

MINUTES
BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY COMMISSION
4-21-2014

INTRODUCTIONS

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

Ex-Officio: Vince Caristo- Planning
Scott Robinson - Planning
Laurel Waters - Public Works

Non Members: Jim Schroeder - Bicycle Club
Mark Stosberg
Eoban Binder,
Jessika Griffin,
Jaclyn Ray
Jim Williams

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. February 17, 2014

b. March 17, 2014

Paul Ash made a motion to approve the minutes. Motion seconded. Vote taken, all approved. Minutes from February 17, 2014 and March 17, 2014 approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Schroeder, Bloomington Bicycle Club, talked about the Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge over I-69. Last week many State, County and City officials were invited to a dinner and meeting. Since Section 5 will be rolled out soon this would be the perfect time to build the bridge. BCC is trying to jump start this again and told the members they will be hearing about it. Schroeder explained the BCC have been told to go to the MPO and promote the bridge. There will be presentations done to every member of the Citizens Committee and also the Administrative/Policy Committee. Schroeder stated Jim had come up with a great motto "the bridge is not for the BBC, but the BBC is for the bridge.

Schroeder stated the BBC learned through Vince and Scott that BPSC had been granted a \$1500 stipend to give out to worthwhile community projects that affect bicycle and pedestrian use. The Grand Chairman of the BBC has offered to the BPSC a match of those funds if a grant form is filled out. This would bring the total to \$3,000. It will still need to go before the BBC Executive Board, but wanted to say its possible if the Grant Proposal is filled out.

Schroeder stated he is hearing from the public that the sharrows are wearing out, especially the ones at College Avenue and North Walnut, and on College Avenue, right before the underpass, it is full of debris and needs to be swept.

Jim added that the sharrows on College have been on a list and is carry over from last year.

Binder has noticed on 4th Street that the construction company building the hotel next to the B-Line is getting further and further into the bike lane. Binder expressed his frustration that Public Works would allow them to do this, and it is a very clear example of motor traffic being granted priority over pedestrians and cyclists. The sidewalk is closed with signs telling pedestrians to cross the street, which seems ridiculous. He pointed out that other cities have construction downtown. They handle it by building scaffolding or something to provide a pedestrian walkway, or build a barrier for pedestrian traffic. Binder would like to see a conversation started at some point with BPW to figure out a more progressive policy, especially in the downtown area.

Vince stated because this is something Planning cannot really help with, this is where the BPSC can be really helpful in starting a discussion.

Mitch suggested it might be better to bring it up at City Council meeting, the BPSC agrees, but is not in a position to do much.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jim stated he rides his bike down 3rd Street from Woodlawn, west, and has had some issues with the new bike lanes. There is a lot of blocking go on with vehicles. He believed it was still legal for him to ride outside the bike lane, but had a City bus driver told him something different. There was discussion about this problem. As far as everyone knew, it is still legal for bikes to use the other lanes if a bike lane is unavailable.

Jim explained last year the group did a small project needs list that received a pretty good response and passed out a draft of what was done and what is still needed. He stated he would like to get a revised version out soon. He asked members to e-mail him and the list could be developed between meetings.

Mitch stated he agrees with the bike lane problem, mostly it is people pulling up and dropping off students who don't realize they should not be doing that.

Paul stated part of the problem with trash on the road is because of construction trucks leaving debris behind. Paul suggested the City can be more diligent about sweeping the streets or ask the construction company to clean it up.

Paul stated the island at Allen & Rogers is still too big. Vince asked if the cones are still there. Paul stated yes.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

4-21-2014 Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission Minutes

a. Local Motion Grant

Vince stated it has doubled in size to \$3,000. This grant will promote walking and biking. A press release about the grant has gone out. Grant applications are currently being accepted which can be submitted via the Bike & Pedestrian website. The letter of intent is due May 15th. Applicants will then be asked to come to the June Bike & Ped meeting to talk about their idea. After that there will be an application due on July 7, 2014. Vince felt there would be plenty of time to let applicants know there will be more money.

Mitch thought there might be an additional way to advertise this. Vince stated another press release could be done.

b. Civil Streets Initiative

Vince stated the spring kick off has started. New posters have gone out, as well as stickers. There will be ads on the BT buses inside and out. Information was handed out at the Farmers' Market, and a story in the H-T. WFHB also did a segment on the local news. There was police enforcement the week of April 7-12th. Two police officers worked that week, four hours each day around the area of downtown and surrounding IU enforcing traffic laws. Vince stated he has heard from people on bikes that were pulled over, but no one seemed upset about it. They were out to educate people. There were no stats available, but the police will be providing them.

Mitch didn't know how the police program came about but gave his thanks and felt it was a great step forward.

c. Bikes Month

Vince stated the events are on the website bloomington.in.gov/bloomingtonbikesmonth. There are many classes, workshops, and bike rides happening. There are events for kids. The Bike 101 class is being reconfigured. There is a Women's Ride available to all ages. The main focus of staff is Bike to Work Day, Friday, May 16, 2014. There has been a new approach this year to Bike to Work Day. The past couple of months businesses and groups have been solicited to set up "refueling stations" to provide food and water on the morning of bike day. There will be a map of those stations which will be the main focus. Already there are 10 to 12 groups with more coming in. Vince stated this is modeled after Fort Collins.

Vince explained people who want to participate in Bike to Work Day can sign up on the website or show up at one of the refueling stations the morning of Bike to Work Day. After signing up, participants will be eligible for a \$50 gift certificate at one of the bike shops in town. The drawing will be done at the Bloomingfoods Bike to Work party that night.

d. Attendance Policy

Vince stated since there is a change in the membership, now is a good time to state the Commission's attendance policy. The attendance policy says after failing to attend three consecutive meetings, or four in a year will give the Mayor or Common Council cause to remove the member from the commission. Vince added this has not been done before, but felt it is important that the membership be active and engaged.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Bloomington/Monroe County Bike Map

Vince gave a history of the bike map and that it was an initiative of Bike and Safety Commission back in 1999. The funding is in the budget for the Commission through the Planning Department. This year there is collaboration with the County to make it a City and County bike map.

Vince reported there has been additional funds through grants to help with the expense of the bike map. Those grants came from the Bloomington Bike Club and The Greenways Foundation which is based in Indianapolis.

The draft was shown with discussion following. Vince touched on a few things that have changed, such as the terrain has been added. There is a different classification scheme. Education information has been redone.

Input:

- Walking trails and biking trails were too close in color
- The local street grid should not get too faded out
- A few more street names added to orient people
- Distinction between paved and unpaved
- Interactive version on line
- A change in some of the colors, red normally signifies hazard, so be mindful of the traditional meaning of the colors
- Color scheme for City and County should be the same
- Lincoln and Washington have bike lanes, but on the map it says shared lanes

Vince made note of the comments and will relay them on to the graphic designer.

Mitch hoped that someone from BPSC could meet and talk to the county about ideas, and Vince will try to set up an evening meeting/

The goal is to have the bike map ready in May.

b. Rogers Group - 17th Street PUD

This was looked at during the March meeting. He summarized the project again for the members. The project will go before the Plan Commission in May, 2014 for approval. Vince has drafted a memo to be included in the packet for the Plan Commission on May 5th. Vince stated the project is not supported by the plan Commission because it does not connect to the surrounding destinations and discourages walking because of the poor connectivity to adjacent places. The proposal also needs a better balance of uses. What they are requesting does fit the current zoning.

Members thought there was not enough connectivity. Also, does not have the synergy for a village concept.

Vince will revise the memo to include more language about the importance of a side path connection on 17th Street.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Yard Sign Project

Vince stated there was a work session which Georgia Shake, from the Council on Neighborhood Associations attended. There was more brainstorming and the concept for outreach in the coming year to reduce speeds in neighborhoods. CONA liked the idea of yard signs to get the message out about the impact of motor vehicles speeding to bicycling and pedestrian safety.

Concepts were discussed. There is a national campaign for "Twenty is Plenty." It was felt this might come confusing since most speed limits are 25. The "Kill Speed, Not Kids" seemed a little extreme, but does summarize the message to drive slower. Another concept was to show the stopping distances.

There was a discussion with CONA about the concepts and what they thought of the designs.

Jim suggested simplifying the signs by cutting some graphics. If someone is driving fast they would not be able to read the entire message on the stopping distance. Discussion continued.

Jim Williams reported that signs were put out in his neighborhood and they were stolen. He commented that it needs to be clear on the sign who they are sponsored by.

It was suggested that the best way to handle distributing signs was through a lending library where 15 to 20 signs would be lent for a couple of weeks. CONA liked this idea. Another idea would have them at events and give them to people and ask for a donation to the bicycle education fund. The costs to make the signs will be about \$450 to \$500. Ten of three different designs (with revisions) could be made.

Jim liked the lending library as did CONA when it was presented to them. If there were three signs, they could be given out in packs of ten. CONA liked the idea of a two week period. BPSC members agreed.

Vince stated he would send out the revisions via e-mail, and asked members to get comments to him before they go to print which will be in the next few weeks.

Habitat for Humanity Final Plan

Vince stated the Habitat project was discussed at a prior meeting. Habitat has purchased a site south of the B-Line trail. It was approved by the Plan Commission last month. Their PUD was approved by the Plan Commission as well. In May they will need to get approval for their final site plan. This will go before Plan Commission.

The consultant did give their rationale about the crossing profile and site plan. The main features they use narrow lanes and on street parking. The lanes get wider when exiting the development, which was a requirement of the fire department, to have 12 foot lanes on the north side of the trail crossing. The crossing has detectable warnings, and mimic the same crossing style at all the other B-line crossings. The main difference is they are requesting stop signs for both directions of motor vehicle traffic in advance of the B-line trail.

There was discussion about the trail in the area. Mitch stated he would like a raised crosswalk. Jim would like to see traffic calming before the trail.

Vince stated there were details about a walking path on the north west corner of the site to connect to the B-line Trail. There is also another trail proposed with the project. The Parks Department purchased additional land south of the railroad tracks in association with this and will be building a new path to connect from the B-Line Trail to Rev. Butler Park, south of the railroad tracks. One of the conditions the railroad put on this project was the requirement that a fence be built all along the southern portion of the site. Vince stated he will check on the crossing grades.

TOPIC SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Stacey suggested the small needs list be on the agenda again. Jim stated he will update and e-mail.

Next meeting May 19, 2014

Meeting adjourned by Mitch Rice at 7:03 p.m.