

Heather Reed

From: Phil Cornell <phil_cornell@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 07, 2017 6:17 PM
To: Michelle Swanson
Subject: Re: Written comments due tomorrow

Decatur St. Pathway

BPAC questions:

A few comments from SWONA members:

What went well?

The final product. We now have a highly-used pathway for walkers and bicyclists that is a major commuter route between the Westside and SPSCC, Thurston County Courthouse and other destinations.

The process. With only a few minor glitches, the entire process made our work relatively easy. Volunteers. I don't know if it is just our local people but we had an amazing response to the request for volunteers.

The city staff were very helpful and made the whole process run smoothly.

After a fifteen year fight, the City quit trying to drive a highway through our neighborhood and removed the highway connection from the Comprehensive Plan.

Phil Cornell took leadership, got the money and mobilized neighborhood volunteers to get the work done.

What was challenging?

The work, hot sunny days working in soil that was not much more than hard pan.

The lighting contractor who left one whole side of the pathway 6" deep in "quicksand".

Storage of materials which resulted in some theft.

The City should reimburse the Decatur Raiders and SWONA for fifteen years of organizing when the City itself should have honored its own commitment to a pedestrian and biking system.

I think the biggest problem was the misguidance about what was and was not reimbursable. That should have been more clearly stated in the grant documents. The volunteer hours equivalents for the match was also very unclear. They need to put that into plain language. Otherwise, once we got going the reimbursement process worked smoothly.

What would you change about the program?

I think the program works well as-is. Maybe the timeline for the process could be shortened.

On Tuesday, March 7, 2017 5:01 PM, Michelle Swanson <mswanson@ci.olympia.wa.us> wrote:

Hi there! If you're unable to attend the March 15th BPAC meeting to discuss the Neighborhood Pathways Program, I hope you'll consider submitting written comments. The deadline to submit them is tomorrow by 5PM. You can send them to me.

We are asking three questions:

1. What was challenging with your project?
2. What went well?
3. What changes would you make to the program?

Many thanks,

Michelle Swanson, AICP | Senior Program Specialist
City of Olympia Public Works |Transportation
360.753.8575