

Sawtooth Bluff Visioning and Master Plan
Steering Committee Meeting #8
April 9th, 2018 @ 10:30 a.m. – noon – Join Me Meeting (online/phone)

Attendees

Sue Abrahamson Lisa Kerr David Demmer Myron Bursheim
Andy Hubley Barb Caskey

Summary

The meeting began at 10:30 with participants joining by phone and viewing maps and documents through the Join Me link, Barb Caskey, Arrowhead Regional Development Commission, welcomed everyone in attendance. The goal of the meeting is to finalize the draft based upon input received at the public input session and to identify what still needs to be completed to meet GMRPTC requirements.

Public Input

Meeting materials from the March 26th public input session have been shared with all Steering Committee members via email, including the Parks and Trails Committee meetings, a summary of all online comments received, notes from small groups and comment cards completed by individuals. It was also noted that the Steering Committee elected to extend the period for public comment through March 31, per request from a community member. The information received from the public was reviewed. General observations included the following:

- 77 responses were received from the public meeting - the community was engaged and wanted to provide comments
- Many ideas for the hub were offered – this should be a number 1 priority area
- The School Board is still not on board – need to continue to engage/communicate with them
- While ATVs were mentioned in comments received online, there were no comments provided at the public meeting. The Steering Committee does not support ATV use on this site
- There was significant support for the disk golf plan. Enlarge the proposed disk golf course and move this up on the priority list, as it is easy to build and maintain and relatively low cost
- There were few comments on mountain bikes
- SHTA is very interested in re-routing the trail
- Remove reference to a boardwalk or overlook platform adjacent to the fen – too costly, high potential for problems.
- Rock climbing might not be suitable due to the rocks being too crumbly

Discussion included the following:

Phase I priorities were identified (in yellow). Areas to omit or follow up on were identified (in blue).

- A **hub facility** to serve all the Park's trails and campsites, which may include parking, changing rooms, bike repair stations, rentals, campground management facility (storage, office), information, restrooms, education facility (small outdoor amphitheater), vehicle and device charging station. Any buildings on the site will seek to be constructed in a manner that protects viewsheds. Proposed location in south-central portion of main park site.
- A **paved road** from 5th Avenue West to trail hub (about 0.5 miles).

- An accessible paved trail connecting the trail hub to the community center, school, and trail hub that includes a safety tunnel under 5th Avenue West in Grand Marais (about 1 mile).
- An unobtrusive campground with approximately 30 sites for RVs and trailers as well as tents.
- Up to 20 miles of purpose-built, single track mountain bike trails that move about the site. The trails will offer a variety of types and difficulty levels, attracting both expert and beginner mountain bikers. Some of the trails will be groomed for winter “fat-tire” biking as well.
- A mountain bike trail connection to Pincushion Mountain (1.5 miles), which has additional mountain bike trails.
- Three miles of hiking trails, including a connection to the Superior Hiking Trail, overlooks of Lake Superior and Grand Marais, and an overlook of the patterned fen. Dispersed campsites could be a part of the hiking trail system.
- An engineered, gravel trail loop for people with less mobility, including older folks and young families – approximately 10 cart-in or bike-in campsites could be a part of this trail
- A rock climbing area at the exposed bed rock cliffs. (suitable?)
- A fenced, semi-cleared, approximately 2.5 acre dog park allowing off leash activities.
- A disc golf course – semi cleared trail moving through woods with typical baskets.
- A small parking lot off Old Ski Hill Road that provides additional access to trails for users and emergency vehicles.
- Bike skills park that could include ramps, jumps and other challenges.
- Additional snowmobile trail parking near school.
- Residential development could occur in areas adjacent to the Gunflint Trail.

Fen – US Forest Service partnership to pursue boardwalk (exclude)

Parking in runaway truck lane allowable? Investigate – Hwy engineer

Designated sliding hill as later phase option

Increase size of disc golf

Skijoring loop from dog park area/gravel loop designated (waste issue)- integrate with disc golf or dog park

Disc golf in winter or just summer?

Follow up with the School board – next meeting is on April 19th. Lisa will follow up and ask to attend and present

Specific plan elements per section/tab were addressed and edited on the online document.

Next Steps

ARDC will amend the Master Plan and map based upon today’s discussion and will circulate the next draft to the Steering Committee for review and comment by April 19th. Lisa Kerr will follow up with the School Board and update the group. Next meeting was set for April 26th (conference call/join.me meeting) 10:30 – noon.