

**TOWN OF FLORENCE
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**

JOINT WORK SESSION MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION AND PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE JOINT WORK SESSION HELD ON THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2019, AT 6:00 P.M., IN THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LOCATED AT 775 N. MAIN STREET, FLORENCE, ARIZONA.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pranzo called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

2. ROLL CALL:

Planning and Zoning:

Chairman Pranzo	Present
Vice-Chair Frost	Absent
Commissioner Smidt	Present
Commissioner Simmonds	Present
Commissioner Proulx	Present

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board:

Chairman Smith	Present
Vice-Chair Stinson	Present
Board Member Hild	Present
Board Member Williams	Absent
Board Member Woolridge	Present

Council Liaison Hawkins and Council Liaison Hughes were absent.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. PRESENTATIONS

- A.** The Planning and Zoning Commission and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will receive a presentation on the Active Transportation Plan, including existing conditions, summary of survey findings and preliminary bike and pedestrian facility recommendations. There will be an opportunity to offer comments and ask questions.

Parks and Recreation Director Bryan Hughes introduced the Active Transportation Plan and commented on the information and the involved grants. A Consultant of Michael

Baker International, Kevin Kugler, prepared an update on the process. Community Development Director Larry Harmer stated that Commissioner Frost's comments and questions were forwarded to the consultant before the meeting.

Mr. Kugler stated the update was mostly about establishing goals and presenting the main areas of concern. Some of the major goals were trail connectivity, multi-modal mobility, and a survey on Town priorities. He discussed the current pedestrian and bicycle situation and what areas had the most access to bicycle and pedestrian amenities. Mr. Kugler mentioned that bike fatalities increased over the years and Arizona has one of the highest bike fatalities. Commissioner Proulx asked if Pinal County had a similar average to the State. Mr. Kugler said yes and displayed a map of bike accidents in Florence. He mentioned a recent ten percent decrease in bike fatalities.

Mr. Kugler stated the public survey was available at the Community Center and on the Town's website. Chairman Pranzo asked how many took the survey. Mr. Kugler said thirty-six people took the survey. Chairman Pranzo requested further outreach to the public, possibly through the water bill. Mr. Hughes responded that Staff can place ads in the newspaper, send the link to a subscriber list, and send the link in a social media blast. He would look into sending the survey link in the water bills.

Mr. Kugler cited that the survey found different modes of transportation were preferred based on the place. People enjoyed walking and bike riding to parks and the Community Center but preferred to drive to work and school. He said the main hardship facing bike riders was the lack of facilities and traffic. He showed images of possible street designs for a principal arterial and major collector roads with bike lanes, mixed-use paths, and buffers.

He discussed the existing plan and went over a hierarchy of trail types. Mr. Kugler summarized the various trails crisscrossing the Town. Mr. Kugler recommended proposals for off-street trails and paths. A question was asked about the trail that led to the rodeo grounds near Highway 79. Mr. Kugler said they have identified the path on the map. It was pointed out that most of the trail passed inside the highway right of way and Mr. Kugler confirmed the trail was in the right of way. Chairman Pranzo asked if the trail was equestrian. Mr. Kugler said yes.

Mr. Kugler said the current interconnectivity allowed some great opportunities. If they put a trail along the Gila River or the railroad tracks, this sets up walking loops, or a marathon trail. Chairman Pranzo asked that the maps be posted on the Town website. He said this would be beneficial to the public. Mr. Kugler said they plan to post the presentation on the website after the meeting. Mr. Harmer mentioned he will send the presentation electronically to the Commission members.

Chairman Smith asked what plans were there to connect Florence Gardens to the Downtown area. A Commissioner pointed out a person could come out the backside of the community by the sewer plant and walk towards Poston Butte. Chairman Smith asked

about the plan for parking lots and trails for Poston Butte and the ability to place a trail across Highway 79. Mr. Hughes stated that the Parks and Recreation department had a drafted design document for the Poston Butte trail. They wanted to add that plan into the Active Transportation Plan and expand the trail system to Florence Gardens, the 79, and other areas.

Mr. Harmer asked if some of the equestrian trails will have places to tie up horses or park trailers. Mr. Hughes said some of the parking area in Poston Butte is set aside for trucks, trailers, and horses. Depending on the design, there are several locations that could have places for trucks and trailers. Chairman Pranzo said this was a great opportunity for the trail system and asked if signage for the trails is part of the grant. Mr. Hughes said signage would be considered separate from the plan. Mr. Harmer said Community Development is researching wayfinding signage for the downtown, but it can also be used on the trails. Chairman Pranzo inquired if the plan will interfere with the General Plan update. Mr. Harmer noted these plans provide information for the General Plan.

Commissioner Proulx asked how the trail system connected to Anthem. Mr. Kugler described that recent public meetings in different parts of the Town gave them a better idea of community needs and wants. Mr. Kugler said the next steps are to expand the survey and receive more comments from interest groups. They hope to take the final draft to Council on June 17th.

5. CALL TO THE PUBLIC/COMMISSION/BOARD RESPONSE:

Call to the Public for public comment on issues within the jurisdiction of the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Individual Commission or Board members may respond to criticisms made, may ask staff to review a matter raised or may ask that a matter be put on a future agenda. However, members of the Commission and Board shall not discuss or take action on any matter during an open call to the public unless the matters are properly noticed for discussion and legal action.

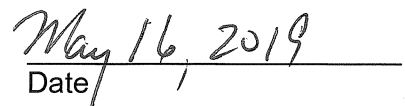
Christian Collins, Project Manager for the Town of Florence Public Works Department, clarified that the current iteration of ADOT's bridge widening plans on Highway 79 are planned to occur sometime in 2021. He said the road will include two twelve-foot traffic lanes, two eight-foot shoulders, and a six-foot pedestrian/bike path.

6. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Chairman Pranzo, seconded by Commissioner Smidt, and carried by a 4-0 vote, to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 pm.



Gary Pranzo, Chairman



Date