

City of Poulsbo

Mary McCluskey, Parks and Recreation



Poulsbo Urban Trail Plan

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 11, 2009; Poulsbo City Council chambers, 6:00 pm

Present: Cass Quinn (resident), Mary Carter (Tree Board), Val Martinson and Bruce Ramsey (Kitsap Volkssporters), Kate Kuhlman (Great Peninsula Conservancy), David Wymore (Park Commission), Edie Lau (resident, user), Stephen Smith (resident, bicyclist), Alex Stone (National Park Service), Mary McCluskey (Poulsbo Parks and Recreation)

A. Public Outreach and Activities

- ✓ **National Trails Day, June 6th – review:** Committee members were set up at the Poulsbo Farmers Market and at Central Market. It was generally agreed that both sites were successful, getting interest from the public and positive responses throughout the events. People really enjoyed the graphics (including the base map), and there were many who had not filled out the survey. However, unlike the farmers market where there is a leisurely and social atmosphere, people coming to Central Market are there with an in-out mission and assume anyone at the entry is asking for money, so it required actively greeting people and inviting them to take the city's survey to engage them. The challenge at the farmers market was being located next to the band, as it was hard to converse over the music. Notes for future outreach: 1-page hand-out (not 2), and larger/bolder type.
- ✓ **Other outreach events? Art Festival? Poulsbo Park Days?** Maybe another display at the farmers market. There was agreement that the committee would not set up a display at the Art Festival in August. It would be too late for the survey and too early for a finished project. The Parks and Recreation Commission/Department is planning a Poulsbo Park Days event in October (tentatively 10/10 with Harvest Days) and this will be a good tie-in and timing for the Trails Committee. This is an opportunity to reach the whole community, solicit volunteers, host an activity, follow-up on project info/outreach, and promote existing trails and future expansion and stewardship.
- ✓ **Survey:** The on-line trail survey will remain open until the end of June. The extended comment period should be promoted with a press release about the survey and the trail project. All committee members can encourage additional input, including from people outside Poulsbo, to capture preferences and ideas for trails (e.g., connections to Bainbridge Island and the ODT, or models like Port Townsend's surfacing and underpass). Edie requested an updated fact sheet; Mary will send out to committee members to send to their contact lists as part of the final push for the trails survey.
A follow-up article with the results of the survey should be provided in July.
- ✓ **Summer Plans:** It was agreed that we will continue to meet in July and August, as momentum is really building for the project.

Additional outreach was discussed, and the suggestion of doing an "early action" project was well received by committee members. A project would build more momentum. Edie reiterated that there are many simple things that can be done "with a can of paint": striping, crosswalks, and signage. It is obvious from preliminary comments on the trails survey that people need additional signage and public info/promotion so that they are more educated about Poulsbo trails.

A list will be compiled of areas/trails that need additional signage, and locations that could use upgraded striping or crosswalks. This type of work would show people what trails Poulsbo has now and that upgrades are being made. Mary commented that the city does not have specs for signs, but we should be consistent. The city would like to use recycled plastic for signs. David will research some sign options, and Mary will talk

with Public Works about some of these concerns after the list is put together. This could be the early action project for the fall event. It is unclear whether volunteers would be permitted to install signs or paint crossings (union rules, liability, etc.) so Mary will check. The trail project has some money, but if there is a larger project, the 2010 budget process is underway, and requests would need to be made during that process.

The Poulsbo Parks brochure needs to be updated, and Mary hopes that a map that shows all trails and restrooms can be a part of the updated brochure. It was also suggested that a kiosk be installed in the downtown core that shows trails (location will also inform boaters).

A subcommittee of Edie and Mary C. will put together the “early action” project. Mary M. will contact a couple of other committee members to see if they can help with the subcommittee. We will report back in July.

B. Preliminary Survey Results

So far, about 250 people have taken the survey. Mary gave a brief report on preliminary results, and noted the high numbers that referred to their most common trail routes were to/from public centers; the term “informal” was not understood by some to mean unofficial trails (referred to by others as short cuts or “goat trails”); and that the SW quadrant in the vicinity of Johnson Creek had not received comments yet.

Mary C. and Cass did some preliminary mapping work based on survey results. Both maps were displayed on the wall. One map contained “current uses” by people who answered the survey; while the other map contained “future desired connections”. Both maps show bicycle, pedestrian and water trails. The maps clearly showed that there are gaps in trails in Poulsbo. It also showed opportunities for future trails. This mapping exercise was very rewarding for the participating committee members, as it brings reality to the project, and having the public responses shown graphically was beneficial for the committee’s discussion. When the survey is closed, the additional responses will need to be added to the consolidated map in preparation for the committee’s 7/9 meeting.

C. Resource Inventories and Field Survey Updates

Inventory of existing resources and needs by committee members continues. The deadline to get this work done will be the August 13 meeting. Steve Smith added information about bicycle routes in the city:

1. Northernmost end of Liberty Bay Park (Downtown Poulsbo) add a ramped trail approximately 4 foot wide to allow access and contribute to flow pattern.
2. South side of Lindvig Way and Bond Road intersection. Currently a stepped pathway exits the sidewalk running along an East to West axis. Steps should be developed to a ramp of approximately 4 foot wide.
3. In Liberty Bay Auto parking lot an access to crossing under the Lindvig Way Viaduct exists. The gate which allows access should have cross hatching painted at its asphalt entrance and bollards installed to prevent being blocked by parked cars.
4. Fish Park foot bridge over Dogfish Creek. The East end of the bridge faces the parking lot of the business building. A pedestrian walkway could be built along the waterway over the rip rap and culvert. There is currently an overgrown gate in the chain link fence which the walkway would pass thru.
5. Torval Canyon Road and Third Street to Seventh. This is a curbed street entrance blocked with a highway guard rail. Torval Canyon reaches its highest point nearby. Currently the Highway 305 wetlands area between Torval Canyon Road and 305 has been used as a wetlands mitigation area. This is an excellent opportunity to develop a trail on the uphill side of the wetlands. The connection would bring this neighborhood a connection to the Seventh Street area. Many opportunities exist in this area for footbridge features, nature appreciation settings and serene picnic sites.
6. All the roads in my area need bicycle pathways and warning signs. Sharrows need to be developed along Front Street at the entrances to town.

7. The new end of Seventh Street was allowed to be developed with no bicycle lanes. Currently islands occupy street areas which should be removed to allowed bicycle lanes.

8. At the new park at the corner of Iverson and 7th. Next to the entrance on the NW corner of the driveway the sidewalk has a goat trail up to an existing parking lot. This goat trail should be widened to make it a complete pathway or trail.

D. Project Extension

Mary will apply for a project extension through the National Park Service. It is basically a report that tells the NPS how the project is going and what has been accomplished. Alex commented that this committee is doing very well, and is far beyond a number of other projects that she is familiar with.

E. Next meeting: Thursday, July 9, 6:00 pm.

Dave thanked the committee for getting so much done while he was away on job assignment.

Homework/Subcommittees:

- ✓ Press release about trail project and extension of comment period for on-line survey
- ✓ Early action project: signage and education (Edie, Mary C, Mary M. + others)
- ✓ Mary M. – check with Public Works on whether volunteers can install signs.
- ✓ Additional mapping – Mary to ask Alyse for additional info on the base map.
- ✓ Mary will get a copy of the NKREC trail plan and Noll Road trail plan.
- ✓ Contact info for potential guest presenter from the Bremerton/Gorst trail project (Alex)
- ✓ Potential dates at the Farmers Market for another trail project display before October.

Poulsbo Trails Vision Statement

The Poulsbo trail system embodies the community spirit that distinguishes our city, linking the places we live, learn, work, play and find inspiration. Trails reconnect us to ourselves, and lead people of all ages and abilities to greater health and self-sufficiency. Our trails, like branches, support Poulsbo and reach out to connect neighbor to neighbor; land to water; people to nature; homes to businesses; city to countryside; and Poulsbo's history to our future.