

MINUTES
BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY COMMISSION
2-17-2014

INTRODUCTIONS

Members: Present: Stacey Williams, Mitch Rice, Jim Rosenbarger, Paul Ash

Ex-Officio: Vince Caristo- Planning
Scott Robinson - Planning
Justin Stuehrenberg - Planning
Josh Becker - Intern - Parks & Recreation
Roy Aten - City of Bloomington Engineering

Citizen: Eoban Binder - Citizen
Jaclyn Ray

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from 12-16-2013 were approved as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Eoban Binder stated the bike lanes were not being plowed.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Paul Ash stated the B-line seems to be better than it was earlier in the winter.

Mitch Rice stated he believed an employee of Public Works also plowed the B-line and thanked them too.

Stacey Williams stated the bike lanes have not been cleared very well, and wondered if anyone had looked into how much extra it would cost to clear the bike lanes.

Mitch Rice asked about specific locations because 3rd Street always seems to be plowed. He felt the City has done better than before in clearing lanes this year; better than past years.

Vince stated he hears both sides and has initiated a talk with the Public Works Director who is open to hear suggestions. Mitch stated he has seen tremendous progress.

Mitch stated the newer, thicker bike lanes do not work as well and seem to chip off. They seem to be a hazard to bicyclist because that quarter inch or so can turn a wheel quickly. He would like some data as to the better mode of stripping.

Roy stated it wasn't specified in this bid and that's why the thermoplastic was used. The next bid will specify in the bids for the thinner markings.

Jim Rosenbarger stated the sidewalks need to be cleared. Brief discussion about snow & sidewalks ensued.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Election of Officers

Vince stated the officers that need to be elected would be the Chair and Vice Chair. Currently Mitch has been serving as the Chair and Jim serving as the Vice Chair. Beginning with this meeting the agenda was developed with the Chair and Vice Chair. Vince stated that the role of the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson would be to call work sessions as necessary.

Paul made a motion to re-elect the people currently in those positions, Mitch and Chair and Jim as Vice-Chair. Stacey Williams seconded. Mitch asked if Jim would like to reverse roles, and Jim stated he was fine being the Vice-Chairman.

All members present voted to approve the officers, with Mitch Rice serving as Chair, and Jim Rosenbarger serving as Vice-Chair for 2014.

b) ADA Transition Plan

Vince stated the City will be seeking input on the ADA Transition Plan. There is a draft plan ready to go before the public. Vince gave a history of the ADA. ADA requires that all public agencies with at least 15 employees have an ADA Transition Plan. This includes an inventory of all barriers to accessibility in programs and services that government agency provide. The City's current plan was passed in 1996. This effort was started through the Federal Highway Administration, who worked through the MPO's to make ADA Transition Plans an emphasis in transportation planning. Monroe County, and the Town of Ellettsville, have each created an approved ADA plan. ADA Coordinator for the City is Barbara McKinney. A team from Planning, Legal, and Public Works have been working on this plan. Also, the plan should be a living document.

Vince went through the plan and explained it to the members. One highlight is that City staff has looked at every piece of City owned sidewalk, ramps, and curbs and rated them based on the 10 criteria. There was discussion about the criteria and evaluation.

Vince explained how the City prioritizes these projects. Vince added that when the City does any kind of improvement to a road, at the same time, as a policy in this plan, adjacent curb ramps are upgraded. This happens anytime a street repaving projects happens. It is estimated that this year 510 curb ramps will be upgraded.

Jim took exception to the way these projects are prioritized. Discussion followed.

Vince concluded his report by stating public comment would continue through the end of the month. The plan has also been presented to The Council on Community Accessibility and the Monroe County Coalition for Accessibility and Mobility. The document is on the City's website and at the Indiana Room at the Monroe County Library. Staff is hopeful it will go on the agenda for City Council this Spring or Summer.

c) Events & Marketing Plan

Vince stated since he has been with the BPSC there has been interest in the areas of outreach and education. Vince explained the memo he sent to members and asked for comments and suggestions. Vince stated there is money in the budget to buy a table and tent for events such as the Farmer's Market.

Jim commented that it would be nice to take this table and tent to the events via a bike and wondered if that aspect could be addressed. Vince agreed it would be nice if everything could fit in a bike trailer, and will look into it.

Stacey stated that Freshman Orientation starts much earlier than August and it would be a good place to hit. Mitch stated Jack Rhoads has helped him get materials to freshman in the past at orientation.

Paul stated his opinion on events and parties has changed, and now believes it to be very effective in getting word out to people. Jim agreed, it is effective.

Vince summarized the three ways he sees to get the message out is, tabling events, physical presence, and on-line. Vince added there is \$2000 in the Bike & Ped Commission budget for advertising opportunities. Vince explained how word has gone out before with the help of Parks & Recreation.

Jim stated he would like to see an expansion of walking and biking promotion rather than compensating the Parks Department, as this is the Commission's budget.

Paul Ash put a plug in for WFHB and what a good job they do.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

a) Downtown Intersection Project - Justin Stuehrenberg from Planning explained there is a project underway for many pedestrian improvements downtown. There are local and federal funds available. The biggest part of the project is curb replacement and modifications. There will be extra piano key crosswalks painted, as well as road markings in the 10th Street, 3rd Street, and Atwater corridors. A pedestrian countdown timer will be installed in the downtown area where ever they don't currently exist. Timing signals will be installed to include an LPI, which is essentially an early walk.

There will be timing changes to control speeds and reduce the total cycle times of the signals so pedestrian phases will come along more often.

There was discussion about what federal funds could be used for. Jim was concerned about drainage issues around the ramps.

b) Bloomington Bikes Month - Vince introduced Joshua. Joshua explained he has been working with Steve Cotter in the Parks & Recreation Department, as well as Planning. Something that is being pushed this year is to increase the involvement in Bike to Work Day. Two solicitation letters went out, and feedback was received. Many Cities are bringing businesses into the fold to provide refreshments and energizer stations and promote their business. Bloomington will be doing the same, and there will be a map developed of all these locations. The event will conclude with the Bloomingfoods Bike Rally to celebrate the participation of the day.

c) New BPSC Grant Program - Scott stated this year the Commission has received some grants. He further stated he talked with Miah Michaelsen, who is Economic Development Director for the Arts, about what the Arts Commission does with their grant money. The BPSC has about \$1500. This is the inaugural year. Scott explained staff's vision for this grant program. Staff would like to time the grant with Bikes Month and make the announcement at that time. Scott stated he and Vince will be meeting with the Bicycle Club to get their take on their grant program so as not to compete for the same pool of applicants.

Paul asked what type of projects would they anticipate. Scott stated maybe something like a Gay Pride Parade, or the Latino Community Celebration, etc. where biking is not the major draw, but compliments the event. Art Bike was a great example of an event, people didn't come to bike that day, but rather to see art. Different ideas and possibilities were discussed.

d) Bicycle Instructor Corps - Vince stated he applied for a grant through the Bloomington Bike Club to provide funding to train up to five (5) instructors through the League of American Bicyclist Instructor Program. Since Raymond Hess left the City, Vince stated he is the only certified bicycle instructor in Monroe County. This money will pay the registration and travel fees. This will help target and deliver training for specific groups of people, such as families, women, college students, kids, etc. Currently the dates being looked at are in late August. The instructor and course would be brought to Bloomington. Vince stated he would like to have an application process for people in the spring time. One of the criteria he would like to have in the application is that participates will need to commit to teaching at least one course a year for the next two years. Vince stated he would like the Commission to help choose the applicants.

Paul stated he felt one of the criteria would be that once trained they would stay in town for a while. Vince stated he would include the application in a future meeting, and that was his thought when he asked for a commitment of one course over the next two years.

e) Development review update

Vince updated the Board on the Co-housing street connection. Their plan is going for approval on March 10th. The proposal is to build an alley like connection between Short Street and Maxwell Street. It will be accessible to people walking, biking, driving, as well as emergency use.

Vince updated the Commission on the Moore's Pike Office Building. The Petitioner does not want to build the path connection, but staff has put building the connection through the property as a condition for acceptance through the Plan Commission. This project will be heard by the Plan Commission on February 28th.

Vince stated the Habitat for Humanity project is on the agenda for the Plan Commission on February 28th at 5:30. If this project is approved it is between the railroad tracks and the B-line trail just north of Reverend Butler Park around Diamond Street. Paul Ash stated a comment on the H-T site seemed valid. that the traffic crossing angle at the B-line was problematic. Vince stated this is a rezoning process that needs to happen. This will ultimately go through the City Council. Staff, along with the Commission, if the process is approved will need to make some decisions about the design of the crossing on the B-line Trail, and what the signage should look like.

TOPICS SUGGESTION FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Mitch asked if these could be e-mailed, and Vince stated yes.

Jim stated he would be interested to see what type of capital projects are going into the budget this year. He would like to have some early input into the budget.

Mitch stated he had someone ask him if the cinder path down south of Tapp Road will ever be paved. Mitch stated he would hope not, because this is good for runners. Mitch also wondered if horses were allowed on this path. Vince stated he was not sure but could ask Parks and Recreation.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

a) BPSC Regular Session - Monday March 17th, 2014 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Hooker Room at City Hall

b) Monroe County Advise Transportation Board - Monday, February 24, 2014, 5:00 - 6:30 p.m., 501 N. Morton Street, Suite 100B, North Showers Building

Meeting adjourned by Mitch Rice.