


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF DES MOINES OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER	Number:	24-156	Meeting:	April 15, 2024
	Agenda Item:	32	Roll Call:	24-0587
	Submitted by:	Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Resolution acknowledging dissolution of joint City-Polk County Trails and Greenways Advisory Committee (TAG).

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend acknowledging the dissolution of TAG, which was formed jointly by the Parks and Recreation Board and the Polk County Conservation Board following City Council direction.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- TAG is a subcommittee jointly authorized by the Des Moines Parks and Recreation Board and the Polk County Conservation Board. On May 2, 2005, the City Council approved a resolution to establish a new joint greenways and linear parks committee with Polk County, which resulted in the creation of TAG.
- The purpose of TAG was to assist and advise the City of Des Moines Parks and Recreation Board, Polk County Conservation Board, and other government agencies concerning the multi-use trail system and its promotion, development, enhancement, connectivity, maintenance, and expansion for recreation, fitness, and commuter users; and the effective use of public corridors for bicycle, pedestrian, and other alternative transportation needs; and their preservation, protection, and integration of greenways, riparian areas, water trails, and public lands to create a system of open space for healthy recreation opportunities, for quality of life, and wildlife viewing. The Committee is strictly an advisory committee.
- In 2022, TAG members voted unanimously to adjust meeting occurrences from six (6) per year to three (3) to support achieving quorum and still meet the purpose of the committee. The adjustment is a testament to the continued advancements of the Des Moines trail system and made it clear that the goals of TAG had been realized.
- TAG was an essential component of developing the robust trail system throughout the Des Moines metro. Without the insight and support of the diverse committee members, our nationally recognized trail system would not be what it is today. TAG members expressed a sense of pride in what has been accomplished, including strong trust by the community that the department is utilizing resources well and shares a vision of next steps, related to both maintenance and

expansion. Members agreed that their volunteer time would be best spent on areas of greater need including participation in the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's Central Iowa Bicycle and Pedestrian Roundtable. The Bike-Ped Roundtable supports development of bicycle and pedestrian facilities in Central Iowa and has a similar mission to TAG with an even greater geographic reach.

- With full consensus from members, staff, and Parks and Recreation Board members who have served on TAG, the dissolution of TAG then required approval from both the Parks and Recreation Board and the Polk County Conservation Board, the two (2) controlling authorities under Article IX of the TAG By-Laws. The Polk County Conservation Board acknowledged the dissolution of TAG at its March 13, 2024, meeting. On March 26, 2024, the Des Moines Parks and Recreation Board voted to approve the dissolution of TAG pursuant to the Committee Bylaws, Board rules, and Des Moines Municipal Code Section 74-27 pending Council acknowledgement.
- Des Moines Municipal Code Section 74-27 and the Des Moines Parks and Recreation Board Procedural Rules authorize the Board to establish and dissolve standing and special committees and their rules. Additionally, due to City Council involvement in 2005 authorizing the creation of TAG, this action by the Parks and Recreation Board is now coming before City Council with a request for acknowledgement.
- Parks and Recreation staff will continue to seek comprehensive community input on trail system improvements, provide regular project updates, and actively participate in the Bike/Ped Roundtable. Staff provided TAG members a list of other input opportunities such as City Council, Parks and Recreation Board, and Polk County Conservation Board, plus communication resources to help remain aware of current and future trail system topics including the Engineering Department's project map webpage, park planning project web pages, the road and trail closure webpage, and how to sign up for the trail text update service.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: May 2, 2005

Roll Call Number: [05-1076](#)

Action: Resolution creating a joint committee on greenways and linear parks. Moved by Vlassis to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Board: Parks and Recreation Board

Date: March 26, 2024

Resolution Number: 24-021

Action: Motion by Bollard to approve dissolution of the Trails and Greenways Advisory Committee, Second by Potter, Motion carried.

Board: Polk County Conservation Board

Date: March 13, 2024

Resolution Number: 24-0309

Action: Motion by Ryan Crane, to acknowledge dissolution of Polk County Conservation Board and City of Des Moines, Trails Advisory Committee, seconded by Paula Feltner, motion carried.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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