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To: City of Columbus Park Board

From: Frank Koenen, Associate Planner

Date: February 17, 2023

Re: City of Columbus Park and Trails Master Plan Meeting

At the upcoming Thursday, February 23 Park Board meeting, the Columbus Park Board members will continue developing the City of Columbus Parks and Trails Master Plan. Additionally, Park Board members will agree to a vision statement, provide feedback so City Staff can develop draft goals and priorities, agree to definitions for cycling and pedestrian infrastructure, and discuss the Coon Lake Regional Park Long Range Plan.

The primary objective for the meeting will be approving a vision statement for the Parks and Trails Master Plan. City Staff has drafted three alternative vision statements. The Park Board members will have the opportunity to discuss their preferred vision statement and suggest edits. The Park Board members are welcome to message City Staff with feedback before the meeting, so it can be utilized and integrated into the February 23rd presentation. Ultimately, the Park Board will select and approve a vision statement that will be used moving forward as the Parks and Trails Master Plan is developed.

After approving a vision statement for the Parks and Trails Master Plan, the Park Board members will provide feedback to the goals. Building on the Park Board's discussions taking place over the previous months, City Staff has developed the goal ideas. Park Board members can provide feedback before and during the presentation on February 23rd. Park Board members should consider if the goals reflect their expectations and newly adopted Vision Statement. The Park Board may also suggest more detail to the goals or add goals. The feedback used from this meeting will be used by City Staff to create refined draft goals that will be presented at the next meeting. Furthermore, there will be a review of the priorities for the plan, and brief discussion of how the park board members will be working on the priorities in future meetings. Consideration for priorities will include where they will fall in the ten years of the plan.

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City Staff will lead a short discussion on definitions for pedestrian and cycling infrastructure. Most definitions are taken from the Federal Highway Administration's definitions (FHWA). This discussion is to ensure that there is not miscommunication between staff, consultants, and park board members. Definitions will not always include cycling and pedestrian infrastructure that will be a part of Columbus' infrastructure but are added to clarify and differentiate the types of infrastructure.

Finally, the Park Board will also review the Coon Lake Regional Park Long Range Plan. The plan should be reviewed before the meeting, so Park Board members are prepared to discuss the plan. The Park Board should come with any feedback they have for the park plan. They should consider whether the Coon Lake Regional Park plan compliments or conflict with the expectations that Park Board members have for Columbus' Parks and Trails Master Plan. The Park Board can make recommendations about the plan to the City Council.