

CITY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 27, 2021
6:00 P.M.

The Council of the City of Augusta, Kansas met in a work session on September 27, 2021, with Mayor Mike Rawlings presiding to discuss the Notice of Interim Trail Use (NITU) for the Redbud Trail section between the City of Augusta and Highway 54/400. Council present were Jake Marr, Eric Birk, Tom Leffler, Kip Richardson, Ron Reavis and Bill Slade. Councilmember Mike Huddleston was absent. Also present: City Manager Josh Shaw and Assistant City Manager Cody Sims. Visitors present were: Rick Sroufe, Doucia Carrell, Lynn Lamberty, Barry Carroll, Helen Gibson, Dennis Gibson, Kim Austin, Melanie Cox, Bob Barley, J Nick Howell, Gabriel Turner, Jeanne Groves, Andria Davis, Shawn Davis, O S Fair, Brad Loper, Denise Loper, Quincy Simon, Ranier Massey, Bill Morris, Don Brunhoeber, Ruth Burress, Johnny Rothwell, Jeannie Hamilton, James McClary, Nick McClure, Shane Scott, Dalton Patterson, Allan Milbradt, Shannon Hettenbach, Ron Turner, Sue Turner, Mari Beadle, Vickie Carter, Lori Cook Bryce Cook, Calvin Hilt, Elizabeth Peyser, David Leib, Armin Gerhard, Mike Gerhard, Thomas Gerhard, Randall Keiter, Jayme Chapin, Ruth Holiday and Dalton Patterson.

Pledge of Allegiance

Prayer: Mayor Rawlings gave the invocation.

Business:

Discussion of Notice of Interim Trail Use (NITU) for the Redbud Trail Section Between the City of Augusta and Hwy 54/400: Council reviewed the history of the Redbud Trail project and discussed the NITU letter from Butler County.

Nick McClure addressed the governing body. He stated he is opposed to the project. McClure owns two miles of land between the Whitewater River and 54/400 and does not want 3,000 people walking through his backyard. He spoke to the issues of drainage and why Butler County does not want to be involved in the rail trail anymore.

Kim Austin, 12979 SW 97th Road, Andover, KS, addressed the governing body. Austin stated she is a supporter of the trail and has been involved in AARTI since 2014. She spoke to riding her bike from her house in Kellogg Heights (north of Augusta Municipal Airport) to Garden Plain, stopping along the way and buying goods from neighboring communities. Austin spoke to the dangers of bike riding, the recent loss of a fellow bicyclist, and her experiences of being hit on multiple occasions.

Barry Carroll, 1134 North Coolidge Avenue, Wichita, KS, addressed the governing body. Carroll stated he is the board secretary for AARTI. He spoke to economic development potential and the attraction of young professionals to the Augusta community and the potential for Augusta to be a regional destination.

Johnny Rothwell, 1169 North Bracken Street, Wichita, KS, addressed the governing body. Rothwell stated he is a Wichita resident who supports the trail development. He stated brings his children to Augusta regularly to play at the new downtown “Orange Park”, splash pad, Castle Park, and Augusta City Lake. He gets his hair cut on State Street and frequents the Sweet Witch. Rothwell asked for the Council’s will to advance the project.

Bill Morris, 114 East 5th Avenue, Augusta, KS, addressed the governing body. Morris stated he is a supporter of the trail on behalf of go! Augusta. He spoke to enhancing the trail segment between Lulu and downtown with sculptures.

Shawn Davis, 1917 Meadowlake Drive, Augusta, KS, addressed the governing body. Davis stated he is a supporter of the trail. Davis acknowledge Mr. McClure's concern with the project and shared an experience of his concern when the trail was constructed between Shryock and Garvin Park. He spoke to downtown's growth over the past year, and the benefits the trail could bring to the downtown community.

Jayme Chapin, Executive Director of go! Augusta, addressed the governing body. Chapin is a supporter of the trail and spoke to the growing success of downtown Augusta. She also spoke to her observations of trail usage.

Helen Gibson, 12734 SW 92nd Terrace, addressed the governing body. Gibson stated she is a supporter of the trail. She stated that AARTI is willing to sit down with Mr. McClure to mitigate any concerns that exist regarding the usage of the trail.

Ruth Holiday, 522 East Crestline Road, Andover, KS, addressed the governing body. Holiday stated she is involved with AARTI and Prairie Travelers. She spoke to involvement with trails in Goddard and Garden Plain and multiple biking events that she has helped coordinate, and involvement in trail maintenance at Goddard's and Garden Plain's request.

Dalton Patterson, 1900 Prairie Lane, Augusta, KS, addressed the governing body. Patterson stated he is a supporter of the project and spoke to his involvement in biking around Augusta City Lake. He also spoke to his initial concern regarding the pending skateboard park that is being developed across the street from his house in Bill Reed Park.

Adjourn: At 7:06 p.m., Richardson made a motion to adjourn. Leffler seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

City Clerk