

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Time and Date: The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee met on Monday, June 27, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. in the Maple Room of Wausau City Hall.

Members Present: Ruff, Gisselman, Field, Plath, Peckham, Schmidt.

Others Present: Ben Graham, Andrew Lynch, Brian Kowalski, Brad Sippel, Karen Powers, Samantha Pinzl, Dan Maas, 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

Ruff called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m. and everyone present introduced themselves.

Approve minutes of May 23, 2016 meeting

Peckham moved to approve the minutes. Plath seconded. Peckham added that there was discussion regarding a sign for the steep trail at the east end of Bridge Street. He said there is signage for “steep section/walk only” on the trail. Motion to approve minutes carried 6-0.

Discuss HEAL Coalition Walk Audit Report

Pinzl shared maps of the walk audits that were done in April. Powers went over four segments that were audited and discussed issues and potential solutions for each segment. Pinzl said there will be additional audits in the future because there is an interested group of people through the HEAL Coalition. Powers said that if people have fewer barriers to being active they will choose to do so. She said the connectivity around downtown is important and they want to see if the infrastructure is helping move people to and around downtown or if it is hindering them.

Ruff said the committee could focus on some of the recommendations and take action on them at a future meeting. Peckham suggested the Coalition recommend the top 3 things that they think are most important in the short term. Ruff asked the committee to review the recommendations for further discussion. Field said one of the recommendations is for 1st and Jefferson, and Main Street is looking at doing a crosswalk mural there in 2017, as a traffic calming measure. Plath suggested looking at the trail connection north of the Dudley building and putting a sign on 1st Street pointing people to the River Edge trail.

Discussion and possible recommendation for placement of decorative bicycle racks.

Ruff said the committee previously decided to give racks to 3 businesses: Waldinger Investments on 6th St., Chatterbox on 2nd Avenue, and Valley Communities Credit Union on 3rd Avenue. The other racks were suggested for the River Edge trail, near the kayak course and farmer’s market. He said it was also suggested to add racks at Athletic Park. Lenz said that Parks is still verifying exact locations and their need for racks. Discussion followed on the 2nd Avenue reconstruction project and the possible addition of a rack for Chatterbox. Peckham suggested adding a larger rack possibly in the street rather than the student-designed ones that only hold two bikes. The committee agreed by consensus to allow the cycle-stall rack formerly at the 400 Block to be placed in the street in front of the Chatterbox.

Review of WisDOT’s Designing for Pedestrian Safety course.

Lynch said he took a course from FHWA on designing streets for pedestrians. The class looked at various intersections in Wausau for potential improvements. He shared the ideas generated from the class on the following intersections: 1st Ave and Stewart; River Drive and 1st Street; Grand Ave and Forest St; and 1st St and Scott St.

Recap of recommendations to CISM regarding downtown bicycle improvements.

Ruff said at June 9th CISM, it was agreed to put sharrows on 3rd Street. Field said the “walk your bike” stencils were approved and installed at key intersections around downtown. Ruff said CISM recommended that the roughly \$150,000 railing for the Bridge Street bridge be entered into the CIP process for ranking with other City projects. He said CISM was supportive of the concept for making the bridge safer for bicyclists.

Discuss reconstruction of 1st Avenue from Stewart Avenue to Thomas Street

Lenz said that the DOT is starting to look at this project. He said it is a little early for specifics on what it is they will be proposing, but this committee should stay on top of the project as this section is important for bicycles. He said the bike/ped plan has recommendations for this street that this committee should review.

Discussion of skateboarding regulations in downtown Wausau

Graham shared a map of where skateboards, rollerblades, scooters, etc. are prohibited. He said the ordinance essentially prohibits skateboards from operating on streets and sidewalks in the downtown. He also shared data on enforcement – the dollar amounts of fines and how many citations and warnings have been issued. He said this is for information only in case the committee wants to suggest changes in the future.

Adjourn

Ruff adjourned the meeting at 4:59 p.m.

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee is next scheduled to meet on Monday, August 29, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.