

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Time and Date: The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee met on Monday, September 28, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. in the Board Room of Wausau City Hall.

Members Present: Ruff (C), Plath, Follendorf (arrived 4:20) Gisselman

Others Present: Ben Graham, Andrew Lynch, 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

Chairperson Ruff called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m. and welcomed members. Everyone present introduced themselves. Ruff said agenda items would be taken out of order until a quorum was present.

Approve minutes of August 24, 2015 meeting

Follendorf moved to approve the minutes. Plath seconded, and the motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and possible action on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for the Wausau Area

Lenz said this was discussed last month and that Lynch gave a presentation. He said no action was taken last time since the plan was still out for public comment. Since then, the comment period closed and the MPO reviewed and adopted the plan. He said the committee should consider any changes to the plan and send a recommendation to our full council for official adoption. Lenz said that time will be reserved at the November CISM meeting for a presentation of the plan and for their possible recommendation to Council. Gisselman asked if it should also go to Plan Commission, to which Lenz responded that it could go the week after CISM. Ruff said that in the minutes from the MPO, there were a couple of changes noted. Lynch explained these updates.

Gisselman asked about mode share and how that data is obtained. Lynch said it is largely through Census data and similar surveys, but counts can be done. Discussion followed.

Plath motioned to recommend approval of the plan. Gisselman seconded, and the motion carried unanimously, 4-0. Ruff said that the recommendation will go to the November CISM along with a presentation by Lynch.

2015 report from Community Service Officers

Ruff passed out an email from Graham. Graham spoke with four of the CSO's who work downtown. He said many of the encounters they had with people riding on the sidewalk were because they didn't know they couldn't ride on the sidewalk. Others said they thought the prohibition was only for the 400 Block. Graham thought that it was because of lack of signage. The CSO's said the incidents prompted positive contact with law enforcement, as a chance to educate people about the laws. The officers felt those who were stopped changed their ways. He said there was concern that the citation may be too high. He didn't think many were written unless they were habitual offenders. Ruff said that report is consistent with past years, and that as the summer goes on, there are fewer incidents because of the interactions.

The committee discussed the signs that were installed during the summer and the signs in the stores, both of which encourage walking. Ruff said that a public service announcement could be done next year to reinforce the message from the signs and the PD regarding walking bikes on the sidewalks. Lynch said the plan includes a pedestrian priority area, which is basically the downtown area.

Discuss an open streets event in Wausau

Ruff said this event is highlighted in the plan. Lynch gave some background on these events and examples from other parts of the country. He said they are good events for raising awareness of non-automobile transportation. They are also fun community events and have a tie to public health. He said he is planning with Field an event for next spring in Wausau. Ruff said that they will be talking to people from Green Bay who have started a similar event. He said a smaller group may work on this project, but they would keep this committee updated.

Discussion and possible recommendation on East Riverfront bike/ped accommodations

Lenz said questions about this area were brought up at the last meeting. He showed a rendering of the latest planned improvements for the East Riverfront, including a new street, River Edge Trail, and connections between them. Discussion followed regarding a bridge connection to the west side and a crossing of the railroad track at Bridge Street. Lynch asked about bicycle parking along the trail. Lenz said there are a couple racks being planned for the stream area, but the details of the rest have not been worked out yet. Lynch suggested scattered parking in the public spaces as well as parking for the private development. Ruff asked for a motion to direct staff to look at bicycle parking in the East Riverfront area. Plath motioned, Gisselman seconded, and the motion carried, 4-0.

Update on new bike racks

Lenz discussed the photos of possible bike rack locations that were passed out at the last meeting. He said the first three locations were in parks and he said the parks department would like to look more specifically at the locations due to pedestrian and ADA accessibility. He said the parks department agreed with the location north of Washington Street along the trail. He said the Athletic Park idea was well received but that more conversations would be needed with the Woodchucks to determine their exact needs. He said the soccer complex idea was also well received by the parks department. He said the one at Elm and 2nd was being held off until the street project is done next year. For the other private one, he thought we should speak with the property owner again to clarify expectations and coordinate delivery. Ruff asked the committee if racks should be given at the soccer complex. Lenz said he can continue to work with parks on precise locations.

Discuss citywide street and sidewalk areas of concern

Plath mentioned he saw someone going the wrong direction on the 3rd Avenue in the bike lane. Ruff said he has seen multiple people using the sharrows on Grand Avenue. Follendorf asked about East Wausau Avenue by the high school. Lynch said it is recommended for a bike lane. Follendorf mentioned a club is organizing at the high school and discussing possible bicycle routes. She mentioned they are looking to get more involved with the biking community. Peckham asked about the signs on Grand Avenue south of Kent Street that prohibit bicycles on the street. Discussion followed. Lenz said he will check the ordinance. Peckham said involving the students in the open streets event would help public acceptance.

Adjourn

Plath motioned to adjourn. Follendorf seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

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