

Recreation Trails Grant Program Annual Meeting Minutes

7/10/2024

In Attendance: David Balick (DDOT), Anne Welch (DDOT), Yvonne Jones (DDOT), Aman George (Ward 4), Andrea Marryshow (Ward 5), Bob Mikolitch (Ward 2), Mark Adelson (Ward 6), Mona Rayside (Ward 8), Keshia Roberson (Ward 5), James Byles (Ward 3)

Notes:

- Meeting begins, Anne Welch walks participants through the agenda
- Introductions of committee members
- Presentation - Overview of Rec Trail Grant Program Previous Years of Projects
 - James Byles: Can the committee help move things along in the process more quickly? Fears that certain projects may not apply due to the long timeline of receiving funds
 - DDOT: We have tried to make adjustments based on the FY23 projects but still have to navigate the long approval process regardless. We will continue to adjust and respond to the process and hope to work with potential applicants to answer any questions they have before hand and clearly present the anticipated timeline.
 - Mona Rayside & Keshia Roberson both requested that DDOT shares when the pre-application webinar is with the committee members beforehand so they can share with their networks.
 - Mark Adelson: What is the earliest we can open applications?
 - DDOT will look into this.
 - Is there anyway we can get resources to help applicants apply?
 - DDOT: This is the goal of the preapplication webinar and we will be working to make sure the website is up to date with information and resources.
 - Andrea Marryshow: Can we do before and after examples to show potential applicants what the benefits of the projects and funding can be?
 - DDOT: Yes, this would be a great addition for the website.
 - Can we reach out to applicants who weren't funded to help?
 - DDOT: Yes, and this is also something we can do as part of the pre-application webinar.
 - Bob Mikolitch: Suggests adding testimonials from prior grantees
 - James Byles: When will next advisory meeting be?
 - DDOT: Early December
 - When will application webinar be?
 - DDOT: Late Summer, early Fall
- DDOT Trail Program Updates

- Mona Rayside: It would be great to see more counters in Ward 7 and Ward 8 where so many trails are connecting neighborhoods and parks and more development is coming.
 - DDOT: Yes, the map is a bit unclear with some of the counters obscured but we have more counters coming to this area as well with the South Capitol Street Trail coming and two counters apart of that project.
- Strategic Bike Plan
 - Aman George: Is there a time for public engagement for the Strategic Bike Plan?
 - DDOT: Yes, this will be a major part of the plan with engagement beginning in the Fall of 2024 and continuing into 2025

Open Discussion

- Andrea Marryshow: How can we incorporate the strategic bike plan into RTP evaluations? And also is there way to make sure that we are incorporating projects in Ward 7 & Ward 8.
 - Aman George: I think the rubric does account for this to some extent with connectivity section and one of the higher rating criteria being equity improvements by census tracts.
 - Andrea Marryshow: Sorry to rephrase, will we be adjusting the rubric at all this go around?
 - DDOT: We don't currently have plans to adjust the rubric in the next round of applications.
- Mona Rayside: Are there ways we can put more emphasis on the recreation aspect of this program? Can we make the program more inclusive to add more opportunities to take advantage of green spaces especially in Wards 7 & 8? This seems like a great opportunity to create welcoming spaces for all.

DDOT – [shares link to RTP qualifications](#)

- Keshia Roberson: Thank you for sharing this information about what is applicable. This is where I think marketing and putting together a good application for these smaller groups who use trails as part of this projects.
 - DDOT: Yes absolutely and please let potential applicants know that they can reach out to us early to learn more about the process to find out if they are eligible and
- Keshia: NPS has some stringent policies so maybe we can work with them on policies and communicating what type of events and activities are permitted one the trail
 - DDOT: Yes, let us know if there are ways we can assist with this request. Regarding the grant applications specifically, the policies are a bit specific to trail management and activities which directly corelate to the trail management.