

REPORT OF BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 14, 2016 - 10:00 AM

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

PRESENT: Tori Jennings, Trevor Roark, Scott Cole

ABSENT: Maud Lamarche

STAFF PRESENT: Bill Fehrenbach

ALSO PRESENT: Bob Fisch, Heidi Oberstadt

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1. Call to Order.
2. Welcome Bill Fehrenbach as newly appointed member of BPAC.
3. Minutes and Actions from May 17, 2016 Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Meeting.
4. Persons who wish to address committee for up to three (3) minutes on a non-agenda item.*
5. Approve final version of "Please Walk Your Wheels" stencil by UWSP Art & Design student, Laura Seeger.
6. Approve location(s) of "Please Walk Your Wheels" stenciling.
7. Discuss Sidewalk Plan (walk through Portage County Countywide Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan recommendations section 8.6.1)
8. Update on Stevens Point Police Department Bicycle Tag Removal Ordinance and enforcement policy.
9. Dave Rowe subdivision plat and development project review at two unaddressed properties located at the northwest intersection of Sunset Boulevard and Green Avenue (Parcel ID's 2408-27-3004-15 and 2408-27-3004-17).
10. Update on Airport Bike Share
11. Recap and takeaways from Midwest Active Transportation Conference in LaCrosse.
12. Information about Active Communities Workshop, June 17, 2016, 9:00AM-3:00PM.
13. Bike counts update.
14. Forming "teams of two" to manage projects/tasks more effectively.
15. Schedule next meeting.
16. Adjourn.

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1. Call to Order. 11:00am

Meeting was called to order by Tori Jennings.

2. Welcome Bill Fehrenbach as newly appointed member of BPAC.

Bill Fehrenbach was not present.

3. Minutes and Actions from May 17, 2016 Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Meeting.

Motion by Scott Cole to approve minutes; second by Trevor Roark. Motion carries 3-0-0.

4. Persons who wish to address committee for up to three (3) minutes on a non-agenda items.*
Consideration and Possible Action on the Following:

None.

5. Approve final version of "Please Walk Your Wheels" stencil by UWSP Art & Design student, Laura Seeger.

Tori Jennings presented the final design version of the stencil. They will be the approximate size of man hole covers (22 inches). Three different stencils will be needed for the three colored design, charcoal for background, blue for people, and white for lettering. A printer in the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point can laser cut the larger size that is needed for the stencils when using paint. Another option is pavement graphic decals that would be glued to the concrete and prices range from \$35 to \$50 per decal. Durability is approximately 1 year for the decals and 2 years with paint. BPAC will take on the task of painting if that option is chosen. Tori Jennings asked Kyle Kearns if this motion was approved if would it also need to go to planning commission. Mr. Kearns responded that no commission approval is needed, but the public works department should be contacted about costs and locations before proceeding.

Motion by Trevor Roark to approve new "Please Walk Your Wheels" stencil design; second by Scott Cole. Motion carries 3-0-0.

6. Approve location(s) of "Please Walk Your Wheels" stenciling.

Tori Jennings, stencils should be inside of curb cuts on the corner of Strong's Avenue / Main Street, Third Street / Main Street, and the Public Square / Main Street.

Trevor Roark, talked about tiered approach because bicycle flow is more difficult downtown with parking and businesses and suggested on spot on Main Street.

Scott Cole, suggested them placed from the Post Office to the Public Square. Tori Jennings sees the main concern only being the downtown businesses where people walk out of businesses from Strong's Ave to the Public Square.

Kyle Kearns asked if there has been a discussion with the Association of Downtown Businesses (ADB) regarding the stencils and locations. Tori Jennings responding by stating no. Kyle Kearns advised that discussion should occur with business owners or members of the ADB such as John Dolan and Carrie Butt. Going to an ADB meeting was also suggested.

Heidi Oberstadt mentioned that more is always better for stencils. She also questioned whether or not people would avoid riding down through the businesses on Main Street once the stencils were applied to the sidewalks and just bike north of Main Street through the old mall area. Tori Jennings commented that if someone is capable of riding a bike, walking their bike a few blocks won't be an issue.

Bob Fisch asked about legality of riding bikes through parking lots.

Kyle Kearns is not aware of any law forbidding riding on public lots, specifically Mid-State Technical College is private property but is open to the public along with other shared spaces around it.

Tori Jennings stated that we are just asking people to walk their bicycles and skateboards on sidewalks downtown because that is what sidewalks are for, walking.

Bob Fisch asked if a backup plan was discussed.

Tori Jennings stated that it was not an agenda item.

Motion by Trevor Roark to approve new “Please Walk Your Wheels” stencil locations; second by Scott Cole. Motion carries 3-0-0.

7. Discuss Sidewalk Plan (walk through Portage County Countywide Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan recommendations section 8.6.1)

Trevor Roark presented information from page 80 of the Portage County Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan.

Tori Jennings stated that the current recommendations (4) that Trevor Roark read from page 80 do not account for new developments.

Trevor Roark asked if a 5th recommendation should be added to the plan.

Tori Jennings looked at other communities and found Janesville, WI to have a great website and a new sidewalk plan. It discussed funded and non-funded sidewalk development projects. She also mentioned looking at and figuring out who funds future sidewalk projects, the city, taxpayers or the developers.

Kyle Kearns stated this would need to be separate recommendation that is attached to the current plan or separate. It could be an ordinance in a zoning code, subdivision code, etc. Currently all new developments should have sidewalks where the plan calls for them. A city wide plan should address where the gaps are, and where sidewalks should go. Furthermore he stated that the community needs to be made aware of the benefits of sidewalks. The plan can be very in-depth or on a smaller scale.

Trevor Roark stated it is not realistic to do what a city like Waukesha has done with their zoning code or ordinances.

Kyle Kearns suggested we get sidewalk maps of current locations of sidewalks from the Public Works Department.

Heidi Oberstadt really hopes that we come up with a plan that leaves options and helps to make people understand the gap program.

Bob Fisch suggested that a strategy for sidewalk gaps would be to adopt an ordinance where current property owners with existing gaps wouldn't be required to have sidewalks constructed, but if the property owner sells or inherits the property, they would be required to fill the gaps within a year.

Tori Jennings will put the Sidewalk plan on the July agenda and talk with the Public Works Department about the new developments and who will fund them.

Heidi Oberstadt will work with BPAC on this plan.

Kyle Kearns mentioned that yearly gap plans need to be identified.

8. Update on Stevens Point Police Department Bicycle Tag Removal Ordinance and enforcement policy.

Kyle Kearns stated that the Police Chief identified that Community Service Officers tag abandoned bicycles with existing tags and zip ties.

Trevor Roark asked if on the City website there was information about this. Kyle Kearns answered none at this time, but will try to get something added with the ordinance.

9. Dave Rowe subdivision plat and development project review at two unaddressed properties located at the northwest intersection of Sunset Boulevard and Green Avenue (Parcel ID's 2408- 27-3004-15 and 2408-27-3004-17).

Kyle Kearns updated BPAC that the planning commission motioned to approve the development without sidewalks, specifically the vote was split 2-2, and will go to Common Council for final approval.

10. Update on Airport Bike Share

Tori Jennings and Scott Cole attended the Stevens Point Airport Pilots meeting. They indicated they are helping to get them setup with bicycles, possibly through Shifting Gears, after Tori Jennings talked to them and got the information back to David Ladick from the airport.

11. Recap and takeaways from Midwest Active Transportation Conference in LaCrosse.

Trevor Roark presented information about the conference, and indicated speakers from all over the Midwest were present. The goal was to move transportation forward in their communities. Some key points were: 1) Speaker Jen Walker, UW-Madison Health Tide, who is involved in connecting people in various communities about active transportation benefits. 2) Stevens Point should be part of a "Trail Town" system as a destination with trails like the Green Circle. 3) Density goals are important for cities to address.

Kyle Kearns mentioned that the city is also focusing on growth to the east of the current downtown area along with the rapid construction of many apartment complexes.

Trevor Roark asked if the city was utilizing the NATCO guidelines?

In closing Trevor Roark highly recommends this conference.

12. Information about Active Communities Workshop, June 17, 2016, 9:00AM-3:00PM.

It will be held at the Holiday Inn in Stevens Point.

13. Bike counts update.

Tori Jennings thanked Bob Fisch for all the information on the bike counts and mentioned BPAC is not ready now to do counts and will shoot for September, as lots of preparation is required. She went on to state volunteer have signed up, but it is very complicated and time consuming to organize.

Tori Jennings asked if Stevens Point had typically always done counts in May, to which, Kyle Kearns said he had no data since these were done through Portage County. Sarah had 10 sites for counts and the last one was one year ago according to Bob Fisch.

Tori Jennings made a point that the counts BPAC does are only in the city.

14. Forming "teams of two" to manage projects/tasks more effectively.

Trevor Roark commented on the fact that we cannot work in teams larger than two. This can drive more progress. He also asked how does BPAC work faster.

Tori Jennings responded by stating her ideas to come up with a list of items, recommendations, and interests, before dividing and conquering. Furthermore, advocating for volunteers needs to occur, while also working with the local bike clubs.

Kyle Kearns mentioned that BPAC is more of a working group. He is willing to help when he can, but is very busy also.

15. Schedule next meeting.

July 12th, 2016 10:00aam

16. Adjourned at 11:05am.