

Government of the District of Columbia

Department of Transportation



Recreational Trails Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes July 14, 2022

In attendance:

Bob Mikolitch	(Palisades)
Andrea Epps Marryshow	(Fort Lincoln)
Matt Razzano	(Hill East)
Byron Gibson	(Eastland Gardens)
Keshia Robertson	(Eckington)
Michael Alvino (DDOT)	(Petworth)
Stephanie Piperno (DDOT)	(Ledroit Park)
Uno Izegbu (MoTA)	
LaNesha Kearse (MoTA)	
Mona Rayside	(Anacostia)
James Byles	(Tenleytown)
William Dumais	

1. Introductions were made with committee members sharing their name, neighborhood, and how they use the trails throughout the city.
2. The Mayor's Office of Talent and Appointments swore in the new members:
 - a. Andrea Epps Marryshow
 - b. Byron Gibson
 - c. Mona Rayside, Chair (Renewal)
 - d. Keisha Robertson
3. Steph Piperno gave an update of the current state of Committee membership
 - i. James Byles asks if there is a definition of motorized trail user
 - ii. Mona asked how Electric Bikes and Golf Carts are considered in this definition
 - Motor bikes, like vespas, are not currently allowed on paved trails in the district.
 - b. The committee currently needs a Vice Chair
 - c. The committee currently has a vacancy in Ward 4

4. Steph gave an overview of the Federal Recreational Trails Grant Program including the history of the program, the source of the funding.
 - a. James Byles asked how long funds can be carried over.
 - i. Michael and Steph to look up.
 - ii. Bob Asked if marketing or helping to publicize trails would be considered eligible.
 - Yes, that would be considered eligible under the Education category
 - iii. Mona asked about partnerships with NPS and what the gas tax holiday means for this program's funding.
 - The gas tax holiday can certainly impact the funding levels for future years, but this program has been very stable since its creation in 1991.
 - If the applicant wants to do activities on NPS land, then we would require them to have the appropriate permits from NPS
 - b. Matt asked if we have abided by the 30/30/40 split even though we are exempt from the requirement
 - i. DDOT has not since motorized ATVS are not allowed on streets or trails in the District of Columbia
5. Steph gave an overview of past DC obligations from 2018 – 2022.
6. Steph gave an update of the current amount of funding available, and the amount of funding in the FY 2023 STIP
 - a. We currently have \$400K in the STIP for FY23 we are trying to increase that amount to \$800K so that we do not have any lapsing funds.
 - b. DDOT staff are currently working on the STIP request with our resource allocation division. The RTP funds go against our federal obligation limit.
7. Michael discussed proposed revisions to the program
 - a. How come all of our funds have not been obligated?
 - i. Two main reasons: staff capacity (especially during COVID) and increased amount of funding at the local level.
 - ii. Steph has been brought on so now we are a team of 2 and we are looking to bring on a third FTE.
8. Steph shared the proposed grant criteria for the program
 - i. A challenge to the program that we face is that many applicants are applying to manage and maintain natural surface trails, which is great and abides by RTP regulations, but not necessarily in line with DDOT's mission.
 - ii. We are looking to add a new criterion that requires non-profits to have a project sponsor. This is meant to give us more confidence that the project can be delivered (rather than trying to streamline things). This is especially important when we are dealing with construction projects.
 - iii. Keisha is concerned about the project sponsor requirement and thinks it will be difficult for non-profits to build those relationships and find agencies willing to sponsor their projects.
 - Concerned about adding additional barriers for non-profits

- Steph/Michael to revisit this. Could this be a requirement only for construction projects?
9. Byron asked about maintenance projects
 10. Steph provided an overview of the DC Trail Ranger Program
 11. Steph reviewed expectations for next steps
 - a. Committee will have an opportunity to provide feedback on evaluation criteria and revised application
 - b. Committee will review applications in Winter
 - c. Committee will meet again to finalize grant recommendations in Winter