Minutes North Campus Subcommittee 4/8/15

Members present: Alan Tonne, Dan Callahan, David Fee, Martin Klein, Kara Axx (NCM)

Members Absent: Christina Turman, Ken Tape, Jason Garron, Mark Oldmixon (Chair)

Public Present: Stan Justice, Jonathan Shambare (MPC), Janet Matheson

Minutes – 9/10/14 minutes approved

Agenda approved

Mangers Report

- Skiathon went well, 64 participants thanks to Stan for organizing.
- Trails have been in great shape, thanks to Jason and Quinn.

Public Comment:

Stan Justice: would like to see a walking trail connection added in the area north of the Ballaine Lake wayside to the walking trail on range road. The problem in that area is that the correct access currently is the bike path along Farmers Loop Road, but many walkers use the ski trail to access range road.

New Business

1. Botanical Garden Amphitheater Access Plan – Janet Matheson, Representative of the Georgeson Botanical Garden Society (a non-profit group to support activities at the GBG) presented a request to add 2-3 handicap accessible parking spaces on the north side of the farm/garden along the commuter trail(gated farm access road) (see attached). The non-profit group has raised approximately $30,000 in funds dedicated to this project. The gate currently located at the top of the road in the lookout parking lot would not need to be moved, only opened for the special events. Currently, most garden users park on the south side of the farm/garden and walk up to GBG. Currently no handicap accessible access to the Drew Amphitheatre exists so it can’t be rented for events.

North Campus Subcommittee Discussion/Concerns:

- This project is located solely within the farm and should not be a NC issue.
- Using the commuter trail as a road is a NC issue and that should be the focus of discussion.
- Gates were installed for a reason; having gates open leaves the area open for non-approved vehicle exploration. The farm will be vulnerable to access, as well as research projects in the area.
- No turn around space, one lane trail (not a road).
- Road would only be open in summer, and it is assumed that garden staff would maintain (not confirmed).
• There are temporary water lines buried beneath the current commuter trail, traffic could interrupt service/damage the lines.
• Making the current trail a road would greatly change the character of the area that has been a dedicated trail for many years.
• Drainage concerns, how to control.
• To get legal accessible access spots, trail may need to be improved into an actual road.
• Opens the area up for not only accessible needs, but deliveries for special events, etc.

Motion (Dan Callahan, Seconded David Fee): The North Campus Subcommittee does not support changing the usage of the commuter trail to a road for access to the garden. Passed 4-0.