

REPORT OF BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 15, 2016 - 10:00 AM

City Conference Room, County-City Building
1515 Strongs Avenue - Stevens Point WI 54481

PRESENT: Tori Jennings; Maud LaMarche; Marlene Pohl; Trevor Roark

ABSENT: Liz McDonald

ALSO PRESENT: Bob Fisch; Kyle Kearns; Madelin Petz; Sean Piette; Megan Rheaume-Brand; Martin Skibba

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1. Call to Order.
 2. Persons who wish to address committee for up to three (3) minutes on a non-agenda item.
 3. Review development proposal for a conceptual project to create a three-lot subdivision on the southwest corner of the intersection of Saint Paul Street and Regent Street presented to Plan Commission on March 7, 2016.
 4. Presentation of findings from March 3, 2016 workshop.
 5. Bicycle tag & remove and parking tag design to assist Police Department.
 6. Schedule next meeting.
 7. Adjourn.
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Discussion and possible action on the following:

1. Call to order.

Chairperson Tori Jennings called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The Chair has postponed the review and approval of minutes from the previous meeting and previous special session due to lack of time to compile information. No motions were issued.

2. Persons who wish to address committee for up to three (3) minutes on a non-agenda item.

Madeline Petz & Megan Rheaume-Brand said that they attended as representatives from Portage County Can and would like to learn more about BPAC and possibly collaborate on promoting the well-being of Portage County with physical activity & healthy eating. Further, they're interested to hear the results of the recent Public Workshop to prioritize the Portage County Countywide Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan (PCCBPP). Floor was closed.

3. Review development proposal for a conceptual project to create a three-lot subdivision on the southwest corner of the intersection of Saint Paul Street and Regent Street presented to Plan Commission on March 7, 2016.

Chairperson Tori Jennings said that reviewing and discussing this conceptual project is a good idea for BPAC today and for future projects that come up.

Vice Chairperson Trevor Roark prefaced the agenda item by mentioning that he attended the most recent Plan Commission meeting and thought that the conversation between Plan Commissioners had merit but the potential conclusion of not requiring sidewalk on the West side of St. Paul along this three-lot subdivision did not fit the spirit of the PCCBPP. The PCCBPP does not specifically make a recommendation for sidewalks along that block of that street, however Trevor suggested that the Safe Routes to Schools recommendations and other general recommendations from the PCCBPP imply that constructing sidewalk along that block of that street would be beneficial.

Marlene Pohl suggested that she agreed with Trevor Roark's points. Families need to be connected to their schools in all areas of the City.

Chairperson Tori Jennings mentioned that using the argument that it's not specifically listed in the PCCBPP is technically accurate, however this PCCBPP was developed within a snapshot of time. Thus, bike/ped plans will evolve and our BPAC is essential to assisting in these decisions.

City Associate Planner Kyle Kearns reiterated the summary of this development review. Kyle Kearns suggested that requiring the developer to construct sidewalks, stormwater drainage, etc. may not be affordable. Due to current subdivision development on the East side of this street, sidewalk and swales will be constructed along the East side of this street along this block. Kyle will bring future developments to BPAC for review.

Bob Fisch shared a short amount of history behind the decision to either build in specific sidewalk recommendations into the PCCBPP (when the plan was being developed) or general sidewalk recommendations. Due to fallout from the public regarding specific sidewalk recommendations in Waukesha's new bike/ped plan (at that time), it was agreed to make general recommendations. In addition, Bob Fish suggested that any recommendation by the City to not do sidewalks because the PCCBPP didn't specifically say so is a circular argument.

Police Chief Martin Skibba asked what authority does the City have to connect sidewalks when the block or neighborhood is disconnected.

City Associate Kyle Kearns said that certified survey lots cannot have requirements for sidewalks. If a new road is built, the City can pay for the sidewalk or can assess fees to homeowner. If one property owner gets assessed for a small section of sidewalk (to connect other sidewalk) it may not seem fair.

Maud LaMarche said that she doesn't understand why the BPAC wouldn't always recommend sidewalks.

Vice Chairperson Trevor Roark motioned to recommend that the City stay with the recommendations of not requiring sidewalk for three-lot subdivision on the southwest corner of the intersection of Saint Paul Street and Regent Street presented to Plan Commission on March 7, 2016. No second. Motion failed.

Chairperson Tori Jennings reminded BPAC that we are advisory to the City Plan Commission.

Marlene Pohl motioned to recommend that the City require sidewalk for three-lot subdivision on the southwest corner of the intersection of Saint Paul Street and Regent Street presented to Plan Commission on March 7, 2016. Maud LaMarche second. City Associate Planner Kyle Kearns mentioned that the City hasn't received subdivision plat yet and May is a likely time for this.

Chairperson Tori Jennings called the vote. All in favor - motion carries.

4. Presentation of findings from March 3, 2016 workshop.

Chairperson Tori Jennings summarized the results of the event. The recommendation that the City create bicycle user maps for area streets was one of the most popular recommendations.

Chairperson Tori Jennings mentioned that she already knows of 2 GIS faculty at UWSP interested in creating these maps. Another popular recommendation was to encourage businesses to apply for bicycle friendly status (through the League of American Bicyclists) and Chairperson Tori Jennings mentioned that Sentry downtown would be a great leader with this. Other more popular recommendations include: "crosswalk enforcement" and "annual bicycle & pedestrian education in municipal communications" Chairperson Tori Jennings then asked Chief Martin Skibba if the SPPD could coordinate crosswalk stings.

Chief Martin Skibba said that the SPPD could absolutely do these, they are a good priority, and need to be ongoing.

Chairperson Tori Jennings asked the Police Chief what ideas he has in targeting motorists.

Chief Martin Skibba suggested the intersection of Franklin St. and Division St. Sometimes, one car in one lane can stop for a crossing pedestrian and another in a different lane won't stop unless the driver sees the crossing pedestrian, which can result in an accident. This could be an important intersection to focus on. He also suggested that education needs to be the focus through any type of cross walk stings.

Vice Chairperson Trevor Roark asked Chief Martin Skibba if the design of Division is partly to blame for the continued pedestrian dangers we see and hear about on Division.

Chief Martin Skibba said that we need a good dialogue between all people using the streets; motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians. Doing more education and enforcement are key. For example, the PD could host a bike rodeo for kids/adults at Riverfront Rendezvous. Heavier concentrations of patrol would be important as well.

Maud LaMarche asked if the outside lane driver is not liable for the pedestrian crossing the street.

Chief Martin Skibba said that the driver is liable, but the driver needs to see the pedestrian and until the driver does it can be a dangerous situation.

Maud LaMarche said that there are more than students crossing the intersection of Franklin & Division and it's important to note this. She noted that this intersection is a problem and Chief Martin Skibba agreed.

Marlene mentioned that she gathered contact information from 15-18 people at the March 3, 2016 workshop who are interested in the bike/ped counts.

Bob Fisch said that Sarah Wallace was compiling maps for the very purpose of developing local bicycle user maps. Her office might still have these and they could be accessed by BPAC.

Sean Piette said that the UWSP GIS department would be a good resource for developing maps like these.

Maud LaMarche agreed and said that the Center for Land Use Education would also be a good resource.

Vice Chairperson Trevor Roark said that he could see a workshop like this happening twice a year.

Chairperson Tori Jennings suggested that BPAC needs to collaborate with the PD and others to develop real solutions.

5. Bicycle tag & remove and parking tag design to assist Police Department.

Chairperson Tori Jennings said that if this new ordinance is approved by Common Council then BPAC could assist the PD with designing this tag.

Chief Martin Skibba agreed and suggested that BPAC look at other designs to include best practices and how other municipalities simplified their design. He also said that it is very important to use the exact language from the ordinance in order to remain representative, even if it's truncated.

Chairperson Tori Jennings asked if the PD had recommendations on materials for the tags.

Chief Martin Skibba said a laminated card with hole punch and wire twist tie would be best. He also mentioned that we could also design a small placard for sticking on the bike hitches, however he also stated that education on bike rack use is preferable to a placard since the latter will be difficult to read.

Sean Piette asked for clarification on the purpose of the ordinance.

Vice Chairperson Trevor Roark described the ordinance.

Bob Fisch clarified that the ordinance states a bicycle would need to "reasonably appear abandoned" and not just be parked in the same spot for 72 hours.

6. Schedule next meeting.

The next BPAC meeting was scheduled for April 19, 2016. Chairperson Tori Jennings said that agenda items need to be submitted to the Vice Chair by April 5, 2016.

7. Adjourn.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.