

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Time and Date: The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee met on June 9, 2014, at 4:00 p.m. in the Maple Room of Wausau City Hall.

Members Present: Ruff, Follendorf, Gisselman, Plath

Others Present: Kim Rantanen-Day, Pat Peckham, Brad Lenz, Chuck Schwartz, McKinley (Wausau EGL student), Jeff Hardel, Kevin Cornell, Destinee Raiten (Health Dept)

In compliance with Chapter 19, Wisconsin Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and transmitted to the *Wausau Daily Herald* in the proper manner.

Welcome and introductions

Chair Ruff called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m. and welcomed members. Everyone present introduced themselves.

Approve minutes of May 5, 2014 meeting

Gisselman motioned to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on May 5, 2014. Plath seconded, and the motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

Discuss enforcement of traffic laws for bicyclists and skateboards downtown

Ruff stated that business owners were concerned that it appears law enforcement is giving out citations right away to customers instead of written warnings.

Hardel stated there was an increase in the amount of citations last summer in direct response to numerous complaints from downtown businesses, Wausau Area Events, and City Council members that requested enforcement downtown. Hardel instructs his staff that if they observe a flagrant violation to not consider a warning which wouldn't lead to compliance, and they can use their own discretion on other minor violations.

Ruff stated that last year the goal was to increase enforcement and last September CSO's said they were writing a great deal less citations because people understood the rules.

Hardel said the CSO's use discretion for the totality of the situation, what happened, what manner were they riding the skateboard or bicycle, and the attitude of the individual whether it is defiant and they have been warned previously.

Rantanen-Day said that from this committee and downtown business owner's perspectives people really appreciated that there was more awareness and attention to educating cyclists than providing citations. She said that Kurth's idea is that if more written warnings were given out that, then kids might take that a little more seriously having a written warning with their name on it and asked Hardel what his thoughts were on this.

Hardel said they could request this and written warnings can be tracked unlike verbal warnings. Hardel said they could consider this but they're responding to 50,000 service calls and their clerical staff is about three months behind in paperwork.

Raiten said the Health Department is considering doing a campaign that another community is doing called Wheels on the Right Shoes on the Left. She said they are waiting to hear back from this community to find out more about this campaign and possibly give out palm cards to CSO's and citizens.

Ruff said they've talked about having a kiosk on the new bike racks and affixing information even as simple as people can't bike on the sidewalk.

Rantanen-Day said that an interesting thing that came out of the meeting was that Kurth realized he could tell kids to take the River Edge trail to the skate park.

Discuss bicycle-vehicle crashes

Ruff cited a specific crash possibly last fall where a bicyclist was hit by a car by the Pizza Hut on First Avenue they wanted to discuss and asked Hardel to give examples of common crashes and scenarios that law enforcement encounter involving biking and pedestrians.

Hardel agreed that this is common and that a lot of the accidents or near accidents involve bicyclists being on the sidewalk when they shouldn't be. Often the bicyclists are traveling at a high rate of speed when a vehicle is coming out of a driveway or turning at an intersection when they don't expect to see a bicyclist on the sidewalk is most common.

Ruff said that goes back to the message from the campaign Wheels on the Right, Shoes on the Left. He stated that's very typical of what he sees where bicyclists are often riding the wrong way on the sidewalk on a one way.

Hardel said if there is some type of document with information they could give the CSO's to hand out when they come in contact with biking or skateboarding violations. Hardel added that information could be added about the River Walk, sidewalks and downtown restrictions as far as where riders can and can't go.

Ruff said they could create a one page document. Ruff made a note to talk about Grand Avenue for the next meeting.

Recap of the bike rack design content and installation

Peckham said last time they discussed that it would be good to take two of the Wausau West racks (four are at City Hall), and put them in front of City Hall. The Public Works crew saw there was space for four and put them in at City Hall. They intended for some of the other rack entries to be on the west side on Second Avenue and Clark. He said at least two bikes can fit on each rack for a total of four bikes. Peckham suggests the committee request that Department of Public Works remove the outermost Wausau West racks, put them in storage and have them available to be installed on the west side. Wausau Awards & Engraving will be a cosponsor of the contest in exchange for creating the nameplates of teachers and students. Wausau Awards & Engraving wants to know where the nameplates will go on the racks; Peckham suggests double sided adhesive. He said the Town of Rib Mountain expressed interest to Ruff regarding how the rack contest was done so they will meet with their bicycle and pedestrian committee on June 19, 2014. Peckham will suggest that they simplify the contest and not have a panel of judges. The designs should be submitted to the committee and then arrange with NTC to have the racks built and the welding club will build them in exchange for payment of materials.

Lenz said there wasn't a specific design for the Near West side except that they want to have decorative racks. Lenz said there may be flexibility to move the racks at City Hall and agrees that four racks are not necessary. He felt it's better that all of the old ones were removed because they are in rough shape and quite a bit smaller than the new racks. Lenz said it isn't a high priority for DPW to restore the old racks

just to put them in storage so he would recommend leaving the new bike racks until they are ready to be installed somewhere else. Ruff suggested leaving the racks, and then when the Second Avenue project happens they could be moved.

Discuss bike racks at summer events

Lenz said that Rasmussen is interested in having bike racks at the Balloon Rally event in July since she is promoting people biking to the event due to the construction on Grand Avenue.

Gisselman said Bill Duncanson found some stacking moveable options.

Ruff said Rasmussen eventually wants all Wausau Events to be bike friendly.

Lenz said he would check on funds from the bike rack design contest that could be used to purchase moveable racks.

Gisselman said the racks would hold eight bikes per rack in a portable, stackable U lock rack.

Update on pavement marking and summer construction projects

Lenz said the pavement marking project was supposed to be done last fall but the weather didn't cooperate. Some intersections were done this spring but the fog lines and white stripes on the sides of the streets are pending until some of the concrete projects are completed. Previously it had been discussed to add a second round of streets for bike lane markings or sharrows. Some possibilities are Northwestern Avenue, that was repaved but doesn't have stripes, Kent Street east of Grand Avenue, and Prospect Avenue.

Lenz said Grand Avenue is being redone in two segments, the southern and northern halves. The southern half should be done by mid-July and the northern half should be done by the end of the season. This will have sharrows for bikes which will be back on the street. There are smaller streets being redone on residential streets such as on the east side, near Wausau West High School, Westview Terrace Addition, Bissell Street, Rose Marie Street, near Stevens Drive, 80th Avenue. Asphalt overlays are being done but not near bike routes except Northwestern Avenue from Swanee Avenue to the city limits.

Discuss Walk-Friendly Communities application

Raiten spent most of the afternoon on the Walk-Friendly Community application. The walking designation includes engineering, planning, enforcement, education, ordinances and policies that involve pedestrian safety and accommodations. After the application is received, it could be designated, honorable mention, bronze, silver, and gold for walkability. There will be recommendations for how to improve whether designated or not.

Ruff said it will be used to see what they can improve on.

Update on Safe Routes to School

Raiten gave an update on Bike and Walk to School Day in mid-May and about 800 students participated in Franklin, Hawthorn, GD Jones, Grant, Thomas Jefferson, John Marshall, Lincoln, and Riverview schools. They are working with GD Jones – she talked to them about the map they're creating and the walking school bus. They're continuing the walking school bus on Wednesdays for the whole school

year. They had about 10-15 participants every week which is a success because it takes a lot of volunteers and time. She's looking to recruit volunteers and she's in contact with NTC to possibly build a walking school bus as an opportunity for practicum hours for students in the early childhood program. Raiten said they might do another school bus route on Bopf, right now the route on Rosecrans misses a lot of students. They're working on creating a toolkit to start this program at other schools. John Marshall has been working with them on safe routes with parent surveys and walk audits, and they already have a walking school bus.

Updates on Bicycle Wausau Rodeo and Safety Day Event

Ruff said about 196 kids and about 90 adults attended, they fitted over 200 helmets. It was a really good event with students from all over. They plan to do it again next year. The space worked well in the parking lot at the library.

Raiten has been working with Safe Kids at schools doing bike assemblies teaching about helmets and rules of the roads. They also identified students that didn't have means to purchase a helmet and they've given out several helmets for those students.

EGL Capstone Project

McKinley explained the capstone project which is a 200 hour project that seniors do at EGL Academy. Their junior year they do a 100 hour volunteer project. He is thinking about attending the committee meetings for his project and creating pamphlets for students about biking on sidewalks. He thinks a lot of parents tell their kids to bike on the sidewalks and that turns into a habit. McKinley would also like to create a short video about biking safety for driver's education programs and help with the Wheels on the Right, Shoes on the Left program.

McKinley would complete the project at the end of the next school year.

Adjourn

Ruff adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee is next scheduled to meet on Monday, July 28, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.