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

SPECIAL JOINT WORK SESSION MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION AND THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE SPECIAL JOINT WORK SESSION HELD ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 2018, AT 5:30 P.M., IN THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LOCATED AT 775 N. MAIN STREET, FLORENCE, ARIZONA.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Planning Commission Chairman Pranzo called the joint work session between the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to order at 5:30 pm

2. ROLL CALL:

Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman Pranzo: Present
Vice-Chair Frost Present
Commissioner Smidt Present
Commissioner Shoppell Present
Council Liaison Hawkins Present

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Chairman Pinson: Present
Vice-Chair Williams Present
Board Member Smith Present
Board Member Woolridge Absent
Council Liaison Larsen Absent

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. PRESENTATIONS

a. Presentation and Discussion of the Town of Florence Bicycle/Pedestrian/Trails Active Transportation Plan (ATP).

Community Services Director, Bryan Hughes, introduced the presentation by stating that about a year ago, in anticipation of the 2030 General Plan, the Town of Florence had an opportunity to apply for a grant from the Maricopa Association of Governments. This was for first time active transportation plans or bicycle/pedestrian plans. It was an 80/20 grant for almost 100,000 dollars. Through an RFQ process, using MAG's on-call consultants, Michael Baker International (MBI) was selected to do the project. MBI was already working on the transportation plan, which was also paid with a grant. Representatives of

MBI are present to introduce the project timeline and Planning Manager, Larry Harmer, will be part of the discussion regarding the nexus with the General Plan. Mr. Hughes introduced Kevin Kugler from MBI.

Mr. Kugler congratulated the Town for securing the grant for this project. He introduced himself and noted that he has worked in both the private and public sectors. Mr. Kugler introduce the project and spoke about the purpose and how this plan will help the Town. He discussed the work plan and the schedule that goes with it. The key to the meeting is to have an overall interactive discussion.

Purpose and need:
The Town of Florence has never had a plan such as this. The Town currently has a Parks, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan that is ten or eleven years old now but not a true Active Transportation Plan.

What is this plan going to do?
Develop policies and procedures that create a system for bicycle and pedestrians' traffic for integrated safe and efficient multi-model transportation within the Town of Florence. Bike and pedestrian are the major focus, but the plan will also look at making better connections with future or current transit stops and trail heads. Policies will be supported by maps and other data to demonstrate connectivity within Florence, including locating trails and paths that connect community centers to activity centers and possibly neighborhoods to neighborhoods. Also, it will establish a formal inventory of existing bike and pedestrian facilities and identify the gaps in the system.

Steps to be Taken:
Conduct a survey on local biking and walking behaviors to get a better understanding of local expectations and importance on certain issues.

Identify safety concerns and recommend design solutions to these safety concerns. Florence currently has a good safety record.

Obtain community input on short, medium, and long-term improvements. Identify a series of prioritized improvement projects.

Current map from open space master plan with identified trails will serve as a base or foundation for future or additional alignments. Look at size or potential opportunities for equestrian and other activities.

Mr. Kugler then presented the project timeline noting that they anticipate concluding their work in April of 2019. The four principal phases of the project are: project initiation, existing and future conditions analysis, evaluation criteria and improvements, and draft and final documents.

Technical Memorandum #1 will evaluate all the information collected and get feedback. November to January will be spent establishing evaluation and improvement criteria.

Technical Memorandum #2 will be a report that highlights feedback and recommends what projects should be placed in short, medium and long-term goals. This will be reported to the Technical Advisory Committee. Then come back to both boards and commission and present findings to identify what each group likes and does not like. There will then be a presentation at Town Council to have the same discussion. Public input will be solicited throughout the project.

Question: Do the bicycle trails accommodate both road and mountain bikes?

Answer: MBI will explore all options: different trail types for different activities identified at different locations in towns; identify existing facilities such as paths or trails and what is lacking from "Point A to Point B".

A Public Open House will present the projects and the priorities and then take all the information to place in the draft of the ATP. The Draft Plan will be roll back out to the public to receive more feedback before the final ATP is brought it back for adoption.

Question: What is the composition of the Technical Advisory Committee?

Answer: The Technical Advisory Committee is an established committee currently working with ADOT on the Regional Transportation Study. They represent a cross section of agency interests, primarily in the transit side. These include, for example, stakeholders such as homebuilders, the Town of Florence, Pinal County, and ADOT.

Mr. Harmer emphasizes the significance of the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board working together for the future creation off the General Plan because an Open Space Element is mandated by the State.

Question: Will this plan examine whether paths and trails will be used by pedestrians and bike riders at the same time? What is the surface that will be out in the desert?

Answer: Different types of surfaces depending on where you are at. Asphalt or street lane with sidewalk for street bicyclists and pedestrians. We will also look at other cities to see what they do. Some trails may be dirt, but the goal is that the dirt trail will connect to a bike lane or sidewalk. There may be different surfaces in different areas based on local traffic and preferences.

Commissioner Frost suggested the addition of community events such as 10K runs, triathlons, and other collaborations. He discussed the benefits such events would have on the Town's amenities, participation, and overall reputation.

Mr. Kugler concluded his presentations with thanks to the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

5. CALL TO THE PUBLIC/COMMISSION RESPONSE:

Call to the Public for public comment on issues within the jurisdiction of the Planning and Zoning Commission. Individual Commission 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 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

6. CALL TO THE COMMISSION-CURRENT EVENTS ONLY

7. ADJOURMENT

On a motion by Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Member Smith, seconded by Parks and Recreation Board Chairman Pinson, and carried by a vote of 7-0 to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 PM.

for

Gary Pranzo, Chairman

27 Aug 2018

Date