



SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 30, 2019

**WESTMORE SENIOR LIVING CENTER
 25 LEONARD TRAIL, 2nd FLOOR
 WESTWORTH VILLAGE, TEXAS**

SPECIAL SESSION: 6:30 PM

ATTENDEES:

Mayor	Michael Coleman
Mayor Pro Tem	L. Kelly Jones
Council Member	Dan Novak
Council Member	Tiffany Aller
Council Member	Sharon Schmitz
Council Member	John Davies
City Administrator	Sterling Naron
City Secretary	Brandy Barrett
Police Chief	Kevin Reaves
Director of Cmty Dev	David Curwen
Building Official	Nader Jeri

ABSENT: City Attorney Ashley Dierker

SPECIAL SESSION:

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30pm by Mayor Coleman.

INVOCATION: Nathan Keller, Westworth Church of Christ, spoke briefly on Philippians 2 and offered the invocation.

Mayor Coleman thanked the residents for attending and offered a special thank-you to the Westmore Senior Living Center and their residents for hosting the meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Public Hearing to receive citizen comments and input regarding proposed modifications to the City-wide Trail System Project.

A. Project History and Current Status

Mayor Coleman recapped the history of the trail, beginning with the Planning for Livable Military Communities, which recommended more connectivity to get to the base and the commercial district. This led the City to create a Parks, Open Space and Trails Master Plan, which included numerous Public Hearing and Surveys. Following the public hearings and surveys, the Parks and Trails Master Plan was adopted by City Council in 2014; with the direction to create looped trails with access to Airfield Falls and parks/playgrounds. This led to the application for TAP Grant funding, which the City was awarded

the largest amount in Tarrant County. This grant is Federal Funding on an 80/20 split and the city pays for anything over the awarded grant amount. The original plan included a tunnel under HWY 183 and when it became apparent that we would not be able to afford the tunnel, NCTCOG offered to accelerate the 183 intersection, which provides a pedestrian crossing. So, with that intersection, the new plan is to complete the trails (shared use paths, sidewalks for pedestrians and bicycles). There will be a new pedestrian crossing added at Sherry Lane, connecting a 10-foot wide trail along the ONCOR easement, and the second crossing would connect across Roaring Springs Road, the specific location is being recommended by TxDOT/NCTNOG based on the safest location. When completed it would allow citizens to walk to the commercial district, Airfield Falls, and TRWD trails, using only public sidewalks, city rights-of-ways and the ONCOR easement. This provides safe pedestrian and bike crossings at Sherry Lane/Westworth Blvd 183, Roaring Springs/Leonard Trail, and HWY183/Roaring Springs.

B. Financial Status

Sterling Naron provided a financial recap to date:

EXPENDITURES TO DATE					
	<i>Federal Budget</i>	<i>Federal Actual</i>	<i>Local Budget</i>	<i>Local Actual</i>	<i>Total</i>
Preliminary Engineering	\$ 213,600	\$ 213,600	\$ 193,921	\$ 88,331	\$ 301,931
Construction	\$ 1,432,065	\$ -	\$ 358,016	\$ -	\$ -
Roaring Springs		\$ -		\$ 330,991	\$ 330,991
Total	\$ 1,645,665	\$ 213,600	\$ 551,937	\$ 419,322	\$ 632,922

The estimated cost to complete the Trails south of 183 is \$1M, this is based on the original bid, but will not be determined until the bid is process is completed again. If this is correct, the estimated cost to the City would be \$200K. However, NCTCOG is working with us to find ways to offset those costs using In-Kind Contributions, Transportation Development Credits and EDC Adjustments.

C. Citizen Comments

Mayor Coleman announced that anyone wishing to speak must complete the comment form and submit it to Brandy Barrett, noting that each speaker would be announced and given up to 3 minutes to make comments and ask questions regarding the trail system project. He added that at the conclusion of citizen comments, the experts from NCTCOG, Freese & Nichols and City Staff would answer the posed questions. Ms. Barrett proceeded to introduce the following speakers:

1. Pat Craine (700 Cinnabar Ct): He has lived here about 9 years and is a bike rider. He loves the Trinity Trails and likes to take their children to the donut shop; however, safety is an issue. They walk to Panera using the existing sidewalks, but crossings are a challenge. He is excited about this project completing the loops, so they no longer have to load and unload bikes and park.
2. Rich Meszaros (6625 Fairway Dr): He has lived here for 6 years and is the current president of the Fairways HOA, he is a bike rider and uses the Trinity Trails 2-3 times a week and fully supports connectivity. He expressed concern over the “trail to nowhere” between corner of Fairway/Leonard Trail and Sherry Drive. Concerned about safety, vandalism, and questionable activities, he requested the council re-evaluate that last leg and use the sidewalks along 183 in the business area to connect, rather than behind it.
3. Scott O’Neal (6200 Westworth Blvd): He has lived here over 4 years, uses the trail 4 times a week and they love to visit the waterfall and the trailhead. His property has significant frontage to the trail and he is excited about the connectivity for the base and citizens to the trail system. He is surprised that NCTCOG is going to carry the load on the majority portion of this project and is thrilled that his friends who are in wheelchairs and amputees will have more freedom and ease of connecting.

4. Holli Davies (5 Leonard Trail): In addition to being a resident, she stated she also owns the property located at 825 Roaring Springs Road and is the wife of Councilman Davies. She continued by noting they are avid users of the trails in Westworth and Fort Worth and believes in responsible city government and therefore must trust that the council has our best in mind. She believes the current design raises a lot of issues for them, first being the TxDOT 183 corridor and how much of the proposed project will be busted up and money wasted on construction. Her other concern is the upcoming election, she believes the new council and mayor should make the decision on when and where the trail should be and the timeline for construction. She announced that her husband will be running for Mayor. She concluded by requesting the council listen to the citizens and not make the same mistake as by voting against citizens' wishes regarding the Dairy Queen.
5. James Smith (101 N Roaring Springs Rd Apt 2312): He has lived here almost 3 years and he loves the trails for him and his dog. He thinks it should be extended all the way to the base to allow everyone safe access to the business district.
6. Margaret Worthington (5700 Tracyne Dr): She believes everyone is in favor of access to the trailhead and thinks the reconfiguration of 183 should give us a much simpler and safer traffic crossing. Her biggest concern is that the trail plans don't match the likely reconfiguration of HWY 183 and if we proceed we will have a redundant trail that might not be needed. She would like the council to consider the planned lighted sidewalks along Westworth Blvd and the concerns about the impact on Leonard Trail and Fairway Drive. She also believes the pictures presented depicting White Settlement are misleading.
7. Melba Poppe (3 Leonard Trail): She has lived on Leonard Trail for 13 years and loves the trail, which she is not speaking against, but she is speaking against the proposed path. She stated that she had never been consulted or asked about how it will impact her, noting the sidewalk is 7 feet from the window of her home, is not that wide, and "it's our sidewalk". She expressed her concern about the value of her home. She continued noting the trail 7 feet away is invasive and threatens and scares her. She reiterated that prior to the planning meetings no one has ever discussed this with them, specifically naming Mayor Coleman and Sterling Naron. She added that along with Sharon, they met with Mayor Coleman and Mr. Naron requesting an alternate route, but their minds were already made up. She questioned their leadership, believing the council and the Mayor have never listened to their concerns. She requested people put themselves in her shoes and have people walking 7 feet from our window.
8. Debbie McGee (425 Wyndham Crest): She is very excited about the trails connecting but is concerned about the section connecting the retail space and requested it be reviewed based on the concerns brought up tonight, but overall thinks connecting is a win-win for everyone.
9. Denny Lovern (440 Wyndham Crest): He and his wife enjoy the trail system and compared it to other areas in the country, like Houston and Destin, where everyone rides bikes with baskets for groceries and meals. He prefers to be on the sidewalk vs riding on the street and they are very excited about this project.
10. Dr. T. M. Bigley (519 Burton Hill Rd): He is the principal at Burton Hill Elementary and they have had several ISD-wide walking/parade type events that they had to forgo because it is not currently safe for them to participate in those walks. He noted that today a child from Hawks Creek walked to school and from a safety perspective crossing 183 is a huge issue for an elementary school child.
11. Lisa Steele McMichael (5833 Straley Ave): She has lived here since 1952, she loves living here and she walks the Trinity Trails, loves the scenery, and is very impressed with the plans. She stated that there is a false rumor going around that businesses are trying to run residents out of their homes using eminent domain and she wanted everyone to know that it is not true.
12. Linda Johnson (622 Deloache St): She has lived here for 12 years. She moved from a community right off the trail and that was the one thing that she did not like about Westworth - it did not have a

good trail system. She thanked the council and staff for their work, adding that they look forward to more hiking and biking in Westworth Village.

13. Suzanne Akitar (6613 Fairway Dr): She appreciates our military neighbors, being a former military dependent, she understands their needs. However, she concurs with their HOA President in that the trail is dark, dangerous and under high power electric wires, which she does not know if that is safe. She believes that the HWY 183 project will provide lighted access and resolve the issue. Her main concern is the crossing at Leonard Trail and Roaring Springs. She is amazed there is not already a street light at that intersection, as there is no ambient light and it is a very dark road. She spoke of the safety of the crossing and egress turning left, noting that there is no safe crossing. She requested a light be installed there for public safety and that a downward facing light be placed at the corner of Leonard and Fairway, as it is also very dark.
14. Susan Beckwith (6617 Fairway Dr): She too is concerned with the traffic at Leonard Trail and Roaring Springs Road, stating it is very dangerous, especially when trying to cross when the base traffic is increased. She believes that if just one pedestrian crossing is placed with a blinking light to keep traffic flowing, it will not help the vehicular traffic issue at that location, putting residents trying to get out of the neighborhood in a tenuous circumstance. She requested they reconsider that intersection crossing. She is disappointed that the tunnel will not be used and would like a realistic timeline for the HWY 183 master plan and how much could potentially be wasted. She understands the use of the utility easement behind the Fairways and that works for businesses on the same side of HWY 183 but believes those going to businesses on other side may still take a vehicle because they would not want to carry groceries and items.
15. Christina Cowden (5760 Popken Dr): She is concerned about the money, what has already been spent and just how much more is still needed. She expressed her desire to start with the area along White Settlement and come back to the rest of it once HWY 183 is finished.
16. Captain John Townsend (NASJRB): He expressed his thanks to the Mayor and council for continuing to keep them in the loop and is concerned that not everyone understands the use of federal money and its regulations for project specifics. To the base, it equates to the ability to improve the quality of life and safety, connecting the base to Airfield Falls and the commercial district. He appreciates the community's ongoing support and expressed a heartfelt thank you for improving the quality of life and safety of those serving on the base.
17. Nathan Muna (NASJRB): He has lived on base for more than a year and getting off base is a safety issue for him and the other junior military personnel. He is excited about improving their quality of life and safety as Cpt. Townsend explained.
18. Rachael Grimes (NASJRB): She lives on base as a military spouse, and of all the bases they have lived on, they prefer the ones that allow them to walk off-base and connect to the Starbucks, Target, etc. Adding that for young base mothers, it is good exercise and builds community. Her husband currently runs on-base to the gate and back, as it is not safe for him to run off-base with the traffic to connect to the trail. She sees other people who walk to work on-base that would also benefit.
19. Bob Uher (25 Leonard Trail #319): He has lived in the Village over 4 years and is the Chairman of the Westmore Senior Center Residents Committee. He is a retired Electrical Engineer and stated that the large powerlines are perfectly safe to walk under. Representing the residents of the Westmore Senior Center, he relayed that they feel boxed-in with no way to get out and are excited about a lighted intersection at Leonard Trail and Roaring Springs, as it is very dark and it's hard to see the turn. He also expressed his appreciation for Chief Reaves and the Police Department for all they do for the residents of the Westmore. He concluded that, as taxpayers, the Westmore residents want something back and the trail systems would connect them and their guest and enhance their property.
20. Glen Johnson (622 Deloache St): He has been here for 12 years and watched the city grow, over his 40-year career he has worked with Freese & Nichols numerous times and believes they are

professional and reliable. He commended the current and previous councils for turning this project over to the professionals to determine safety and usability. As an Airforce brat, he believes the best communities were the ones that did not isolate the base residents from the richness of the community. As a former pilot, he stated that people who buy houses at the end of runways don't get to complain about the noise and if you buy a house that is 7 feet from a sidewalk you made the mistake, not the community.

21. John Hendrix (5812 Tracyne Dr): He and his wife have lived here for 50 years and have seen a lot a change. He appreciates the trail system but is concerned with the city's financial responsibility building the trail in relation to the completion of the HWY 183 project. He would like to see the base portion and HWY 183 project first. He thinks the plans look reasonable but expressed some concern about the areas near the creek where kids can get down in it.
22. Terry Colley (308 Burton Hill Rd): After watching the children enter the church on Burton Hill, he appreciated the city's forethought to have sidewalks installed along community streets and he is grateful that the city leaders have come together and continue to include residents.
23. Denise Zanicchia (25 Leonard Trail #3105): She has lived here since 2016 and she is an advocate for senior friendly spaces and services, noting that the trail is for everyone, including those who are not yet seniors. A safe, lighted crossing at Leonard Trail and Roaring Springs is needed as proposed. She encouraged those who are not already seniors but will be in the future to plan for a senior friendly and safe trail system.
24. Rosa Mendez (5717 Carb Dr): She wanted to echo and support individuals and residents here. She uses the trail as an avid jogger and she would like the council, Mayor and Residents to come together and consider the safety concerns. She believes it would be ok to delay it for a few more months and requested the council work with residents to resolve issues. She added she is running for City Council Place 1.
25. Michael Dingman (5809 Pollard): He has lived here for 35 years and has concerns on the project cost and the ever-increasing cost of construction. He requested the Roaring Springs cross walk be moved to the existing golf cart crossing and questioned why someone would use the sidewalk on White Settlement Road, which you cannot ride a bicycle on, which is a problem for parents and their children on bikes. He asked the council to delay it, questioning the reason for rushing and wondering if it is due to leaving a legacy prior to the election. He concluded by noting that when the resident on Leonard Trail bought her house, she probably didn't expect more than a few people to use the sidewalk.
26. Jeannette Jones (5749 Tracyne Dr): She has lived here since 1971 and has been active in the government on committees until last year, stating that she was removed "because my vision of the future did not coincide with the city's". She stated she is all for the trail project and her grandkids love it. They all visit Trinity Falls, but she is concerned about the money and so little community involvement. She wanted to know what committee is studying this and ensuring that citizen involvement and input is heard. She would like to see HWY 183 done before we spend more money and the area in the dark studied. She stated that Freese & Nichols put the tunnel in a flood zone and she would like this put-on hold, as there are two places that kids could fall into the creek.
27. David Tierney (438 Wynham Crest): He lives in Westworth Park and, after looking at the plan, he is not sure why there are any issues at this point, especially seeing how Fort Worth is connecting. He understands there may be "a 10 feet from your door problem," but doesn't agree with those who want to delay the project.
28. Steven Maas (6600 Fairway Dr): He thanked the council and the Mayor for taking time to hear the citizens. However, he is discouraged that the trail design goes down Leonard Trail and Fairways without including the residents. He is discouraged with cost overruns and the council's failure to

address parks as on the original survey. He requested that the project be paused for everything south of Roaring Springs Road, taking time with the people in those areas to find palatable solutions.

The following citizens were not able to attend the meeting but submitted a statement to be read:

1. Rhonda Mabra (5836 Straley), submitted verbally: she and her husband Dennis would like the project finished so they can cross Roaring Springs Road and get to the businesses for ice cream and such; they also think other people would want that too.
2. Dr. Grayden Wyatt (6644 Fairway Dr), submitted via email: “Would love to be able to connect to the rest of Fort Worth from my house in the Fairways. Not only would it add things to do and make exercise and shopping easier, but it would also add to the value of all our properties if we could easily connect via foot or bike to the Trinity Trails system. I see us not completing this as a step in the wrong direction and would be thoroughly disappointed if this trail system was not seen through. If the brownstone condos do not want the trail that is their own opinion, but I assure you that the majority if not the entirety of the Fairways would like the trail. If anything put it to a vote!”
3. Melanie McNary-Whitley (5801 Straley Ave), submitted in writing: “I am for the trail system. Although I doubt I will ever be able to use it myself, I know others will and it is the way that our city needs to move. Driving everywhere is a Texas way, but not a healthy way.”

The following citizens attended the meeting, submitted the comment form but requested not to be called on to speak:

1. Susan Leiber (6609 Fairway Dr): “Can the proposed shared use sidewalk under the electric line/gas easement be moved 10-20 feet away from our neighborhood wall? Can this proposed addition be lighted? It is too dark for safety.”
2. James Moore (5721 Carb Dr): “What are the plans for maintenance and what if any new maintenance issues are anticipated as the result of the addition to the trails?”
3. John Ventura (not provided): “Traffic issues on 183 going to Base? What is going to be done to minimize traffic for military; a bridge will solve issues impacting crossing with stop and go traffic. Plans on fixing road leaving east gate of NASJRB Fort Worth? Will golf carts be able to use new sidewalks?”
4. Patricia Thornton (188 Pecan Dr): “Thank you for the public hearing and thank the Westmore for having us. Would love to see WV build connected trails from the commercial area all the way to the river. Favor the crosswalk @ Roaring Springs & Leonard Tr.”
5. Kenneth Poppe (3 Leonard Trail): “Nobody on the council or especially the Mayor, would propose a trail that would pass 7ft from their front door. Yet that’s what would happen with the leg proposed that goes from Roaring Springs down Leonard Trail toward Westmore. It’s even more irritating when there is a perfect overgrown path way going in the same direction just to the NW of the Leonard Oaks property...that would connect perfectly with the new intersection being planned just behind the QT gas station.”
6. Kathryn Dias (5748 Tracyne Dr): “Put on hold the Leonard Trail until TxDOT has made a final decision on their plans. Allow the citizens to vote and voice their opinion.”

D. Response to Questions and Concerns

Mayor Coleman introduced Dan Kessler to address the concerns and questions brought up during citizen comments. He started by explaining his group and team of planning engineers and the 44-member board are responsible for the federal transportation funds in this region. They were the ones who funded the project, noting it is not unique. Texas has spent 100 years building roads and now we are going back to retrofit them with a walking trail and rail system networks. The highest priority of NCTCOG, TxDOT, and Freese & Nichols is pedestrian, bike and vehicle safety, in that order. The 183 Project will be in

design/environmental study phase for at least 2-3 more years. Even with plans to expedite the Pumphrey intersection, the very best-case scenario would be for it to be finished in 5-6 years, but that is highly unlikely. He predicted that Fort Worth would be larger than Dallas in the coming years and that growth is taking place on the west side, directly impacting Westworth Village and making 183 a key artery. NCTCOG supports moving forward with the completion of the trail project south of 183, as delaying it increases safety risks for pedestrians/bikes for those currently using it and risks the funding that is currently in place. He continued by adding that finding funding for any project is difficult, the city currently has the funding in hand and NCTCOG has numerous other communities ready to use it if we do not want to spend it. He added that they believe this is a great opportunity and they will do everything they can to minimize the amount of funds that Westworth Village would have to spend; the extent will not be known until a bid process is completed and they know the exact match amount. He relayed that Michael Morris has assured him that once the bid numbers are received, they will explore other options to lessen the city's expenses. He stated there is no perfect design but reducing the amount of pedestrian/vehicle conflicts is always the safest. To this end, using the commercial district sidewalks along 183 is not the safest as it increases the conflicts between pedestrian/vehicles. Instead, utilizing the back and side roads is optimal and having a crossing on Roaring Springs Road is a project funding requirement. He commended Freese & Nichols project design, noting that moving from compatibility to livability with the base residents is important and quality of life for all residents is critical, and that their plan works. He concluded noting that NCTCOG will move forward at the direction of the Mayor and council.

Mayor Coleman introduced Alex Garcia with Freese and Nichols and asked him to answer any questions or concerns brought up during citizen comments. He answered the question about delaying the project until 183 was complete and the potential rework resulting in wasted funds; stating this proposal moves the trail away from the current concept of the 183 design. He added that multiple options were considered for the intersection crossing Roaring Springs, but all required a pedestrian or full-signal light, and while the exact location has yet to be determined, the presented options are the safest according to TxDOT and NCTCOG. Mr. Garcia confirmed an earlier comment that it is safe to walk under the ONCOR electric lines. He further explained the reasoning for going behind the commercial district vs using the sidewalks near 183 echoing Mr. Kessler's comments about safety, adding it was to meet the expectations set by TxDOT to limit pedestrian/vehicle interactions and that all the traffic turning off 183 is a TxDOT issue. He stated that trail lighting issues were not part of the original plan and the TRWD trails are not open at night, the city can post trail closing times, so they will not be used at night, or the city could fund the addition of the lighting.

Sterling Naron answered the maintenance questions, stating that existing staff from Public Works and the Golf Course would be used.

Alex Garcia explained that TxDOT suggested a full traffic signal at Leonard Trail and HWY 183, but the proposed plan only calls for a light pedestrian cross walk. In the future, if TxDOT decides to add the full traffic signal, the proposed lighted pedestrian cross walk could be moved to another location. Mr. Naron confirmed, suggesting it could be used at the elementary school.

Dan Kessler addressed the traffic backup concerns on drill weekends and the logic to build technology into the intersection and the whole 183 corridor, timing the traffic flow and pattern programming. It would provide priority traffic for the base and this proposed design maximizes available space. He proceeded by explaining the existing Freese & Nichols design as proposed would not have wasted items, adding that even during construction it provides uninterrupted access to the trails. He continued stating

that the Federal Government does not approve waste across multiple project plans and so NCTCOG and TxDOT work to eliminate duplication and throwaway.

Mr. Naron fielded the financial questions and concerns, concluding that the actual cost to the city would not be known until the project bids are received. Upon bid receipts, we will also know how money NCTCOG will be able to put to the project to offset our cost; anticipated worst case scenario would be \$200,000.

E. Closing Remarks

Mayor Coleman thanked everyone for their comments, noting that those comments will be thoroughly analyzed, considered and worked through in the coming week. He then allowed each councilmember to make a closing remark.

- Dan Novak, Council Place 5, reminded everyone of the role of local government to provide services to residents, maintaining safety and security. He added Westworth was originally designed for airplanes and trains, retrofitting this trail into the existing design is not easy. He has witnessed young boys trying to cross 183 and a truck slamming on its brakes to avoid hitting them. He has numerous pictures of people using the roads in an unsafe manner. He does not see a need to delay the project, noting the importance of the project, as demonstrated by the citizen comments.
- Sharon Schmitz, Council Place 4, appreciated that everyone came out tonight and in addition to being on the council, noted for full disclosure that she lives in the Brownstones on Leonard Trail. She appreciated the council and Mayor for making the motion to have this Public Hearing, adding she was equally disappointed they did not do this earlier in the process. She understands the emotion of her neighbor and the sidewalk that is 7 feet in front of her house. She believes the basis for that emotion comes from failure to use alternatives, adding that she has an easement behind the Brownstones which she assumed could be used or other alternatives like using the golf cart path crossing in front of Westworth Park. She has had to slow down for the golf carts and expressed concern for their safety with the trucks on the that road. She loves the idea of a trail system, explaining how she used them when she lived in Europe. She wants council to step back, listen and do some work to accommodate people. She acknowledged the city some funds already set aside and questioned why they don't consider lighting concerns, adding there is sidewalk to Panera from the Westmore but not one to Raising Canes. She questioned why the council doesn't take some time, like Councilman Davies' previously proposed 90-day delay, to consider adding lights, trees and benches, which is what she will be asking for at the next council meeting. She closed by thanking everyone for their comments.
- John Davies, Council Place 3, also thanked and appreciated everyone for attending, noting the importance of the issue. He and his wife have lived here a year and a half and have recently purchased land where they are planning to "lay some roots down here". He agrees that everyone wants a trail and doesn't believe it should be delayed for 5 years waiting on the other intersection. He is equally concerned about its problems and citizens' concerns with this design, including the number of people who have tried to get city leadership to listen to them; stating "I'm on council and they will not listen to me, which is telling." He spoke about erosion and that he has asked Sterling to get with the actual people that know what they are talking about with erosion, the Corp of Engineers, the TRWD, someone that can say for sure that we are putting a trail next to a creek and it will not be in the creek in 5 years; to which he stated he had not received an answer. He would like to find solutions to the real problems and something that the Fairways people like too. He concluded by expressing his understanding that this would be on the next council agenda, as presented with no changes and ready to go to bid, which he believes would mean that the citizens wasted their time again, as the goal was

to get it passed before the next election. Which would mean the next time citizens could be heard is at the election. He thanked everyone again for voicing their opinions and concerns.

- Tiffany Aller, Council Place 2, she thanked everyone for attending and stated that she wanted to provide some insight and background on how we got to this point in the project. When she moved here, she stated she was actively involved in the beginning stages of planning and brainstorming, and she is hurt when citizens say there was never any opportunity to be involved or provide input. She expressed her disillusionment coming out of those first meetings at just how many people did not participate, despite the city's efforts to get as many people there as possible. She continued by going through the process, planning, investigatory/design, approval stage, leading up to the current implementation phase, noting that this is not something that they are trying to rush to finish, this is just the next step in this long, well planned and thought out project. She acknowledged that the process is never perfect, but the council is trying to do the best we can to help our citizens, including her own children who want to bike around town, which it is not currently safe. She related it to her crossing guard volunteer work at the elementary school, which has a crossing light. Safety is the of utmost importance, and it is her belief that the plan presented is safe and benefits the citizens. She thanked those in attendance and encouraged the citizens to continue to be involved, attend meetings, and speak during citizen comments. She added that if you can't attend, be proactive and look things up on the city website, call the staff, adding that Mr. Naron and his predecessor have provided monthly updates on this project for years, read the meeting minutes and look at the agendas to see what topics are being discussed and acted upon. Concluding that this is a vital project that connects to the Trinity Trails, the business district, and the base and it needs to be seen through to completion.
- Kelly Jones, Mayor Pro-tem, Council Place 1, he thanked the Westmore for hosting and appreciated the 80-90 citizens who attended, the largest he has seen in his 6 years on council. He announced that at the March Finance Committee meeting, he was having the first public hearing to seek input from the citizens at the beginning of the budget process. He also announced the new email notification system and encouraged everyone to sign up to receive email; adding to contact Ms. Barrett if they had any problems with it. After listening to the citizens' concerns, he agreed lighting should be addressed, and is working aggressively to get the trail to go behind the Brownstones and cross at Rogner, easing the 7-foot sidewalk concerns. He appreciated everyone's input on this difficult project, adding that it is the job of leadership to make hard decisions and regardless of whether it is put off until the next election, sooner or later, leadership has to make those hard decisions and inevitably someone will be disappointed. Once leadership makes those hard decision, the community will begin to heal. He did not know if it would be on the council agenda or the viability of moving the sidewalk. He thanked everyone again for all their input and encouraged them to continue to participate.

ACTION ITEMS:

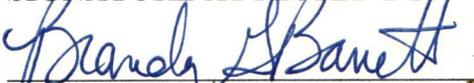
No action was taken

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36pm by Mayor Coleman.

MINUTES APPROVED BY:


Michael R. Coleman, Mayor

SIGNATURE ATTESTED BY:


Brandy G. Barrett, City Secretary

