

West Fork Planning Commission (WFPC)

Public Hearing Concerning the Proposed West Fork Bike & Pedestrian Trails Portion of the Razorback Greenway (West Fork Fire Station Meeting Room)

Minutes

December 8, 2014

CONVENE: 6:30 pm by Butch Bartholomew.

IN ATTENDANCE:

WFPC Members: : Jackie Bonner, Bill Griffith, Chair Scott Oliver, Leslie Scates, Ron Sidebottom, Steve Williams, Joan Wright, Secretary

Public: A list of those signing in is attached.

After welcoming the audience, and explaining the format of the meeting, Butch introduced:

Mr. John McClarty, of the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC).

A PowerPoint presentation of the Razorback Greenway and the proposed plan for the West Fork Bike & Pedestrian Trail portion outline the history of the Razorback Greenway, explained funding from the Walton Family and a matching grant, and available funding from the State for sidewalks as part of the city's plan for the Bike & Pedestrian Trail.

Plan Developers: NWARPC and ALTA Greenways, a planning consultant of greenway development nationwide.

A large map indicated where the proposed trails could be placed throughout the City Limit and Planning Area of West Fork, providing trails and employing existing streets and roads for use by bikes and pedestrians, with a "vision of becoming more walkable, bikeable and livable places for residents, visitors and businesses in [West Fork]" (NWARPC PowerPoint Presentation).

PUBLIC INPUT

The public was invited to comment and ask questions concerning the Plan. Many residents questioned the placement of certain proposed trails, explaining why they believed those specific locations would not be acceptable. The three locations – **James Place cul-de-sac, the end of Maple Street, and the end of Riverwood Ave.** – were removed from the proposed plan. Concern was raised about preservation of the West Fork of the White River as the proposed Trail along its riverbed might create problems with water and wildlife quality. Mr. McClarty assured the audience that the EPA and local and regional water authorities will carefully monitor and supervise any plan and construction activity involving the River.

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The public was assured that the plan before them was a proposal, subject to the community's deciding where trail and sidewalk placement should be. The deadline for the City to agree to participate in the Razorback Greenway is March 15, 2015. The deadline for all City input and changes to the Plan is December 2015.

Funding

Construction of the Bike & Pedestrian Trails within the city would be funded by the grants; sidewalk installations would be funded by the State (if included as part of the overall Bike & Pedestrian plan); planning, protection and maintenance would be provided and funded by the City of West Fork.

ADJOURN: Mr. McClarty ended the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joan Wright, WFPC Secretary

Attachments:

List of those in attendance

West Fork Walk/Bike Action Plan

Letter to the WFPC from Anthony Baughman, on behalf of the Woodlands Homeowners Association (James Place)