

## BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Time and Date: The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee met on Monday, October 26, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. in the Board Room of Wausau City Hall.

Members Present: Ruff (C), Plath, Follendorf, Gisselman, Field

Others Present: Allen Wesolowski, Pat Peckham, Brad Lenz

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

### **Approve minutes of September 28, 2015 meeting**

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Follendorf moved to approve the minutes. Plath seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

### **Review plans and make recommendation on Stewart Avenue/Scott Street/Washington Street resurfacing project**

Wesolowski and Lenz went through the pavement marking plans for the DOT project slated to take place next year. The plans include bicycle lanes, including buffered lanes west of 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue. Sharrows would be painted east of 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue. The committee discussed the plans, including the markings in front of Trinity Church, and east of 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue approaching downtown. A bicycle rack was discussed for the south side of Washington Street by Whitewater Park.

### **Discuss an open streets event in Wausau**

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Field said an initial meeting was held with a small local group, and another meeting is scheduled. She had spoken to other communities about organizing such an event. Ruff said the details of who will be involved, which streets to consider, and specific activities to be held, will be discussed at the upcoming planning meeting. He encouraged members of the committee to attend.

### **Update on bicycle racks**

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Lenz said there has been some preliminary talk about another round of bicycle racks, and asked the committee if we should start by reaching out to the schools to gauge their interest before looking at funding options. Ruff said he could follow-up with the schools to see if they're interested. Funding the racks was discussed, including reaching out to the foundations, including them in the plans for the riverfront and near west side, and getting a line item in the public works budget.

### **Discuss River Edge Parkway improvements**

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Lenz mentioned the potential County Materials project at the end of Winton Street on the riverfront. He said the owners are looking at residential development with a trail along the river. He said this would extend the River Edge Trail to the north, ideally linking it to Gilbert Park. Plath asked if it could be done without sharing the railroad right-of-way. Lenz said the initial thought is to cross the railroad rather than share right-of-way, but either option can be explored with the railroad.

Lenz said this committee has not historically dealt with off-street trails, focusing instead on on-street accommodations, but since the disbanding of the river edge commission, there isn't a specific bike/ped group focused on trail development. This committee could potentially look at all things bicycle and

pedestrian related.

Ruff suggested looking at striping the trail to separate bicycles and pedestrians. He said with the planned improvements there will be a lot more people on the trail and they will be coming from multiple directions. Discussion followed.

### **Discuss citywide street and sidewalk areas of concern**

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Lenz said that an item from last time was the south end of Grand Ave where there is a sign prohibiting bikes from using the street. He said the ordinance was changed last year when Grand Avenue was redone. He said the prohibition on Grand Ave was lifted, and now the only place where bicycles cannot be on the street is on Forest Street, from 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>, which is right in front of the courthouse. Discussion followed. Lenz said if there are signs on Grand Ave south of Kent Street that prohibit bikes from the street, the signs should come down, or the ordinance should be changed. Plath motioned to keep the ordinance as it is currently written, and remove the signs south of Kent Street. Field seconded. Motion carried, 4-0. Discussion followed on adding sharrows to this section of Grand Ave.

### **Future items for consideration**

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Plath suggested continuing to educate people about riding on the sidewalks, especially downtown.

Field said she saw stencils in the sidewalk of another city that say “no bicycles.” She said that when you’re riding, you’re looking down at the pavement so this would be more visible than a sign. Discussion followed.

Gisselman said he would like to invite bike polo people to the next meeting.

### **Adjourn**

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The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

**The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee is next scheduled to meet on Monday, December 7, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.**