

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. D(1)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: April 3, 2007

TITLE: Report from Greenway Summit Work Group Regarding the Creation of a Greenways Commission

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING	PUBLIC HEARING: YES ___ NO <u>X</u>
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution B. Map showing distribution of participants at Greenway Summit C. Greenway Summit Breakout Session Highlights	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Patricia McGuire – 918-7327 Anita Jones-McNair – 918-7381

PURPOSE

The Greenway Summit Work Group has considered the public comment offered during the October 28, 2006 Greenway Summit and made recommendations regarding follow-up action. A resolution that directs the staff to prepare a Town Code amendment establishing a Greenway Commission is provided for the Board's use.

INFORMATION

Fifty-one citizens participated in the half-day Greenway Summit on October 28, 2006. The consensus of the at-large attendees and the summit work group members was that the event was quite successful and beneficial in revealing the action that has taken place to date to work towards development of miles of multi-use trails in the Morgan Creek and Bolin Creek stream corridors. Notes highlighting the breakout session discussions were prepared (*Attachment B*). Following review of the meeting notes and extensive consideration of comments made during the summit, the Greenway Summit Work Group (GSWG) has met to refine a course of follow-up actions for the Board of Aldermen to consider. These actions, accompanied by explanatory text, where applicable, are listed below:

Recommendation for Greenway Commission and mission statement - The GSWG noted that many citizens who participated in the summit indicated an interest in the creation of a greenway subcommittee. The GSWG also learned that the Board of Aldermen had appointed a committee to oversee an RFQ process that would involve the identification and selection of a consultant to assist with preparation of a concept plan for the Morgan Creek greenway. \$10,000 match towards the \$50,000 planning process is included within the budget for the current fiscal year. Construction funds for the project through the MPO in FY 2010; planning funds for Bolin Creek between Estes Drive and Homestead Road are scheduled that same year. Based on this information, the GSWG recommends:

1. That the Morgan Creek Trail Planning Committee be renamed the Greenways Commission, with two changes to its structure. The number of at-large community representatives be increased to four and that two school district representatives be appointed. Appointed members who are still willing and able to serve are to be re-

appointed to the new commission. Staff is contact all committee members and inform them of this change, if the Board of Aldermen decides to proceed with this change.

2. That the mission statement for the Greenways Commission be as follows:

Our mission is to help safeguard the water quality, environment and livability of our community by establishing greenways. Greenways are unbroken chains of preserved open space surrounding stream and wildlife corridors, headwaters, water recharge areas and significant ecosystems that also provide bicycle and pedestrian connections between neighborhoods and for the community. We also encourage effective stewardship and management of this land and promote educational, recreational and public health usage consistent with the protection of its resources.

3. That first task of the Greenways Commission is to work with staff to refine an RFQ for a consultant to prepare a conceptual plan for the Morgan Creek Greenway.
4. The second task is to oversee the preparation of the conceptual plan.
5. The fourth task is to work with staff to refine an RFQ for a constultant to prepare a conceptual plan for the Bolin Creek Greenway – Estes Drive to Homestead Road.
6. That the GSWG be thanked for its service and disbanded.

Staff notes that it will be necessary for the Board of Aldermen to adopt an amendment to the Town Code defining the mission of a Greenways Commission. A resolution that directs staff to do so has been provided (*Attachment A*). Staff also notes that it is expected that the Recreation and Parks and Planning Departments will jointly provide staff support to the Greenways Commission. Once all existing members have been contacted and other applicants solicited, an agenda item amending the Town Code and making appointments to the commission will be scheduled for the Board's review.

FISCAL IMPACT

None noted

RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Board of Aldermen consider adoption of the attached resolution (*Attachment A*) regarding creation of a greenway commission