

MINUTES OF MEETING
Non-Motorized Trail Plan Update (NMTPU) Advisory Group
Island County Law & Justice Building, Rm 131, October 28, 2016

Attendance List

Tom Eisenberg	Connie Bowers
Pete Seybert	Sally Garrett
Steve Marx	Mel Trenor
Jessica Larson	Ron Michelsen
Jim McDavid	Krista Loercher
Don Iverson	Greg Richardson
	Paul Neumiller
	Via Phone: Theresa Metzger
	Via Email: Brian Dunnington

Facilitator

Brian Wood, IC Transportation Planner

The meeting began at approximately 9:00 AM.

Action Items:

- Set up next meeting date
- Collect feedback on “water” references needed for goals

Introduction/Backgrounds:

- Meeting participants shared a diverse set of backgrounds and many had an extensive history in Island County.
 - Four participants lived on Camano Island and 12 were residents of Whidbey
 - Two advisory participants had experience with prior versions of the NMTP
 - A broad range of outdoor activities were represented among the attendees and many participants had experience with multiple recreational outlets and locations within the Island County. Activities shared included:
 - Hiking, mountain biking, kayaking, road bicycling, fishing, crabbing, open water swimming, horseback riding, scuba diving, hunting, off-leash dog walking, beach walking, ADA trail use
 - Night recreational activity was also mentioned, highlighting a temporal component to trail planning?
- Favorite Island County locations were shared, including: Deception Pass, Ebey’s Bluff, Greenbank Farm, South Whidbey State Park, Possession Point, Double Bluff Beach, Robinson Beach, Onamac Beach, Terry’s Corner, Camano Ridge, Fort Ebey viewpoint

Advisory Group Role

An outline of the NMTPU Advisory Group role was presented as follows:

- This project is an update rather than a reworking and the primary elements, such as trail networks are established
- Water recreation opportunities do constitute a new element of the plan
- For the established trail systems the update might target
 - ways to make the system perform better
 - finding missing links that were overlooked in 2006
 - Examining some brand new opportunities (Barnum Point)

- Better specify 2016 best practices/requirements for proposed trails
- Advisory Group is one source of public input, other sources include a survey and open houses.
 - Advisory Group recommendations carry equal weight to other public contributions, but provide more focused input, help avoid missed details, and mitigate impact of a possible low open-house attendance.
- The consultant will help determine what is feasible
- County Commissioners will determine what ultimately goes forward.

Amended Goals

- NMTPU goals were reviewed, noting commissioner acceptance/lack of need for a full reworking.
- Need to insert “water” in some form was identified. Example modifications to Goal 1 and Goal 3 that might add the needed emphasis was presented:
 - Goal 1: “new and existing trails” becomes “new and existing trails (including water trails” and “public beach access” is listed among the encouraged facilities.
 - Goal 3: “posting and enforcement of rules” section adds “water activities”.
- Participants were asked to evaluate whether proposed modifications were adequate or if proposed changes covered the water element adequately.

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- Group members shared a big idea for outdoor recreation opportunities in Island County, including: foot ferry between the islands; bridge to boat trail along Whidbey’s State Route; amenities (trash, water, bathrooms, benches/gazebos) for linear park trails; detailed map of ADA Trail grades; ADA accessible beaches (vs just parking lots); water trails with camping opportunities; parking lot at Kettle’s rock quarry with bathrooms; beach access on Stillaguamish; bike lanes on Camano roadways; non-pavement space on multiuse trails for horse access; HWY 532 to Terry’s Corner trail; low speed bike path network so cyclists can avoid highways
- Outreach plans were also presented here:
 - Targeting the aging population with high accessibility to outdoor facilities
 - Building non-profits/volunteers/agency coalitions to make big picture ideas possible

\$10 project ideas

- Group members shared one smaller idea for improved non-motorized facilities, including: Parking space on 5-acre county property on Ivy Way; updated bike map with more Camano input & all trails (bike, horse, motorcycle); guide to port-a-potties for kayakers (including seasonal availability); QR codes for cell-phone scannable trail maps; social marketing campaign (signage to watch for cyclists/kayakers); engage community for social marketing (elementary kids design signage); half pave/half gravel trails; wayfinding signage/maps for “hidden gems”; multiuse map/brochure; move forward with prior project goals: bike tour map, water trail map, trails map, PNW trail support for equestrians; additional Cascadia Marine Trail kayak camp site on Whidbey Island, covered & secure bike parking at Clinton ferry terminal

Future meeting times

Future meetings will be positioned just prior to the first open house and one to two weeks prior to subsequent open houses.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM