

Birchwood Village Lake Links Trail Task Force
Minutes -- April 24, 2024

Attendees: Mary Cahill, Ben Creagh (had to leave early), Karen Freeberg, Bryan McGinnis, Mike Werner, Jane Warnet.

Since the Chair and Secretary could not attend the meeting, the “pre-meeting” discussions simply evolved into free flowing “meeting” talk, with little regard for the agenda. Since everyone recognized that we were making progress, we continued on this way with emphasis on items 4 and 5 of the published agenda.

Thanks to Ben for the information/recommendations that he sent out to us before the meeting. We took no action on the improvements listed. They should be considered when a preferred route is selected.

Karen reviewed the street pavement measurement data that she and Cora took. Widths vary from street to street and along individual streets.

Most of our time was spent on Item 4. of the agenda: Pros/Cons of three possible routes. :

a. Hall Avenue west to right on Cedar to left on Wildwood to East County Line

<u>Pro</u>	<u>??</u>	<u>Con</u>
shortest route		relatively high traffic on Wildwood
no steep hills		garages on Wildwood are close to pavement
a little shoulder on Hall		parking on Wildwood especially in summer
		children often on or near pavement on Wildwood

b. Hall west to right on Jay to Lake to west on Wildwood

<u>Pro</u>	<u>??</u>	<u>Con</u>
	closest to lake and parks	
a little shoulder on Hall		longer route
		parking on west Wildwood/Lake esp. in summer
		relatively high traffic on Wildwood
		children often on or near pavement on w. Wildwood
		Hazardous corner at Jay & Wildwood
		Steep hill on west end of Lake to Wildwood

c. Hall/Cedar west to Birchwood to right north on East Cty Line to join present trail

<u>Pro</u>	<u>??</u>	<u>Con</u>
lower traffic vs Wildwood		hill on Cedar to Birchwood
no garages close to pavement		more of route on higher-traffic Hall/Cedar
less parking issues		safety vs. higher speed traffic on ECtyLine
		need some construction to optimize safety

Option C was preferred by consensus with no formal voting. Safety issues seemed to dominate our discussions. Please read Ellen Maas’ submitted comments that support and amplify the Pros & Cons summarized above. Having the path from Birchwood

Ave to Wildwood (Cty F) on the west side of ECtyLine was proposed since this side has a shallower ditch. If and when any improvements to ECtyLine are planned, it could be an opportunity to put in much better "trail".

It is thought that the Lake Links mission is to encourage both walking and biking on the same route.

A fourth option with a route off Hall up White Pine and through Polly's Park to Birchwood Ave. was not considered feasible because of poor condition of the existing path through Polly's Park and the longer route.

For Next Meeting Agenda : May 9, 2024 at 7PM

1. Have a little discussion and a formal vote on preferred route. Request members not able to attend to send in their votes.
2. Add question (to Apr agenda 2.) on whether a quorum should be required.
3. Find out procedure/process for applying for the \$70K that is held by the state.
4. April items not covered.
5. Others?

Submitted by Bryan McGinnis