

WEST DES MOINES BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, February 4, 2021

This meeting was held electronically because of the State Public Health Emergency Declaration regarding Covid-19 and was conducted pursuant to Iowa Code 21.8 and the Proclamation of Governor Kim Reynolds dated March 19, 2020.

The regular meeting of the West Des Moines Bicycle Advisory Commission was called to order on Thursday, February 4, at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Eddy.

Commission	Tom Suckow <i>Secretary</i>	Nick Welter	Brittany Freund	Helen Eddy <i>Chair</i>
Present	X	X	X	X

Commission	Steve Welsh	Cole Prevost	Mindy Moore
Present			X

Staff	Sally Ortgies <i>Director of Parks & Recreation</i>	David Sadler <i>Superintendent of Parks</i>	Ryan Penning <i>Superintendent of Recreation</i>	Hannah Guck <i>Parks & Recreation Secretary</i>
Present	X	X		X
Staff	Joe Cory <i>Deputy Director of Public Services</i>	Marco Alvarez <i>Park Planner</i>	Eric Petersen <i>Traffic Engineer</i>	Jason Bryan <i>Police Sergeant</i>
Present	X			X

Council	Greg Hudson <i>City Council Liaison</i>
Present	X

On Item 1. Approval of Agenda

Eddy called the meeting to order at 6:18 p.m. Suckow moved to approve the agenda as presented. Freund seconded. Motion carried, 5 ayes.

On Item 2. Citizen Forum

No report.

On Item 3. Approval of Minutes from December 3, 2020 Meeting

Suckow moved to approve the minutes as presented. Cory seconded. Motion carried, 5 ayes.

On Item 4A. Old Business –

No report

On Item 5. New Business

5A. Presentation - Bird Scooters – Kate Shoemaker (*Presentation took place prior to a quorum being present. Meeting was called to order immediately following this agenda item.*)

Kate Shoemaker, Senior Executive of Bird, presented information to the Commission about scooters. Bird works closely with local government agencies to bring convenient, sustainable transit to communities with stand-up electric scooters. These scooters can be rented for short trips by using the Bird Mobile App. The goals and objectives of Bird is to get people out of their cars, reduce traffic and bring communities together by providing an affordable, environmentally

friendly transit alternative. The cost of Bird is \$1 to start, then a per minute fee. (.30/minute) Sales tax is charged for each ride and available to those 18 and older. Eddy asked about accommodations for low-income individuals. Shoemaker stated that Bird does offer specials for low income households, veterans, and health care/essential workers. A local entrepreneur from each community manages the fleet on the ground. The scooters are charged every other day by the fleet manager and taken back to the desired zone. During the winter season or rain, the scooters are stowed away. Shoemaker stated that any pavement markings used will be responsible by the City. Those using the scooters are responsible for their own safety in bike lanes or on shared roadways. The City can be added as an additional insurance policy holder through Bird. For any reason, if a scooter is not operating properly, the fleet manager will be notified through the Bird app. The fleet manager will investigate and mark the scooter as damaged. Analysis typically shows Bird rides are 1-4 miles or 5-10 minutes in length and 60% of the rides end up in front of retail businesses. Due to the population and layout of West Des Moines, Bird is interested in expanding to the area and would plan to set up stations near apartments, retail shops and restaurants. Bird would initially begin with a fleet of 100 scooters and add more depending on the demographic and results taken from these locations. Ortgies stated that staff has met with the City Manager and has been asked to further research. This meeting is solely for the Commission to receive information and ask questions regarding this opportunity for West Des Moines. No action is required.

On Item 6A. Report – Education and Encouragement Committee

No report

On Item 6B. Report – Enforcement and Evaluation Committee

No report

On Item 6C. Report – Engineering Committee

No report

Staff Reports:

On Item 7A. Engineering

No report.

On Item 7B. Public Services

Cory updated the Commission they're in full throttle clearing the roads of ice and snow.

On Item 7C. Police

No report.

On Item 7D. Parks and Recreation

Sadler updated the Commission on three trail projects.

1. The Valley Junction Trail connection is in progress. The City recently received an agreement from the Railroad.
2. The Asphalt Trail Renovation project is going out for bid within the next month. This project involves renovation of Jordan Creek Trail from EP True, past Valley West Drive and 39th St. to 50th St.
3. The Sugar Creek Trail is in progress. The crew is working through the winter months.

Ortgies informed the Committee that Helen Eddy and Brittney Freund have served two full terms, so their time on the Commission ends March 31, 2021. Ortgies thanked them for their dedicated service on the Commission. Seats need to be filled by two females to maintain gender balance. Those interested can contact Ortgies. MPO Committee is currently still looking for volunteers. Moore will be serving on the Committee.

On Item 8. Other Matters

Moore stated scooter usage should match the City Ordinance code regarding usage of bikes.

On Item 9A. Receive, File and/or Refer:

Des Moines Area MPO, Central Iowa Bicycle – Pedestrian Roundtable Packet

On Item 9B. City Council Communications

No report.

Freund moved to adjourn the meeting. Welter seconded. Motion carried, 5 ayes. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Hannah Guck
Secretary

ATTEST:



Tom Suckow
Commission Secretary