

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Time and Date: The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee met on November 17, 2014, at 4:00 p.m. in the Board Room of Wausau City Hall.

Members Present: Ruff (C), Gisselman, Winters (arrived at 4:08 p.m.)

Others Present: Pat Peckham, Brad Lenz, Kevin Cornell, Porter Thorp (Boy Scout), Judy Rusch

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

Chairperson Ruff called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. noting that a quorum was not present and welcomed members. Everyone present introduced themselves. Porter introduced himself; he is a Boy Scout working on his merit badge – citizenship in the community. Judy is his grandmother and is helping him with this project.

Approval of the minutes of October 6, 2014 meeting

This item was tabled due to lack of a quorum.

Update on the bike rack request survey and bike rack pricing

Ruff said that Follenforf sent the survey to the River District and so far there are five businesses (including Chatterbox, Bunkers, Valley Communities Credit Union) that are interested in having a bike rack. Ruff heard from Josh at Wausau East and Dick at Wausau West – the students are still working on pricing. Once he receives pricing, the committee can determine how many racks can be purchased.

Peckham thought the Third Street racks were removed. He spoke with Mohelnitzky from Department of Public Works, who stated that the rack on River Drive at the farmer's market will be removed shortly. There is already a rack at 212 River Drive which can be used for the winter farmer's market.

Winters asked if there was an estimated quantity of racks that could be purchased.

Ruff said that last year each team was budgeted \$500 per rack and all the teams were able to keep their expenses below this amount. He stated that they received \$2700 from CISM for additional racks and \$1500 is still available from last year's design contest. The bike rack cost will be for materials only. Ruff recalled that the committee was interested in purchasing five or six of the Wausau West racks similar to the racks that are in front of City Hall.

Revisions to bike safety pamphlets

This item was tabled due to the absence of McKinley Lentz. Ruff sent McKinley a few revisions via email and this item will be on a future agenda.

Update on pedestrian accommodations near Athletic Park

Lenz spoke with Duncanson and Knotek from the parks department regarding these curb cuts and they had received another call about this issue. When they were developing plans for the park, Knotek looked at the ADA standards and it was decided they would not need to place wheelchair ramps there. At the time they didn't want to encourage people crossing at this intersection. Lenz spoke with the parks department regarding the committee's discussion and another call that he received. The parks department has now decided to add these curb cuts next spring or summer.

Winters asked if this would need to go to the parks committee.

Lenz spoke with engineering staff who said the initial design was handled by the parks department, so he felt they were the proper ones to handle this issue.

Winters suggested that Department of Public Works be involved since they may be the ones handling the actual work.

Gisselman will discuss this with Knotek to make sure all the appropriate departments are involved.

Recap of Grand Avenue Celebration Ride

Ruff said Channel 9 and Channel 7 covered this event, and Lenz and Peckham participated in the ride. There were 32 riders for the event and it was a nice opportunity to debut the sharrows. Since they always do the bike to work with the mayor in the spring, it was nice to have an event in the fall to end the season.

Lenz asked Ruff why he felt this event had a better turnout than the mayor rides. Ruff said the ride to work is always early in the morning on a Monday, which could be a tough time for some people to make. This fall ride was at 11:30 a.m. on a Friday which may have been over some people's lunch breaks. The ride only took 10-15 minutes to travel from Kent Street to City Hall.

Winters added that the Grand Avenue ride is a flat and easy route.

Lenz said they have talked about different routes for ride to work and they have taken the Bridge Street route for the last three years. Perhaps they could try a different route and a different day or time.

Gisselman asked if there have been reports of bicycle accidents on Grand Avenue since the project has been completed.

Cornell said that Pekarske could answer that question.

Ruff said that recently he has seen more people riding on the road. Since the sharrows were a bit controversial, that could have been another reason they had a better turnout for the bike ride.

Winters suggested starting the ride at Gilbert Park which would include part of the river edge trail and possibly involving the Boys and Girls Club.

Peckham added that some riders continued riding after reaching City Hall and did the 25 mile Central Loop route. Another group rode out by Trappe River golf course. He noticed there is a gap between the pavement and the curb by Fidelity Bank. During the ride, he and another rider almost crashed going through that section.

Lenz said after the ride with the snacks and prizes it turned into a nice networking event. Peckham said people got the impression that the city cared about bicyclists.

Ruff added that Jimmy John's provided lunch for the riders. The MPO committee received feedback that they need more cycling events. These events should include adults and perhaps longer rides. Perhaps there could be more events in 2015 in addition to the bike rodeo with the library. He received feedback that people would like more activities at the bike rodeo. Chad from the library will begin planning for the

bike rodeo in January of 2015.

Peckham suggested involving the CWOCC group and having an introduction to mountain biking at Sylvan Hill.

Judy asked how these events were sponsored.

Ruff said the bike to work event is organized by this committee. Ruff and the health department partnered with Safe Kids and bike shops to help the Library plan the bike rodeo.

Judy shared that 25 students from Wausau took first place in the first off road cycling competition. Their team is called Wausau United and they also race in the WORS competition.

Ruff would like to get Wausau United, Wausau Wheelers and CWOCC involved in organizing rides.

Porter and his mom are also helping to build fat bike trails at Sunnyvale Park.

Update on permanent speed sign on Northwestern Avenue

Ruff said that Plath is talking to Daniel Guild from the Village of Weston about this issue. Guild would like to have counts done to see how many bicyclists use Northwestern Avenue. Ruff would like to do three or four counts of cyclists.

Lenz added that this may be on the agenda for the parking and traffic committee.

Ruff said that Plath was looking to partner with Weston since this road crosses city and village lines.

Future agenda items for consideration and next meeting date

Police department report regarding bicycle accidents on Grand Avenue since the project was completed at the end of October 2014.

The MPO still has their Wiki map for citizens to add comments about biking in the metro area. They will be doing more interviews and prioritizing projects. There will be a public meeting in February of 2015.

Adjourn

Ruff adjourned the meeting at 4:38 p.m.

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee is next scheduled to meet on Monday, January 26, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.