

## **CITY OF WAUSAU BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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**Time and Date:** The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee met on Monday, Dec. 17, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. in the Maple Room of Wausau City Hall.

**Members Present:** Pat Peckham, Gary Gisselman, Paul Kage, Andrew Plath, Paul Kaczmarowski, Kevin Eichelberger, Tyler Wildman

**Others Present:** Brad Sippel, Andrew Lynch, Cord Buckner, TJ Niksich, Samantha Pinzl, Allen Wesolowski, Ric Mohelnitzky

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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Peckham called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. Mayor Mielke thanked the committee members for their service.

### **Approve minutes of Oct 29, 2018 meeting**

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Peckham asked about the status of some of the items that were identified in the minutes.

Motion by Kage/Kaczmarowski to approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Discuss city snow clearing and snow removal**

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Mohelnitzky introduced himself and overviewed the City's snow clearing operations. Peckham asked about sidewalks that the City is responsible for. Mohelnitzky responded that the City clears City owned properties. The City also clears the sidewalks on Grand Avenue because of an agreement made when it was reconstructed in the 1960s. Mohelnitzky said snow clearing and removal cost around \$288,000 in 2017, and were up to around \$260,000 so far in 2018. Eichelberger asked about the costs of snow removal. Mohelnitzky said it costs about \$42,000 for a typical snowstorm in 2018 just to plow, without any snow removal. Mohelnitzky overviewed where snow is stored. Sippel asked if the trails in Wausau are cleared by Parks. Mohelnitzky said they do quite a few of them, but they have an agreement with Parks to help each other clear when a crew is already in the area. Kage asked if it would ever be possible to have snow removal on the sidewalks in the Highland Park Boulevard area. Mohelnitzky said they did that the first year after the road was designed that way, but because there is no boulevard on the sides of the street the only place to store the snow is in the center boulevard, and it was very difficult to clear the sidewalks when they tried. Mohelnitzky also said that some neighborhood residents did not want the sidewalks cleared, and if they were going to walk it they would walk in the street.

### **Discuss Winter Bike to Work Day (February 8, 2019)**

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Sippel said that February 8 is International Winter Bike to Work Day, and asked if there was anyone that would be interested in volunteering to organize an event for the day. Paul Kage volunteered to organize a ride. Sippel said he can help organize before he goes on leave.

### **Discuss People for Bikes Community Grant opportunities**

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Sippel overviewed the People for Bikes Community Grant, and mentioned if there are any ideas for the grant to let Sippel know. Plath said mountain bike facilities might help CWOCC. Peckham mentioned the previous program in Wausau where police officers distributed lights to riders that did not have them. Sippel said he could look into the funding to see if that would be eligible. Eichelberger also said that this grant could maybe help with facilities at Sylvan Hill.

**Consider recommending seasonal speed table at Lakeview and Pied Piper near Alexander Airport Park and how it might be funded.**

Peckham overviewed the history of the item. Peckham mentioned that after a series of meetings and discussions with the neighborhood group the City put flashing speed indicators on Lakeview in an attempt to reduce speeds of vehicles and track speed data. Peckham said there have been complaints about speeding, especially after the park improvements were made and there are more children in the area. Mohelnitzky said that the staff have training on the equipment soon. Peckham mentioned that the data can provide patterns on speeding so the police department can target enforcement to the most effective times. Peckham said he was curious to see and application of speed tables as a traffic calming device somewhere in the City. Speed tables work by creating an unpleasant experience if you hit it going over around 25 miles per hour, but if you are going up to 25 miles per hour it has minimal impact. Peckham has found temporary rubber speed tables that can be removed seasonally. Peckham spoke with someone in Milwaukee that has used the temporary speed tables and they have used a fair number of them. In Milwaukee, a portion of the cost of the feature was assessed to the adjacent property owners. The committee discussed potential funding. Sippel said it might be worth establishing a way for a resident to request these. Mohelnitzky said he has a couple of reservations that would need to be looked in to, how it would work with tractor trailers, and whether people would just speed up after they hit the speed table like they do when stop signs are used to control speed. The committee discussed potential to develop a procedure or request for citizens that want traffic calming. Lynch looked at some other cities, and they usually have packets put together so residents can petition the City for traffic calming, then the City will go in and assess what could be done.

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

Buckner said Aspirus has a concern about the midblock pedestrian crossing of Pine Ridge Boulevard and would like something to improve its safety, possibly lighting. There have been complaints of people not yielding right of way and speeding. Buckner has a speed monitor up now to track speeds. Wesolowski said the City has a request in to WPS to get an estimate on the cost of adding lighting to the requested intersections.

**Future items for consideration**

Plath asked about the River Edge Trail crossing at Washington Street. Sippel said we have to collect data because that request needs WisDOT approval.

**Future meeting date**

The next Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee will meet on Feb 25, 2019.

**Adjourn**

Motion by Eichelberger/Kage to adjourn the meeting at 5:56 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.