Rose on behalf of the Trails Committee in appreciation for his nearly five years of service to Elk Grove on the Trails Committee, dating back to the Committee's inception. Chair Mendenhall then welcomed Timothy Jordan to the Committee.

Sherri Hatch and Woody Schoen, members of the public, introduced themselves and stated their desire to volunteer in some manner that will help improve trails in Elk Grove. John Smoley, Planning, noted that opportunities for researching and writing grants existed, but staff was trying to sort out liability issues before enlisting the help of these volunteers.

Nancy Myers, member of the public, informed the Committee that the Central Valley Rails to Trails Trailfest is scheduled to be held on May 19, 2007 in Wilton. Proceeds will help fund the conversion of the Central California Traction rail corridor from a railroad to a multi-use trail, one portion of which runs through the northeastern portion of Elk Grove. Details are available at <http://www.cvrta.org/>.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion: Approve the minutes of the Trails Committee Meeting of February 26, 2006.

Action: Anderson/Zehnder, 4/0/0

4. **PROJECT UPDATES AND STAFF REPORTS**

A.

Application Number: **EG-06-1146**
Application Title: Stonebridge Rezone and Tentative Subdivision Map
Assessor's Parcel Number: 127-0010-077
Property: 9350 Sheldon Road (SE corner of Sheldon and Waterman)
Address/Location:
Project Description: **This is a revised submittal for this application. The applicant has responded to agency comments both on the map and in writing and has included proposed subdivision of the eastern half of the site.** A revised project description is provided below and attached.

The applicant proposes to rezone the site from AG-80 to AR-5 and AR-2.

The applicant proposes to subdivide the westerly portion of the site into 8 single-family lots with a minimum lot size of 5-acres gross each and 1 open

space lot. East of Upper Laguna Creek, 21 single-family lots with a minimum lot size of 2-acres gross each are proposed. The open space lot provides a buffer between Upper Laguna Creek and Elk Grove Parks and Trails Master Plan. Trails have been conceptually illustrated on the Tentative Map, within the open space lot. The approximately 22-acre open space lot will be dedicated to the City; therefore, trails and mitigation or habitat enhancement will be at the discretion of the City.

The applicant has revised the application and Tentative Map to show the existing 100-year FEMA Floodplain.
Christopher Jordan is the project planner.

Motion: Provide a bicycle/pedestrian/equestrian bridge across Laguna Creek along Sandage Road to connect to the Powerline Trail and the Vintara Park trail on the western side of Waterman Road. Construct the north-south trail along Laguna Creek and the north-south trail along the Powerline corridor, or simply construct the trail along Laguna Creek and ensure the trail splits at the northern and southern ends to connect with existing trails along the Powerline and creek corridors. Construct an east-west trail connecting the Laguna Creek and Powerline (if applicable) trails with the Vintara Park trail on the western side of Waterman Road. Return to the Trails Committee for further comments when additional Capital Improvement Project information is available to better plan the trail configuration relative to roads and creeks.

Action: Dixon/Zehnder 5/0/0

B.

Application Number: EG-00-130
Application Title: Sterling Meadows
Assessor's Parcel Number: 132-0152-001
Property Address/Location: southwest of State Highway 99 and north of Kammerer Road.
Project Description: **This is a resubmittal** – The applicant proposes subdividing the property to develop 980 single family lots and associated parks. The resubmittal features:

- 1) Increased park sites for a total of 26.9± acres of parkland. Park location and street circulation has been discussed in several past meetings. This map is consistent with those discussions.
- 2) Introduction of a courtyard house product that places higher density residential land use along the east side of the project and places a single-loaded street next to the planned commercial property to the east.
- 3) Included a 1.7 acre fire station site along Lotz Parkway. This station location and design is consistent with several meetings with City staff and CCSD.
- 4) Single family lot count increased to 980 lots.

Christine Crawford is the project planner.

Motion: Construct east-west off-street bicycle/pedestrian trails along Bilby and Kammerer Roads from the eastern border of the project through the western border to link up with trails in the Elk Grove Promenade and the Southeast Area Specific Plan. These Trails would replace proposed sidewalks in the landscape corridor and should be 10' wide. Provide a north-south off street parkway/greenbelt with a bicycle/pedestrian trail connecting all planned parks to and through the northern and southern boundaries of the project adjacent to G Drive. Minimize street crossings of this north-south trail, substituting cul-de-sacs that end with access points to this trail rather than the planned roads that will bisect the parkway/greenbelt and trail. Create a grade-separated crossing that permits this trail to safely pass under or over Bilby Road in a cost-effective manner. Create a north-south off-street bicycle/pedestrian trail along Lotz Parkway. Ensure buildings facing trails have enhanced elevations.

Extend the north-south trail easement from the northern park through the residential lots to the northern border of the project. The Committee requests the Planning Department further examine trails in this area of the City.

Action: Mendenhall/Dixon 5/0/0

C. Public Works' preferred drainage access road cross section.

Doug Gault, head of the Water Resources Section of the Public Works Department, presented the standard drainage access road cross section: a 16' wide paved road with 2' gravel shoulders. He explained the reasons for this, noting that some Public Works service vehicles are 8.5' wide and 22' long and may need to pass each other on these roads, also designated to serve as multi-use trails. Additionally, he noted that backhoes may need to turn and face the creek. This standard is for new development. Applicants must install drainage access roads to these standards, though grants for trail construction would not have to provide trails wider than those required by the Trails Master Plan. Additionally, in narrow drainage access road corridors already surrounded by development the road can be narrower. The drainage access road must be out of the 100 year flood plain, though the trail need not be, thus there should be plenty of room for equestrian trails between drainage access roads and the creek they border.

5. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' FORUM

- A. Chair Mendenhall's Item: Identify priority projects to guide Trails Committee efforts (beyond review of proposed development) now that the Trails Master Plan has been adopted. Potential projects identified by the Trails Committee include:
- i. Focus on completing segments of the Powerline Trail not likely to be completed by developers.
 - ii. Focus on consistent signage for bike routes, possibly leading to the development of a map and trail route numbering system.
 - iii. Work more closely with the CSD to develop trails. This could involve working together to construct critical creek crossings and offering to advise the CSD on development of the trails portion of their proposed Parks Master Plan.
 - iv. Do more to connect City trails with the excellent trail network in the Southgate neighborhood just north of Calvine Road.
 - v. Consider using unused road widening funds to build trails or consider initiating a trails fee every development application would have to pay, rather than the current practice of requiring only developers with planned trails on their property to fund trail construction.
 - vi. Mark traffic sensors on every left turn lane in Elk Grove to enable cyclists to see exactly where they need to position their bicycles to trip the signal.
 - vii. Organize a Bike to Work Day/Week/Month activity (in conjunction with National Bike to Work Month every May) event to build support for trails, educate the public about Elk Grove's trails, and identify volunteer opportunities related to trails.
 - viii. Send Trails Committee representatives to speak at local schools and organize bike/walk to school days to promote bicycling and walking as healthy habits akin to candy and soda machine reductions in progress in some schools.

Chair Mendenhall requested the Committee deal with this item at the next meeting due to time constraints. Committee member Dixon noted her desire to pursue item ii (signage) at the next meeting. Committee member Anderson requested the Committee discuss item vii (Bike to Work Month activity) immediately since May was drawing close. A general discussion ensued, with recommended Bike to Work month activities including a City newsletter item encouraging people to participate in Bike to Work Month, a press release with a link to the Sacramento Commuter Club, and partnering with local schools & restaurants for an event. Committee member Anderson requested Committee members send her ideas for presentation to the City Council for their consideration.

B. Chair Mendenhall's Item: Proposal to require drive-thrus permit pedestrians and cyclists.

After a general discussion, the Trails Committee and members of the public stated their support for this proposal and staff identified alternatives the Trails Committee could consider pursuing. The Committee then agreed to have Chair Mendenhall draft a letter requesting the City Council direct staff to preferably draft an ordinance or amend the Zoning Code requiring bicyclists, but not pedestrians, be permitted to use drive-thrus in Elk Grove.

C. Chair Mendenhall's Item: Proposal to create Bike and Trails position on city staff.

After a general discussion, the Trails Committee and members of the public stated their support for this proposal. The Committee then agreed to have Chair Mendenhall draft a letter requesting the City Council direct staff to devote one full-time staff position to oversee trail planning, funding, construction, and maintenance, if needed, noting the success communities like Davis and Folsom have had securing grant money for trails, developing an impressive trail network, garnering national trail/cycling awards, and enhancing tourism in their communities.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A. Chair Mendenhall's Committee Member's Forum Item: Identify priority projects to guide Trails Committee efforts (beyond review of proposed development) now that the Trails Master Plan has been adopted. Potential projects identified by the Trails Committee include:

- ix. Focus on completing segments of the Powerline Trail not likely to be completed by developers.
- x. Focus on consistent signage for bike routes, possibly leading to the development of a map and trail route numbering system.
- xi. Work more closely with the CSD and other applicable agencies (such as the Laguna Creek Watershed Council, Florin Resource Conservation District, etc.) to develop trails. This could involve working together to construct critical creek crossings and offering to advise the CSD on development of the trails portion of their proposed Parks Master Plan.
- xii. Do more to connect City trails with the excellent trail network in the Southgate neighborhood just north of Calvine Road.
- xiii. Consider using unused road widening funds to build trails or consider initiating a trails fee every development application would have to pay, rather than the current practice of requiring only developers with planned trails on their property to fund trail construction.
- xiv. Mark traffic sensors on every left turn lane in Elk Grove to enable cyclists to see exactly where they need to position their bicycles to trip the signal.
- xv. Organize a Bike to Work Day/Week/Month activity (in conjunction with National Bike to Work Month every May) event to build support for trails, educate the public about Elk Grove's trails, and identify volunteer opportunities related to trails.
- xvi. Send Trails Committee representatives to speak at local schools and organize bike/walk to school days to promote bicycling and walking as healthy habits akin to candy and soda machine reductions in progress in some schools.
- xvii. Work to add priority trail projects as needed.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 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 Melanie Ware at (916) 478-3621.

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/>