

WEST DES MOINES BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION
Thursday, September 1, 2016

The regular meeting of the West Des Moines Bicycle Advisory Commission was called to order on Thursday, September 1, 2016, at 5:30 p.m. by Steve Gatton.

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|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| Commission | Joel Wolcott | Brittany Freund | Kip Albertson | Helen Eddy | Steve Gatton |
| Present | X | X | X | X | X |
| Commission | Margaret Christiansen | Spencer Cox | AJ Kelley | Greg France | |
| Present | X | X | X | X | |

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|----------------|--|--|---|
| Staff | Sally Ortgies <i>Interim Director of Parks & Recreation</i> | Greg Hansen <i>Superintendent of Recreation</i> | Susan Mathews <i>Parks & Recreation Administrative Secretary</i> |
| Present | X | X | X |
| Staff | Joe Cory <i>Deputy Director of Public Works</i> | Marco Alvarez <i>Park Planner</i> | Eric Petersen <i>Traffic Engineer</i> |
| Present | | | |

On Item 1. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by France to approve the agenda as presented. Wolcott seconded. Motion carried.

On Item 2. Citizen Forum

No items.

On Item 3. Approval of Minutes of April 7, 2016 Meeting

It was moved by France to approve the minutes as presented. Wolcott seconded. Motion carried.

On Item 4. Old Business

No items.

New Business:

On Item 5A. Discussion – Bicycle Advisory Commission – Goals for 2016-2017

Ortgies gave an overview of the discussion on the goals and objectives for 2016-2017.

1. Engineering Goals

City of WDM Park Planner, Marco Alvarez showed a map of existing and proposed shared lane markings. He gave information about the connections that would be achieved and the map notes.

Ortgies noted that the Engineering Committee had quite a bit of discussion on the Fuller Road sharrow connection. Wolcott shared that the Committee discussed the pros and cons of an alternative route to the levee trail. He added that the Committee felt that the addition would provide an access route to Holiday Park and Valley Junction and would increase awareness of bike traffic on that road despite traffic counts in the upper end of the acceptable range. Cox agreed that the connection is important but expressed concern about the curve where the trail crosses Fuller. Eddy shared that she uses that route to connect to the levee trail and that she feels the shared lane markings would create a safer commute for people by alerting motor vehicle traffic to the possible presence of bicycle traffic. Kelley agreed that it was an important addition and that personal choice would be exercised by the bicycling public in using the route.

Ortgies shared notes from Petersen about a signalized crossing along 1st/63rd Streets. She continued that staff does not recommend a signalized crossing at Walnut Street/Muskogee Avenue due to the proximity to Railroad and the potential for traffic congestion at the Walnut intersection during peak traffic periods.

She noted that they were also concerned about the traffic impact of a signal on the residential neighborhood. An alternative that was discussed was a signalized crossing at Vine Street utilizing side paths and on street facilities or easement agreements with some business owners on the Des Moines side to connect to the Walnut Creek Trail. Ortgies added that currently the traffic counts do not warrant a signalized crossing.

Ortgies stated that City Engineers also looked at ways to improve the intersection of 1st Street and Railroad Avenue. She added that recommendations included painted crosswalks and improving a paved landing area on the northeast side of the intersection. Christiansen suggested researching alternative crossings used in other cities that are in different colors or patterns. Kelley expressed that the intersection is complicated and that painted crosswalks could really help increase safety. France inquired about the potential for a side path all the way along Railroad. Albertson responded that the Committee had the same question but learned that it was not feasible due to the land acquisition that would be needed for the right-of-way. He added that the route would also require a very high amount of intersection crossings along an already busy motor vehicle route which poses a safety concern. Alvarez added that a sharrow along Maple Street would provide a connection.

Ortgies shared that staff have met with the Director of Clive Parks & Recreation and the Mayor of Windsor Heights regarding connections to their respective cities.

2. Enforcement Goals

Cox shared that he communicated with Street Smarts and Ride with Cops and both have a bicycle component to their driver's education curriculum.

Hansen shared that ongoing coordination will be needed with local Community Education departments and their curriculum coordinators regarding a 4th grade bicycle safety class.

Hansen showed the current WDM Police pamphlet about bicycle laws and safety which needs to be updated.

3. Education and Encouragement Goals

Hansen shared that the Mayor's Bike Ride Cup Challenge will continue.

Hansen shared some examples of apps and websites with maps and resources for local bicycle riders including the Iowa Bicycle Coalition website and the Ride Right program, the Bike Iowa website and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation's Iowa By Trail App and Google Maps. Hansen stated there are many other mobile resources so it would be best to pick a top few that could be utilized and promoted. Alvarez shared information on plans to enhance on-street bicycle facility signage as well as plans for new greenway trail wayfinding signage. Alvarez also shared a map analyzing existing public bicycle parking and proposed locations for additional public parking facilities.

Staff Reports:

On Item 6A. Engineering
No representative present.

On Item 6B. Public Works
No representative present.

On Item 6C. Police
No representative present.

On Item 6D. Parks and Recreation

Hansen shared that only three Mayor's Bike Ride jerseys were requested this year and that a minimum of 12 is required. He added that once twelve orders are received they can be ordered at any time since the artwork is on file. Hansen shared that he will be participating in the Metro Planning Organization's education and encouragement subcommittee.

Interim Director of Parks & Recreation / Superintendent of Parks

Ortgies shared that the Public Arts Advisory Commission will be launching their first commissioned art installation called Surrounds on National Trails Day, June 3, 2017. They are asking for the Commission’s assistance in celebrating this Art on the Trail event that may include a family bike ride.

Other Matters:

On Item 7A. Action Items

Gatton expressed that this will be his last meeting as Chair. France expressed his appreciation for Gatton’s hard work serving as Chair. Staff will add election of a new Board Chair as an item on the next meeting agenda.

Receive, File and/or Refer:

8A. Des Moines Area MPO, Central Iowa Bicycle-Pedestrian Roundtable Packets – April, May, June, July

It was moved by Christensen to adjourn at 6:38p.m. Kelley seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Mathews
Administrative Secretary

ATTEST:

Joel Wolcott
Commission Secretary