

Catawba Islander Trail & Greenway Master Plan Public Open House
10/27/22 6-8 pm Meeting Notes

Residents walked through stations- Park Board Station, Prelim Renderings Station, Public Survey Station, Best Practices Station, and Parking Lot Station

Jannah Wilson opened meeting at 6:10 with introductory slides. Lauren Falcone and Harper Cromley from Poggemeyer Design Group, Inc., A Kleinfelder Company reviewed slides on master plan, previous planning efforts, survey monkey results, and crash data. Power Point attached

Public comments were taken:

1. A resident asked who has been involved in this process. Response: Trail fact sheet lists board members. Trail has been in discussion for 10 years.
2. A resident asked if meetings were public. Response: Meetings are now operating as public with minutes taken.
3. A resident was concerned that trail right next to his house. Worried about animal waste and will interfere with his peaceful area. He has an easement from former sewer grinder.
4. A resident lives across from nature preserve and concerned that sidewalk will not line up properly and will cause traffic issues. Worried about removal of trees. Response: A topo and boundary survey will be completed to make sure property lines correctly line sidewalk with logical points.
5. A resident questioned statistical analysis of survey. Some residents did not get postcards. Response: Sent out to 2300 households. Survey publicized online and throughout Ottawa County with postcards at various locations. Consultant will run final analysis once all results are in, after Nov 11.
6. A resident is very for the trail. Gives access to those who want free outdoor activities. She won't have to drive to Fremont or Waterville for access. Will keep people healthy and off the roads. Thinks other communities would say it increased living standards.
7. A resident was recently hit by truck on NW Catawba Rd. Need to work together, not against each other. Can always put up a fence to buffer trail.
8. A resident said to pay it forward for the next generation, this is about community and safe green space.
9. A resident asked how far trail will be off of 53. Does ODOT require 11' trail? Worried that if 5' off of road, will eliminate every single tree. He has 120 year old house near Rudders. Response: A topo survey will tell us what is feasible with drainage. ROW is 80' wide. ODOT does have some permeable paver options that are more environmentally friendly than pavement. Trail will include landscaping. Could replant trees, look at native species from coastal region. Try to save trees with property owners. Think of trail as linear park.
10. A resident read a statement about taxpayers supporting OC Parks Board and Active Transportation Plan. 12 townships in the County, CI Township has 6 parks and a bike lane on 53 and the most money. What about the other townships? Why isn't trail going to connect parks? Heigel and State Park could be connected.
11. A resident has a 32 acre fruit farm. Worried this is attack on agriculture. 2 of 3 farm in CI does not want this trail. Worried about spraying fruit, can't get near it for 14 days.

12. A resident said state park is 3 miles down the road. Why not have public transportation to and from state park and eliminate a lot of problems. There are walking trails in the park.
13. A resident said many different ways to get to this point. Trail way to protect greenspace, there were 50 houses built this year. There is a logical way for all to agree and be less mad. A survey was done and 90% of respondents said 53 is not safe way for peds/bikes to get through, need to own this problem and solve it.
14. A Friends of Park member said over 1,000 people said they want a safe walking place. 124 miles proposed and \$1m a mile estimated. Park Board has spent many volunteer hours trying to figure out how to keep people safe, concerned about the community.
15. A resident on Porter Road. Will they take over her property? Response: not taking anyone's property. If doing easements, county prosecutor will assist. No eminent domain, only working with willing property owners.
16. A Peachton Road Resident does not want the trail to circle her house all day long. Response: her house may be in Phase 2, just talking about Phase 1 tonight. Every phase will go through a public comment process.
17. A Whitetail Run Resident asked how many phases total? Response: there will be 5 phases and each phase will take 3-5 years to complete. For Phase 1, an environmental assessment will be completed, will work with willing property owners for right of way in 2023 and apply for ODOT grant funding in 2024. Engineering and Geotech will need to be done before applying for grant.
18. A resident was concerned about trail running down middle of island, how get kids safely across 53 to access trail. Response: crosswalks/signals could be installed, and spurs could be added later.
19. A resident concerned only registered voters got the survey. Out of town property owners did not get it. She lives in Geauga County, and they have trail on old railroad system. Had issues with parking and fruit picking, put up a 10 foot wall. There are 16 zoning districts and township is getting sucked into residential development. Include seasonal people in survey.
20. A resident commented that Rudders benefits the community, ag and history are important. Islanders don't feel heard, not invited to planning meetings. Gem Beach people are using carts through his orchard. Who will patrol golf carts, not want golf carts on path. Need to work together. Parking and restrooms will be issues.
21. A Whitetail Run resident said worked about patrolling, golf carts are already on the trail. Need to talk to police/fire about this related to golf carts, crosswalks, path on public walkways and how enforce.
22. East James resident owns property in interior of Island. Asking about 2 starting points at north and south end. Need reserved parking at both ends and how keep people off of trail once it ends. Response: all preliminary at this point, will look at all of this. CIC has said they can be potential parking area. May look at Nature Preserve too. NC Inland trail has one restroom in Elmore and working with Genoa to develop another at Veterans Park.
23. A resident asked if CI Township Parks Board has been involved. Jack is on the CI Parks Board. They will be. Cedar Meadows and Nature Preserve can be used for recreation.
24. A resident commented that the first survey question should be separated into supporting trails and then supporting greenspace because all support greenspace, should re-write question. He is ok with trail as long as not taking property.
25. A resident is worried about E-Bikes and thinks they have ruined trails in Florida. Response: will allow Class I & 2 Ebikes. ORC says can be used on multi-purpose trails. Resident still thinks this is a problem.

26. A resident asked if trustees have voted for this plan. Response: still in preliminary phase, but will be meeting with Trustees.

27. A resident asked why do we need to follow ODOT standards for path. If we get grant funding, our taxes will go up. Response: We will be using their R-O-W and hopefully grant funding. Funds are state and federal, so if we don't request them, someone else will. Park District money will be used as match money.

28. A resident asked where to go to get more information on presentation tonight. Response: OC Park District website, will have a new webpage about project. Also sign up for e newsletter for updates. Meet 2xs a month. Back at this location on 12/20, meetings are open to the public. Will continue to send press releases to Beacon.

29. Third orchard owner said blessed with greenspace and 60 acres, 2 mile walking path at Nature Preserve. Only creating about ¾ mil of trail with this plan in phase I, sounds like creating bridge to nowhere.

30. A resident commented that existing parks/preserves are only grass and gravel trails and have flooding so difficult to use.