

MINUTES
BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY COMMISSION
12-16-2013

INTRODUCTIONS

Members: Present: Mitch Rice, Jim Rosenbarger, Paul Ash, Mitch Rice,
Anne Holahan, Betty Rose Nagle

Ex-Officio: Vince Caristo- Planning
Laurel Waters - Public Works
Roy Aten - City of Bloomington Engineering

Citizen: Eoban Binder - Citizen
Jim Williams - Park Ridge East Neighborhood Association

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vince asked that under Walk Friendly Community Report Card the sentence "this is hosted by should be Pedestrian Bicycle Information, the PBIC. The City applied in June of 2013, rather than 2012.

Rose Nagle moved to approve the minutes. The motion passed. Minutes were approved with the above changes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Williams stated Summer House Inn is closed. Building #1 is coming down. Mr. Williams stated he is in the process of preparing a simple, yes or no, neighborhood survey with five or six questions on safety, traffic, and property values. He stated he is trying to keep the survey to one page.

Mr. Williams asked that the Commission put on the agenda for their work session a discussion of stop signs and crosswalks on private business property, particularly in shopping areas and malls. He explained a recent incident that happened to him in the Eastland Plaza when a young man went through the stop sign and cross walk at 20 or 25 mph. as he was crossing. He stated when he talked to this young man at his place of employment they made it clear to him that stop signs and cross walks did not mean anything because this was private property and unenforceable. He felt if this was the case it is a serious problem, and felt there needs to be clarification for all parties involved.

Rice stated he has heard the same explanation, that the stop signs are not enforceable. He stated the stop signs in Eastland Plaza are not listed in City Code.

Aten, City Engineering, explained there is a provision in the State Administrative Code where owners of stop signs on private property are allowed to have those signs codified if they choose, but it has to be the actual owner that goes to the municipality and asked that their signs be codified. The City cannot force City rules on them because it is private property.

Rice wondered where they would get the signs. Aten stated any sign company can supply them.

Eoban Binder stated he was unhappy that the B-Line Trail has not been kept free of ice and snow. He stated it seems there might be a once over, but then it continues snowing and it gets packed down into ice and is not salted, and if its salted it is usually just a narrow strip. During snowy weather it is really not possible to use the B-Line Trail to get to a destination. It is not a reliable piece of transportation infrastructure.

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

Rice stated he was amazed they had gotten out and plowed the B-Line Trail right away, weather or not they were able to get back and clear it later, maybe not. The clearing of the Streets was also running behind. Rice was not sure there was an easy solution other than sticking with it, like the City trucks go to the hills first. Maybe the B-Line could be prioritized.

Jim Rosenbarger stated he received an e-mail photo from the Elm Heights Neighborhood where a sidewalk on Jordan had been buried by the snow plow. The sidewalks are treacherous which will force people to walk in the street. He felt the City needs to put out a public relations announcement warning that people may be walking in the streets and to be aware and honor it.

Holahan added that Atwater was hit or miss around campus.

Rice stated he gets a newsletter from his neighborhood that made a suggestions that they get a group of young people out to shovel. However, from what he sees it is mostly the older residents out shoveling. Rice felt there needs to be education and/or enforcement.

There was more discussion about the problems the weather has caused to sidewalks. There is an ordinance that states residents must shovel the sidewalk within 24 hours of the end of the snow falling.

Anne wondered if on the weekends there is City personnel designated to shovel the sidewalks downtown.

Aten stated for the roads, city crews are out, and they hit the trails. As for sidewalks, it is up to the businesses to clear snow. Aten added he did not believe there was an

enforcement officer out on the weekends. The enforcement falls under HAND (Housing and Neighborhood Development).

Anne asked if there is a number of complaints the City has received in the last week or so. Roy stated those go to HAND and they are logged, as well as how many warnings and citations have been given out. Anne asked if that information could be brought to the next meeting.

Rose Nagle stated walking around Elm Heights, Atwater, Woodlawn, she was surprised the walks weren't clear. She was wearing yak tracks, otherwise, it would have been bad.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

PLANNING

1) Transition to Planning Department

Vince stated that starting in January the Commission would be primarily staffed by the Planning Department, which it previously has been staffed by the Public Works Department. The reason for the change is the City has been moving toward a more planning oriented approach to transportation. This will involve the Commission more effectively; and also, to move forward in delivering education and outreach programs. It is good for Planning to have this group play an advisory function, and would like to develop the commission more as a public resource for education on these issues. This does intersect with the official duties of the commission. There will be a budget for the Commission through the Planning Department to help facilitate this education outreach.

2) 2014 Agenda & Topics

Vince stated each meeting will have topics in 3 major areas. The first is infrastructure development. All new transportation projects are originating in the transportation and traffic engineer's office. Regular updates will be provided on project and policy areas. education outreach will also be a regular part of the agenda, as well as development and review. Other important general areas for the Commission are transportation policy regarding street design and project selection, and using the Commission as a public forum. The 2014 Agenda & Topics handout was reviewed with the Commission by Vince.

Vince explained the move from the work sessions being a default on the first Monday of every month to having them scheduled by the Commission as needed. The thought was if they are optional it would free up time for Commission members to do outside work on specific projects.

Jim added that getting out into the community to look at specific sights can be an alternative to being in here for a work session.

Vince asked the Commission let him know which of topics under Core Meeting Agenda areas most interest the Commission, or if there are topics and functions not listed to let him know.

3) Moore's Pike Office Building

Vince explained this is a project on the eastside on Moore's Pike. This is near the movie theatre and retirement community.

Vince explained the project is a PUD with its own zoning rules attached to its development. This is proposed to be a medical office building with 12,000 square foot and 75 parking spaces. In the original proposal from 10 years ago it was negotiated with the original developer to include a walking connection across the property to the shopping center that is directly to the north. Because of this negotiation, when the retirement community was developed a couple of years ago, they provided a stub connection to connect to a trail that would go through this property to connect to the shopping center to the north. This will include a sidewalk that is already there across the front of the property. The question for the Commissioners is the walking connection across the southern part of the property. The current developer does not want to build it and it is not a requirement in the City code.

Jim asked if it was in the original PUD. Vince stated it was. Jim felt that the PUD would trump code. Vince stated for whatever reason, Planning cannot require them to put in the connector; however, past approvals have demonstrated this is something the community wants.

There was discussion about the proposed sidewalk or trail. The Commission encouraged the developer to put in a more direct path or sidewalk. It will also join more than just the proposed building but also the residents in the area.

Vince stated he would write a memo for the Plan Commission meeting set for February.

4) Bloomington Co-Housing

Vince explained Mark Cornett is the Architect for this project. This is a group of people who have purchased the land between Short Street and Maxwell. The area is currently zoned single family and they are proposing to rezone the property to allow them to build a co-housing concept. The concept is smaller houses, condo ownership, shared parking rather than parking for every building with walking paths to the buildings. There will be a larger shared common house building and shared open space rather than yards for every home. The project is being done on a tight budget. One of the public improvements the City has asked for is to connect Short Street to the west. The request is for emergency access, fire and police would like to have quicker access to the property. Vince stated Planning had been considering an alley connection instead of a full street width, something 10 to 12 feet wide that could provide emergency access, but without the expense of a full road layout.

After discussion, the Commission recommended the connector be more alley like with no sidewalks on either side.

5) Terrible Horrible Ride

Vince stated the 3rd Annual Terrible Horrible Ride that will take place on January 25, 2014. Vince added there were event sponsorships added to the budget. Vince asked if the BPSC wanted to be involved with some type of give away or safety device. Vince explained this year there will be two routes, a short route and a longer route. Jim wondered if an invitation should go out to pedestrians as well. Vince agreed that was a good idea.

The Commission stated they would like to sponsor the hot chocolate. Vince stated the route will be published this year.

Vince explained there will be a call for volunteers put on the Volunteer Network. Vince asked if any members were interested in being a ride marshal, or helping with set up to let him or Jacqui Bauer know.

ENGINEERING - NONE

POLICE - NONE

OLD BUSINESS - NONE

NEW BUSINESS - NONE

Vince announced the next regular meeting is February 17, 2014. Vince also announced that some of the Commission members appointments are up and for those individuals who want to be reappointed to get in touch with the Clerks' office.

Mitch Rice adjourned the meeting at 6:48.

to be approved