

R-258-6-05

RESOLUTION CREATING A TASK FORCE TO PLAN A NEW GREENWAY

Whereas, The City of Ann Arbor has expended considerable resources over a period of years in the creation of a beautiful and scenic Greenway along the Huron River that is used yearly by thousands of walkers and cyclists;

Whereas, The Huron River Greenway will extend "border to border" across the City along the river and link up to riverfront parks and other greenways that will stretch out beyond the City limits connecting to still more greenways;

Whereas, This great Huron River Greenway is nearing completion and will require further staff work and investment and must remain a priority even as plans are developed for the new Greenway addition;

Whereas, The opportunity and desire exists to create yet another Greenway along the Ann Arbor Railroad tracks that will connect to and complement the Huron River Greenway and allow still more City residents to enjoy the benefits of walking and cycling on green pathways;

Whereas, This new Greenway could place a pathway along the western edge of Downtown and beyond to the South and to the North to the Huron River Greenway;

Whereas, If this new addition to the Greenway system of Ann Arbor is to become a reality, work needs to begin soon, the Ann Arbor Railroad needs to be further engaged in conversation with the goal of obtaining an easement or easements, and grant funds need to be pursued;

Whereas, The path of this new Greenway could intersect with three City owned parcels: the current City Garages at 415 W. Washington and 721 N. Main, and the City owned surface parking lot at First and William;

Whereas, Any Greenway path shall include the possibility for future rail transit use;

Whereas, The City is building a new maintenance facility and plans to vacate all or some of the City owned land at 415 W. Washington and 721 N. Main when garage operations are moved to the new site;

Whereas, The First and William site will be needed for parking for at least three years as new parking is developed;

Whereas, A task force made up of City residents, residents who serve on City boards, and City Council, will be needed to work with City Staff to develop a recommendation to City Council for the development of the new Greenway that will complement and connect to the existing Huron River Greenway;

Whereas, A planning effort for the downtown area is underway and the City has engaged Calthorpe Associates to work with residents, City Staff, the Downtown Planning Steering Committee, the Planning Commission, the Downtown Development Association and City Council; and

RESOLVED, The City Administrator shall begin substantive discussions with the Ann Arbor Railway to gain their cooperation in the creation of a Greenway along the Railroad Right of Way;

RESOLVED, That City Council will, no later than September 6, 2005, appoint a nine member task force that will serve until September 30, 2006, to work with City Staff and others involved in the Downtown planning process to develop a recommendation for a new Greenway that will follow roughly along the Ann Arbor Railroad Right of Way to the west of Downtown and connect with the existing Huron River Greenway;

RESOLVED, The New Greenway Task Force will include one member of the Parks Advisory Commission, one member of the Planning Commission, one member of the Downtown Development Association, one member of City Council and other City Residents.

RESOLVED, The New Greenway Task Force will develop a preliminary recommendation to be delivered to the Downtown Planning Steering Committee no later than November 1, 2005, and a final recommendation to be delivered to the Planning Commission, The Parks Advisory Commission and City Council no later than October 1, 2006. To assist the Task Force in making its recommendations, it shall conduct a series of public workshops, and consult with independent design, parks, and watershed professionals, in addition to its work with City Parks and Planning Staff and Commissions;

RESOLVED, That the area of the City properties at 415 W. Washington and 721 N. Main within the floodway will be included in the new Greenway. The remaining portion of these sites will be reserved for mixed use, which could include additional park or Greenway area, space for non profit organizations, art, housing, and/or commercial entities; and

RESOLVED, The New Greenway Task Force will include in its final report a recommendation for the eventual use of the City owned property at First and William that is currently used as a surface parking lot.

Sponsored by: Mayor Hieftje and Council Members Johnson, Easthope, Woods, Greden, Teall, Lowenstein and Carlberg

As Amended August 15, 2005

APPROVED
BY ANN ARBOR CITY COUNCIL

August 15, 2005

CITY CLERK
ANN ARBOR, MI