Public Input Meeting Notes + Other Community Comments

Sauk Creek Greenway, Tree Lane to Old Sauk Road
March 13th, 2017
Alicia Ashman Library 5:00pm-7:00pm

Comments at Public Input Meeting:

- Questions about security with introduction of bike path.
- Property owner's residents asked for walking paths behind her property, after weighing pros/cons she decided to build it and it has been wonderful. Has attracted people to her property. She would like the City to do a path and restoration project completed in the greenway behind another property she owns.
- Concerns about long-term maintenance and current “unofficial” biking trails encroaching on private property.
- Would like a place to bike with kids, wants to restore the area and it is time to act. There has been a lack of consensus and therefore a lack of work for 30 years. This has led to the issues we see now.
- A path proponent lived for 14 years near Warner Park, and the introduction of unpaved paths helped reduce crime. Thinks trails would be good addition.
- Worked for 14 years doing timber stand improvement and as a naturalist sees the greenway area as "tragically degraded." Happy a restoration plan will be developed and thinks Epic employees and other younger people will be more likely to bike and find trails as an asset.
- Questions about wildlife and impacts. Discussion about how the introduction of natives helps feed wildlife.
- A bird watcher has noticed that the greenway has degraded over time. Has noticed less birds over the years, especially in spring.
- Requests transparency, wants to fix greenway, questions about original plat designation for greenway area and encourages City to look into history of greenway.
- Former City Council member who co-chaired SW commuter bike path suggests that City separates the path by neighborhood/section to generate ideas close to home; this helped generate buy-in from neighborhood on SW path. Shares the current SW commuter path neighbors consider it an added amenity.
- Thinks houses will increase in value as does with any area with upgraded trails.
- Supports restoration and encouraged inclusion of high school students in ecological experience.
- Questions the type of path.
- Option of off road path good for kids to play on.
- Questions if path could be for four seasons use? Ski/snow shoe? Interested in hockey pond. Encourages that composition of bike path be correlated to intended use intensity.
- Supports the East/West bike connection. Lives east of greenway, but works 1 mile away on other side of beltline. Doesn't like biking through Old Sauk/Beltline intersection and the future bike improvements would improve commute. Thinks it is important to remove all invasive species.
- Shares positive aspects of bike path in greenway.
- Encourages that we take into account everyone’s opinions, not just those that abut the greenway. Would love amenities that allow for them to enjoy green space such as a bike path or walkway.
- Concerns about restricting access to paths. Doesn’t want vehicles on them. Discusses documented crime reports on bike paths and believes existing bike network as sufficient.
- Concerns about the lack of community engagement in 2015 Bicycle Transportation Plan for the Madison Metropolitan Area and Dane County.

Calls to City Project Manager:

- General Questions
- General Interest in project
- Wants to keep cost down. Would prefer lower cost of project instead of adding amenities.
- Lives on greenway and prefers natural beauty to paved path.
- Would like to keep all buckthorn and would not like the bike path.

- Supports all restoration work, but prefers natural trail without pavement.
- Shares love/excitement about walkways and bike paths.
- Would appreciate ADA compliant path so that everyone can enjoy greenway.

Emails to City Project Manager:

- Would like amenities, especially if it allows bike access to Old Sauk Road and Tree Lane. Feels less certain about need/desirability for a paved path.
- Concerned about tree loss.
- Is against any path and wants to keep tree removal at a minimum.
- Against any path because wants peaceful, secure atmosphere in backyard. Concerns about house value. Would like to keep tree thinning to minimum.
- Prioritizes restoration. Does not want the greenway clear cut.
- Would like adjacent homeowners to make decisions for additional improvements. Does not want pavement and would like to keep greenway as natural border.
- Shares information about birds living in the greenway. Encourages saving whatever oaks possible. Wants to have paths be as natural as possible.
- Questions about if we have a replanting plan for the invasives.
- Proponent of greenway restoration, woodland restoration, and bike path system in greenway. Also believes there should be a trail from Haen Park Shelter and the Tree Lane entrance (paved or unpaved).
- Volunteer to help with restoration work.

Comment Cards:

- Shares opposition to paths, removing buckthorn and oak savannahs
- Supports the restoration work, but is against paved path. Doesn't see need for bike path with street bike lanes. Suggests crushed gravel to avoid adding additional impervious surfaces.
- Interested in assisting with restoration work.
- Encourages the walkway only for sewer maintenance, minimization of operation costs. Thanks paths attract vagrant activity and bike path access should be controlled.

Other:

- Against a paved path in northern portion of greenway because of security, but open to paved path in southern (wider) portion.