

Notes from Public Forum held by the Birchwood Village Lake Links Trail Task Force  
November 14, 2024

All members of the Task Force attended. Twelve interested residents were present.

There was no formal meeting of the Task Force. Agenda items 2., 3., and 4 were covered.

2. Public Forum

1. Ben gave a brief history of the Lake Links Trail from conception, construction of first trail segment in the City of White Bear Lake, to the present. Surveys of trail usage by the overall Lake Links organization found that walkers outnumber bikers.

Ben presented maps of Birchwood Village with the three different routes that the Task Force has reviewed.

Jessica showed a “wish list” of possible Birchwood Village improvements that emphasize safety and usability. Rough cost estimates for improvements were included. Pros and Cons for each route are on lists for each route.

2. Open Forum Input and Questions (Topics are combined and not necessarily from the same Public or Task Force person.)
  - a. Could center line on Hall be moved a little to one side or the other to provide a better walking environment? There could be a pedestrian lane along with traffic lanes all of the way to East County Line Road.
  - b. Initially, there were mixed opinions on the Trail from White Bear Township residents. After trail completion attitudes swung more positive.
  - c. Could Hall Ave be widened a little? Current paved width is variable. Widening would be difficult in area where Hall overlays the original street car rail bed that is narrow and very solid.
  - d. The Task Force does not recommend additional taxation on Birchwood residents. Application for, and ultimate gaining, of \$70K held by the state for the Trail in Birchwood will take some time. (This number had been reported to the team, not \$60K.)
  - e. Visual information for this meeting will be put on-line with request for further public input.
3. Task Force members did restore the Village Hall room to its resting state.
4. See Item 2.e. The Task Force will meet to digest input and prepare a recommendation for the City Council.

Submitted by: Bryan McGinnis