

Kachemak Drive Path Committee
Minutes-Regular Meeting 5:30 p.m., Thursday, January 27, 2010

Meeting called to order 5:34

Agenda approved

Minutes approved as amended

“Encouraging the start of an advocacy group for the Kachemak Trail” amended to
“mentioned the start of an advocacy group for the Kachemak Trail”

Committee members present—Beth Cummings, Lynn Burt, Bumpo Bremicker, Ingrid Harrauld, Dave Brann, Dave Clemens

Pending Business: Discussion of city trail classifications 1-5 as listed in the City of Homer Trail Manual Design Criteria. Descriptions of various trail classifications were read and it was generally agreed that the committee is probably looking at a Class 3 or a Class 4 type of trail.

Level 3 Semi-Improved Trail: An informal trail through semi-urban to rural residential, used for access between neighborhoods and destinations or, for recreation. Accessibility may be limited. * For details see pgs. 26 and 27 of the Design Criteria Manual.

Level 4 Fully Improved Trail: A wide multi-use trail with a firm surface meeting ADA accessibility standards for recreation trails. A transportation and recreational route through the developed areas of Homer and within residential neighborhoods. *For details see pgs. 28 and 29 of Design Criteria Manual.

It was decided that a Level 3 trail would be the minimum for the Kachemak Drive Path

Material types reviewed, NFS gravel, boardwalks

Discussion of a wide shoulder option for portions of the trail

Pedestrians-what is a comfortable, safe width when roadside?

Bicyclists-a paved shoulder 2-4 ft wide is quite adequate for most bicycles

Width of existing travel lane is generally 11 feet with a 2-4 foot dirt shoulder. It was noted that 10 feet is the minimum travel lane width in Alaska. A study of a Florida trail project noted travel lanes for vehicles of 9.5 feet. If the travel lane on Kachemak Drive was changed to 10 feet and the dirt shoulder paved, a 4 foot bike lane could be accommodated. The committee was also in favor of recommending a 35 mph speed limit.

Discussion and clarification on easements and right of ways along the road. Questions about trails in the D.O.T.R.O.W. were raised. Also questions about width of R.O.W. along Kachemak Drive. Dave B. will invite Kevin Jones of D.O.T. to the next meeting to provide us with information about Kachemak Drive.

Concerns were raised about the path having to cross Kachemak Drive multiple times. It was noted that only two crossings would be necessary under the option 1 plan, the existing crossing from the parking lot to the Spit Trail and one in the area of the Bay Club.

A brief discussion of the role of the proposed advocacy group, intent is not to be at cross purposes but to be supplemental. It was thought the group would be able to raise funds and do things the Kachemak Drive Path committee wouldn't be able to do.

A discussion on the HART funds, how they could be used, amount etc. Bumpo will ask about the amount available at present. It was suggested committee members read over the information pamphlet on the Hart funds.

A question of trail grades was raised, it was noted most hiking trails aim for a grade of 6%-10% with short steeper pitches allowed when level areas provide a resting area. Hiking trails at this grade would be suitable for bicycles although bicycles could be used on steeper pitches. It was suggested that committee members get out and walk portions of the suggested trail route.

Two public comments:

1. Supports the idea of the trail for improving bicycle commuting. Grade to be considered.

2. Supports the idea of the expanded shoulder along Kachemak Drive, noted the area of the s-curves is very dangerous. Felt the need for more public awareness of plans and more public involvement.

*It was noted the committee is still learning and getting up to speed on the various options. The location of the trail and scope of the project is still being defined. With the notice in the paper, anyone is invited to attend the advertised meetings.

Discussion of timeline for doing public presentation related to the Kachemak Drive Path. It was decided that the committee should prepare a public presentation to be held in relation to National Trails Day, June 4th. Presentation would probably be during the week.

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 10 at 5:30 p.m.

Agenda Items to include but not limited to:

HART funds

Guest Presenter from DOT with question time

Finalizing suggested path location, from parking lot to Arctic Tern

Information on bike usage and speed limits

Meeting adjourned at 7:10

Submitted by Dave Brann