

Minutes
Cow Pasture Stewardship Committee
July 18, 2024

In attendance: Chris Russo-Fraysier, Janette Shaffer, Jim Deshler, Mark Martin, Susan McDowell.

Guests: Greg Rouleau

1. **Call to Order:** 5:40 pm

2. **Adjustments to Agenda:** Council Representation, Dog Waste, ERSA Grant Reporting requirement and budget update.

3. **Agenda Items:**

Communication Agreement & Mission Statement – Reading

Approval of Minutes- 5-16-2024. All in favor motion passes.

Council Representation- Amanda Gustin will be the Committee's representative.

ERSA Update and Decisions:

Trail Assessment: The *Draft* is nearly completed. Zac is waiting for a resolution on boundary issues with side trail S3 so he can finalize maps.

Trail Work: Completion of the following final 3 projects will be completed by Zac this summer: Reroute a short section of S-3 between M1-1 and the new trail, open C-5 between the new trail and M1-3, and reroute the approach from C6-1 to C6-2. The Committee will be responsible for 5 trail maintenance components identified in the ERSA Grant Agreement but not explicitly identified in the RFP. The work was referenced in the RFP (Perform the Trail Stewardship requirements found in the ERSA Grant Agreement: Attachment A (specifically Section F). However, the 5 trail maintenance items listed in Section F were not listed in the RFP along with other trail work. The Sub-Committee decided that the Committee will complete the trail maintenance work in 2025 due to the confusion this caused and subsequent misunderstanding that these were not a requirement.

Signs: Completion requires the Committee to decide on trail names and resolution of an issue with side trail S-3 (see Advisory Group updates below). Major trail signs will be 4X4 pressure treated posts with attached wooden routed signs. The routed trail name indentations will be painted. Additional signs may be needed and will be attached to trees. Chris made a motion to accept this modified sign design. Susan seconded. All in favor. Motion passes.

Trail Names: The Trail Assessment will provide recommendations of loop/trails to be named and will provide suggestions. The Sub-Committee presented recommended trail names and asked for recommendations for the new trail.

Reporting to State: Prior to the City being reimbursed for completed work there is a reporting requirement. Janette reviewed the requirements and asked if the City will be submitting the documentation. Chris believed that the City (Grant Applicant) would be required to complete and submit the documentation. Jim will contact Janet and inquire about the process. He will also request a current list of expenditures.

In-Kind City Work: The Public Works Foreman has not contacted Chris to discuss work to be completed. It is expected that this work will not be completed until 2025.

Advisory Groups:

Conservation & Access: The Group has met four times since our last Committee meeting to discuss:

- 1) Goals and Mission.
- 2) Merging City owned land bordering the Cow Pasture along Duffy Ave. (paper street) with the Cow Pasture. The request was presented to Nicolas on behalf of the Committee and Nicolas presented the request to City Council. Council approved the merging of the wooded parcel with the Cow Pasture.
- 3) Draft Trail Assessment Maps: Chris brought to the attention of the Advisory Group a property access issue with side trail S3, an important access trail from Sheridan to the Cow Pasture. The issue identified by Zac Freeman (Apex TrailWorks) needs prompt resolution so the connector trail can be included on Trail Assessment maps that will be displayed Cow Pasture signs and the Kiosk. Zac will not include any side trails that lead to private land or cross private land without a landowner agreement in place. A

small section of S3 crosses private property. There was discussion on how to resolve the issue. The Committee agreed that Mark will send an email to Nicolas requesting that the City draft a memorandum of agreement to the landowner similar to the SnoeBees agreement with the City and private landowners. Alternatively, the trail could be rerouted but this would take time and would be less desirable. Trail and Kiosk maps would not include this important connector trail. The Committee approved this approach.

- 4) Mark remapped the S-2 Trail that was incorrectly presented on Management Plan maps and provided the corrected GPS information and associated map that will be used in future discussions and hopefully included on Trail Assessment maps.

Invasive Plant Control: Susan presented two initiatives.

- 1) A Committee effort to cut and wrap the stumps of large Buckthorn bushes this Fall.
- 2) Individual effort by Committee Members to remove invasive plants that will be identified and completed in Committee Members own time frame. The pledge can be for any species and any number of plants. Susan is willing to train individuals that are not comfortable identifying plants or familiar with proper removal protocol.

Motion to accept the Plan (Chris), seconded (Janette), All in favor motion passes.

Committee Membership and Member Recruitment (1):

Greg Rouleau (SnoBees President) has applied to the City for Committee membership. He has not heard back regarding Council approval. One additional position is open. The Committee discussed needed expertise and will advertise on Front Porch Forum. Expertise in Grant writing, trail maintenance, invasive species and especially public relations would be desirable skill sets.

Other Adjustments to the Agenda:

Dog waste has been an issue. Janette will post a reminder on FPF.

Updates (if any): There were no updates. Chris: Motion to remove the list from future Agenda's and provide updates as part of the "Adjustments to Agenda". Seconded Janette. All in favor. Motion passes

4. **Adjourn:** Motion to Adjourn at 6:59 (Janette). All in favor. Motion passes