

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 (arrived 4:15), Field, Follendorf, Plath, Gisselman, Winters

Others Present: Ben Graham, Andrew Lynch, Pat Peckham, Fred Heider, 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

Winters called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m.

Approve minutes of December 8, 2015 meeting

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

Discuss open streets event in Wausau

Field updated the committee on planning for the open streets event. She said sponsorship dollars were being sought, but the drop-dead date for raising money has past. She thought the event would be better if it were held off until next year, when more sponsors could be brought on board and when some of the street construction taking place this year was finished. Lynch said the extra time would allow us to educate potential sponsors on these events in other cities.

Discuss bicycle and pedestrian accommodations on the Near West Side (1st through 3rd Avenues)

Lenz said 2nd Avenue will be reconstructed this season; Clark Street is being postponed. He said 2nd Ave doesn't have marked bike accommodations but it will be a slower, neighborhood street, so should be good for bikes and pedestrians. Winters said the on-street parking spaces for cars will be marked. He said there will be flashing lights for crossing 1st Avenue. Ruff said 1st and 3rd Avenues have sharrows and marked bike lanes so those are pretty good for bikes. Lynch said speed is a big issue and with the bump-outs and table-top intersection on 2nd Ave, it should be a good street to ride on. Ruff said the HEAL Coalition may want to do one of their walk audits in this area.

Discuss potential bicycle parking ordinance

Heider suggested the City take the lead on requiring bicycle parking at all employers. He said some municipalities have expressed interest in creating more bike parking and requiring it to be part of developments. He thought the region may want to consider this to become more bike-friendly, and move up from the bronze level. He thought creating a draft ordinance at the County level for the municipalities to adopt as part of their parking ordinances would make sense. Discussion followed.

Discuss committee membership and terms of citizen members

Ruff reviewed the info about the committee from the web page. He said most of the terms are expiring soon, and elections coming up may change some of the membership. Lenz said that the city committees will elect a member for this committee; in the past they have elected people who can represent multiple committees. He said there is still room for citizen members. Lynch said he is interested. Ruff asked the committee members with expiring terms to consider serving again, and suggested reaching out to others who may be interested.

Discuss citywide street and sidewalk areas of concern

Field mentioned the “You know you’re from Wausau if” website and the discussion about potholes and street maintenance.

Heider mentioned McClellan Street between 2nd and 3rd Street – since the decorative lights replaced the overhead lights it has gotten darker and pedestrians are difficult to see. He also said Scott is difficult to cross at 1st Street because of all the turning motions. He suggested a 3-second delay to give the pedestrian the right-of-way. Discussion followed on traffic signals. Lynch suggested someone with technical knowledge of streetlights in Wausau come to the committee to discuss the ability to change them to benefit bicycles and pedestrians.

Ruff said that CWOCC received a grant for the Sylvan Hill off-road bike park. He said that project will be moving forward. Winters said there still may be work to do, especially with the neighborhood groups.

Gisselman said bike polo will be discussed at the upcoming Park & Rec Committee.

Future items for consideration

Ruff mentioned Bike to Work Week in May, and possible events such as Bike to Work with the Mayor. He said Open Streets could be discussed again next time.

Field mentioned letters to the editor in the paper that were not positive about bicycles. She said we should be proactive in addressing that.

Peckham mentioned the Kent Street and Grand Avenue intersection and issues with traffic signals for bicycles.

Adjourn

Plath motioned to adjourn. Ruff adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee is next scheduled to meet on Monday, March 28, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.