

Moss, Julia

From: Katharine Parker <katharinep3@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 21, 2023 7:42 AM
To: City Council
Subject: Depot Path Council Discussion June 22

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Dear City Council,

We cannot attend the June 22 meeting about the Depot Hill path, but we hope that the City will create an organized and thorough plan to support the continued existence of the Depot Hill path. The path is worth your attention and funding. The path is our neighborhood's life blood...it's where we exercise, visit our neighbors, meet people from other neighborhoods, meet tourists from all over the world. It's where toddlers learn to walk and children learn to ride their bikes. And it's not just for our neighborhood...people who work closeby come for their lunch breaks; people from all over walk by, or jog, or relax. Old and young, healthy and ailing, this path has been open for all. In the past 5 minutes I've watched over 25 people walk by (weeknight evening). The path is as much a park as a path. It's even listed on the City's website, on the visitor map.

So...the goal is to preserve a safe public path along Grand Avenue. How can we do this? It would be helpful if the City can plan for the entire path instead of approaching it piecemeal.

What can the City do to protect the path?

#1 Retrieve the easements planted on by residents. This would include our own easement. The encroached areas were not part of the road itself so preparing that part to be part of a path could be an opportunity to redirect and improve the present drainage. Maybe you could just move the fence now & give us all notice that you will be retrieving the easements within a certain period of time.

#2 Discourage erosion from the cliff top by altering the present drainage that now actively promotes erosion by channeling water from the adjacent blocks, runs it down Grand with no slowdown, and directly over the cliff onto the cliff face. The Grand Avenue homeowners paid for an engineered drainage study that was presented to the City years ago. Perhaps the City could employ some of this information?

#3 Look for other means of discouraging erosion from the cliff top?

I believe that the City applied for FEMA funds to rebuild the Jewel Box path. The City applied for funding and a tax to rebuild the Wharf. Thus far the City has only acted to the detriment of the Depot Hill path. The reinforced jetty traps sand that would have travelled downcurrent to the bluff base, and the drainage system acts to erode the cliff face. This may not be an easy fix but it's worth the City's time and funding to address it. Residents and visitors alike will thank you and applaud your vision.

Thank you,

