

CITY OF WAUSAU BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Time and Date: The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee met on Monday, Apr. 29, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. in the Maple Room of Wausau City Hall.

Members Present: Pat Peckham, Gary Gisselman, Andrew Plath

Others Present: Brad Sippel, Andrew Lynch, Cord Buckner, TJ Niksich

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

Peckham called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

Approve minutes of February 25 and March 25, 2019 meetings

Motion by Plath/Kage to approve the February 25 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Kage/Plath to approve the March 25 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and possible action on the selection of a committee chair and vice chair

Peckham mentioned that he is willing to step down as chair if another committee member is interested in filling that role. Plath volunteered to serve as vice chair.

Motion by Gisselman/Kaczmorowski to nominate Andrew Plath as the vice chair. Motion approved unanimously.

Discuss 2019 priorities

Sippel opened a discussion about priorities for the committee for 2019, continuing from the previous meeting. Sippel overviewed a spreadsheet about potential priorities for the committee. Peckham said the bicycle friendly signal detection should be highlighted as a priority. Lynch said it should be made a policy that specifies intersection criteria, so if there is not money available right now it can be done when the intersection is redone. Sippel asked the committee about audible pedestrian signals. The committee would like a policy for using APS with new construction. Niksich mentioned that retrofitting the audible signals can be very expensive, but if they are added up front they are less expensive. The committee discussed audible pedestrian signals along Scott Street as part of the State Highway 51 reroute. Niksich noted that they applied for grant funding to make the signal changes, and APS would be part of that. Lynch and Sippel will work on a policy for audible pedestrian signals. Sippel asked if the committee has any direction on whether they would like the policy to apply to new construction Peckham said it would be nice to start with new construction and then identify priority spots where APS would be most needed. Lynch said if we do a form for traffic calming requests, the APS could be the same process.

The committee discussed the proposed United State Bicycle Route 20.

Discuss National Bike to Work Week and Bike to Work with the Mayor (May 13-19)

The committee discussed the Bike to Work with the Mayor event on Monday, May 13. Departure time would be 7:45 from Marathon Park. The Committee discussed start locations, establishing John Marshall Elementary School, Gilbert Park, and Lift CrossFit Gym in Rib Mountain. Peckham mentioned the Mayor should invite the media to ride along.

Discuss Friends of Mountain Bay Trail

Sippel and Lynch attended the Friends of the Mountain Bay Trail organizational meeting. Lynch summarized the meeting purpose, to keep the Friends group going to ensure it retains its 501c3 status. Several area snowmobile club representatives also attended the meeting, and there could be some unique ways to work together with the snowmobile clubs. They expressed a desire to get the Mountain Bay Trail to the west side of the Wisconsin River. Lynch is now president of the group. Lynch thinks the first project may be to apply for grant funds to finish the trail from the current trailhead, west to Camp Philips Road. Peckham mentioned it would be nice to have a led ride out to Hatley or something along the trail, as a potential fundraiser.

Discussion and possible action on Lake View Drive and Pied Piper pedestrian crossing.

Peckham updated the committee on the crossing at Alexander-Airport Park, and that the County is funding pedestrian activated beacons at the crosswalk as part of the North Central Health Care improvements due to the potential for increased traffic on Lake View Drive.

Discuss citywide street and sidewalk areas of concern

Kage said the railroad tracks on 24th Avenue, north of Sherman Street are really bad. The asphalt has shrunk so the tracks are protruding and make it really difficult for bikes to cross and makes it really rough in a car. Kage asked if the railroad has responded about the issue on the tracks on Wausau Avenue. Sippel replied that they have not.

Buckner mentioned there was a third party meeting about a fatal pedestrian crash this year at the pedestrian beacons on Grand Avenue. The committee had discussed a pedestrian hybrid beacon that functions as a signal in that location. Peckham asked if the police department has looked at compliance here, Buckner said probably not recently. Peckham said that anecdotally it seems to be a problem area, where people do not yield.

Kage mentioned an issue at the intersection of Bridge Street and 6th Street that affects cars, bicycles and pedestrians. There have been problems where drivers from the center lane going north on 6th Street will turn left onto Bridge Street, but the left lane allows both left turns and straight through traffic. In this situation it could cause a crash when the vehicle turning left from the middle lane turns into a vehicle going straight in the left lane.

Bicycle and pedestrian news and education

Sippel included an article about bicycling on sidewalks. Plath said this is an issue in downtown where bicyclists would ride on sidewalks and people stepping out of storefronts were getting clobbered.

Future items for consideration

Sippel will work on drafting policy language for the items discussed. The committee can review bike to work with the mayor.

Future meeting date

The next Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee will meet earlier than normal on May 20, 2019. The regularly scheduled day is on Memorial Day.

Adjourn

Motion by Plath/Gisselman to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.