

## BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Time and Date: The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee met on July 28, 2014, at 4:00 p.m. in the Maple Room of Wausau City Hall.

Members Present: Gisselman, Ruff, Plath, Follendorf

Others Present: Dean Day, Pat Peckham, Brad Lenz, McKinley (Wausau EGL student), Destinee Coenen (Health Dept), Rose Heaphy (Newschannel 9)

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**

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Chair Ruff called the meeting to order at approximately 4:02 p.m. and welcomed members. Everyone present introduced themselves.

### **Approve minutes of May 5, 2014 meeting**

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Gisselman motioned to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on June 9, 2014. Plath seconded, and the motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

### **Discuss downtown safety campaign including signage**

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Ruff said that the Wausau Safe Kids Coalition had funds to print bike safety materials and they were geared towards the downtown area. Ruff had posters for members to distribute. Posters were created for bicyclists and pedestrians as well as a poster that bikes, scooters and skateboards should be walked on the sidewalk. Last Friday, Ruff, Coenen and Michelle Armstrong (Safe Kids) canvassed downtown handing out posters to businesses. Permanent brown signs are located in seven locations and indicate that bicycles and skateboards are not allowed. Ruff handed out a map showing the current locations of these signs in the downtown area. The Capital Improvements and Street Maintenance Committee has allocated funds to create new permanent signs based on the posters that were printed. Ruff asked the committee for suggestions about where to place the new metal street signs.

Follendorf said she liked that these signs were positive and really liked the posters. She suggested putting signs in areas where people might be entering the downtown area.

Gisselman said the signs do state that riding on the sidewalk in downtown Wausau is prohibited and can result in a fine.

Ruff said it was intentional to have this information in a smaller print at the bottom of the sign. There are also business cards for the CSO's to hand out that are specifically for pedestrians, bicyclists and skateboarders for education. Law enforcement will hand out these cards to anyone that is stopped. The skateboarder cards that also show a map of where riding is prohibited were also given to the Central Board Shop.

Lenz said the CISM committee was receptive to a campaign with a positive message. The whole campaign has been well received overall.

Coenen said everyone was really thankful for the materials when they were being distributed. She saw kids walking with skateboards when they were downtown.

Ruff saw skateboarders following the rules but a few bicyclists that were riding on the sidewalk.

Plath went by the 400 Block during the concert and asked if sharrows would be put on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. Lenz said there wasn't a plan to put them on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.

Day said that Madison is very advanced in creating safe roads for bicyclists and asked if there would be publicity about the sharrows. He expects motorists to be disgruntled that they need to share the road. He said he thought people would be tailgating bicyclists on Grand Avenue. There were comments on Facebook about the sharrows and Day was appalled by some of the posts. Day said there should be a stiff citation for tailgating.

Plath expressed concern that the asphalt seems too high on Grand Avenue so in some areas the sidewalk is at the same level as the road, especially around Sturgeon Bluff. He is worried about people with disabilities who live in that area not being able to tell if they're on the road or the sidewalk.

Ruff said there will be 10 new signs and asked where they should be placed in Wausau.

McKinley suggested by the library where there are bike racks.

Follendorf said possibly 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Jefferson, 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Washington, Washington and 6<sup>th</sup> Street. She also suggested that two be placed by the 400 Block, moving one to 5<sup>th</sup> Street and Scott Street, moving the sign that is on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to the end by the mall near the bike racks.

Ruff stated that the signs will be on light poles and can face any direction. He suggested 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and McClellan, across from Janke's facing the opposite direction.

Follendorf also suggested Forest and 5<sup>th</sup> Street.

Ruff said the sign swaps will happen in the next few weeks. Signs can go anywhere such as Stewart and Grand Avenue and other areas in the future.

### **Discuss future bicycle racks**

Ruff said that CISM gave \$1500 for the special event bike racks and there is money left to get more racks. CISM committee asked if they could redo the contest and make new designs.

Peckham said Rasmussen liked the contest and had heard all positive comments. Peckham said Chris Connolley of WSAU complained that it was a waste of money. Peckham has seen at least one rack being used out of the three downtown when he was checking. He said that Wausau East had a second design they didn't have time to make so that is a possibility for next school year. Or more racks could be created like the ones by City Hall. Either Wausau West's Warrior Manufacturing or the NTC welding club could make more and he could check on the estimated cost. Or NTC could come up with design proposals. He noted that the chain rack was too detailed and tedious so designs should be simpler. He talked with the Rib Mountain bicycle and pedestrian committee but they don't know where to put racks, how many they need and what the cost would be. They also need to decide if they would put racks on private property such as Briq's. He gave them the contact info for Wausau East and West as well as NTC. Peckham is not interested in doing another contest due to the time and energy involved.

Ruff said they were given \$2700 for the rack contest and only used \$1500. Additional racks could go at Athletic Park, the Chatterbox, the West racks could go on the River Edge Trail.

Ruff asked what East's second design looked like but Peckham couldn't recall their plan.

Follendorf suggested replicating the racks but adding color. Peckham will ask East and Warrior Manufacturing for a price to make racks in the spring of 2015. Follendorf said that 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Clark could have racks designed when it is reconstructed.

Ruff asked the committee to watch for good locations to put racks. Gisselman suggested by the bathrooms at Oak Island. Ruff said racks could go by the new soccer complex and other locations in the future. Follendorf said the Susan G. Komen run might need racks and asked who the contact person is.

Lenz said the Parks Department ordered four of the special events racks but didn't think they were ready in time for the balloon rally. They are lightweight, handy and look like an upside down V.

Ruff said CISM gave money for four more special events racks for Department of Public Works. Racks will be at the fair this year. The Parks Department will handle requests for these racks. These can be used at next year's bike rodeo.

Lenz suggested adding information about the eight special events racks to the special events permit.

#### **Update on pavement marking – current and future**

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Lenz said the markings for 2013 were just completed and the additional markings for 2014 may finish up in the fall or next spring. The regional routes, especially the Central Loop, are a priority and will be marked. They had to reduce the list of streets to mark with sharrows, (where there isn't enough room for a bike) or bike lanes due to the limited budget. Lenz said that 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue from Stewart Avenue to Westhill Drive will get sharrows and the part of Westhill Drive that turns into Bridge Street there will be a bike lane. Stewart Avenue by Day's from 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the freeway on the west is also a potential for new markings. Prospect Avenue from 7<sup>th</sup> Street to Union Avenue, meeting up with 6<sup>th</sup> Street, from Union south to 7<sup>th</sup> Street to Forest Street to Prospect to Townline to Northwestern where the pavement was redone. Kent Street was reconstructed east of Grand Avenue and is being extended to the soccer complex – it would be good to mark the existing street. Engineering is working on plans and will bid out the projects.

Day said that Stewart Avenue is deteriorating. Lenz said that the DOT will resurface and expand by one foot in front of Marathon Park to add a bike lane from 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue.

Ruff said eventually there will be bike accommodations from the new curling center to Menard's.

Day asked if there would be permanent signs. Ruff said the DOT is putting Share the Road signs on all new roads including on Grand Avenue. Lenz said that a grant from the county was used to add Share the Road signs, and there may be some left.

#### **Discuss new MPO bicycle and pedestrian plan**

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Ruff said the new Metropolitan Planning Organization involves municipalities from Mosinee to Wausau and it will include a new bike master plan. He suggested using bicyclewausau.org to comment about spots on the roads for consultants to review while they are creating the new plan.

Lenz said the previous plan was published in 2009. Approximately two-thirds of the projects from this 2009 plan were completed.

**Future agenda items for consideration**

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Ruff said future meetings would include more bike racks and where they should be located, and in September a report from the police regarding summer citations.

**Adjourn**

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Ruff adjourned the meeting at 5:01 p.m.

**The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee is next scheduled to meet on Monday, August, 25 2014 at 4:00 p.m.**