

City of Poulsbo

Mary McCluskey, Parks and Recreation



Poulsbo Urban Trail Plan

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 9, 2010; Poulsbo City Council Chambers, 6:00 pm

Present: Lee Derror, Troy Roe (West Sound Cycling), Kate Kuhlman (Great Peninsula Conservancy), Mary Carter (resident, walker), Val Martinson (Kitsap Volkssporters), Hans Nilsson (resident, user), Cass Quinn (resident), Barbara Smithson (Kitsap Health District); Linda Berry-Maraist (City Council), Mary McCluskey (Poulsbo Parks and Recreation), Alex Stone (NPS)

A. Public Outreach recap

Mary reported that both events went very well. May 22 was the display at the Poulsbo Farmers Market. The people were supportive and many answered the question about trail priorities and the shared use path options. National Trails Day was well attended. About 60 people took part in the walk with the Kitsap Volkssporters. They were very pleased with the number of people involved. We also had displays at the pavilion, and many people asked questions and commented on trail priorities.

Linda commented that on one of the safety questions on the NKTA survey, they were surprised to learn that people did not feel safe walking as well as bicycling. The perception of safety was low, and Poulsbo was the 2nd lowest community with safety concerns.

B. Final Report

Mary has five people working on the report, and Bruce had offered to be the overall editor. Mary C, Edie, Kate, Alex and Mary M. all have sections to complete. It was generally agreed that the whole committee would like to review the draft prior to the next committee meeting on July 8. Mary C. has done most of her section, but asked for some help on Challenges and Compromises. Challenges included:

- Individual land owners/easements
- Funding
- Routes with steep slopes
- Safety – bikers and walkers agree
- Connectivity
- Interjurisdictional partnerships for regional connections
- Priorities that everyone can agree on

The committee then talked about trail priorities in Poulsbo. Low hanging fruit or easy projects would be good to work on.

- Waterfront trail
- Walking loops that many can enjoy in town: where are they? Better signage needed.

C. What's Next?

- *Public Hearing* – Mary suggested that the group plan on an open house and public hearing in conjunction with a Parks and Recreation Commission meeting July 26. The group felt it was important to have a draft report available. Mary said that she could send a postcard through a mass mailing to residents with information about the plan, report and public hearing.

- *Continuation of the Trails Committee* – Implementation of the plan is the next phase. It was suggested that the committee go under the Park and Recreation Commission. They might meet 1-2x year, especially when comments are needed for the TIP and CIP.
- *Walking Guide* – Committee members looked at a variety of brochures that Barbara and Mary had brought. There are many nice options out there, but the committee agreed that simple would be good. Maybe have one nice, overall guide; and then post other individual trails or loops on the website. Maybe describe and rank the trails; give them a fun name (i.e., Walk with kids/Walk for Fitness/Flat Walks in Poulsbo/Hills in Poulsbo)
- *Trails Ambassador Program* - a suggestion was made to advertise this type of program in the Parks and Rec brochure; i.e. Meet at 10 am at Raab Park for a 1 hour walk on the east side of Poulsbo.
- *Washington Health Conference* – October 11-12 in Yakima. A proposal has been sent in to the conference program people. Should hear back in the next couple of months.

Next meetings – Thursday, June 10 and July 8, 2010, 6:00 pm.

Note: Washington Health Conference October 11-12 in Yakima
Note: The Trails Coalition Conference is October 21-23 in Tacoma.

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.