

**WEST DES MOINES BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday, April 6, 2023**

The regular meeting of the West Des Moines Bicycle Advisory Commission was called to order on Thursday, April 6, at 5:30 p.m. by Vice Chair Berg.

<b>Commission</b>	Missy Berg <i>Vice Chair</i>	Nick Welter <i>Secretary</i>	Lyndley Kent	Bobby Kennedy
<b>Present</b>	X	X		X
<b>Commission</b>	Michael Berry	Steve Herwig	Diane Witt	
<b>Present</b>	X	X	X	

<b>Staff</b>	Ryan Penning <i>Director of Parks &amp; Recreation</i>	Marco Alvarez <i>Superintendent of Parks</i>	Eric Doll <i>Park Planner</i>	Tina Tate <i>Parks &amp; Recreation Secretary</i>
<b>Present</b>	X	X		X
<b>Staff</b>	Joe Cory <i>Deputy Director of Public Services</i>	Eric Petersen <i>Traffic Engineer</i>	Jason Bryan <i>Police Sergeant</i>	
<b>Present</b>	X	X	X	
<b>Council</b>	Matt McKinney <i>City Council Liaison</i>			
<b>Present</b>	X			

**On Item 1. Approval of Agenda**

Herwig moved to approve the agenda as presented. Welter seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**On Item 2. Citizen Forum**

M.J. Hoag, 413 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, West Des Moines, presented on bicycle use for transit. Hoag described some of the obstacles encountered such as time, distance, safety, trail access, and unreliable bicycle parking. To address these concerns, Hoag recommended increasing bicycle racks/parking in public lots, mixed-use zoning to make destinations more bikeable, as well as installing trails away from arterials.

**On Item 3. Introduction of New Commission Members – Bobby Kennedy & Michael Berry**

Berry stated that he has been a West Des Moines resident for 24 years and is currently retired after working for the City of Des Moines in the Engineering Department for 35 years. So far this year, Berry has biked 1,600 miles and participates in the Mayor's Bike Ride and other local cycling events.

Kennedy is currently the Operations Manager at the Des Moines Street Collective and has worked in the bike industry for about 15 years. Kennedy stated that he bikes for both transit and recreation and was featured twice on the news highlighting cycling in the winter.

**On Item 4. Approval of Minutes from the March 2, 2023 Meeting**

Herwig moved to approve the minutes as presented. Witt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**On Item 5. Old Business**

No report.

## **6. New Business**

### **On Item 6A. Motion – Election of Officers**

1. **Chair**-Welter moved to approve Missy Berg as Chair. Herwig seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
2. **Vice Chair**-Berg moved to approve Nick Welter as Vice Chair. Witt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
3. **Secretary**-Berg moved to approve Diane Witt as Secretary. Welter seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **On Item 6B. Motion – Approval of Committee Appointments**

Berg stated that the Engineering Committee would remain the same. Bobby Kennedy would be added to the Education and Encouragement Committee. Michael Berry would join the Enforcement and Evaluation Committee.

Herwig moved to approve the Committee Appointments as presented. Berry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Committee Reports**

### **On Item 7A. Education and Encouragement Committee**

Have not met. Penning stated that new goals and objectives will be established for 2024. Promoting and marketing strategies for the Mayor's Bike Ride will be discussed during the next Education and Encouragement Committee meeting.

### **On Item 7B. Report – Enforcement and Evaluation Committee**

No report.

### **On Item 7C. Report – Engineering Committee**

No report.

## **Staff Reports:**

### **On Item 8A. Engineering**

Petersen stated that construction will begin soon on the 8<sup>th</sup> Street project which will include adding a left turn lane, signal modifications, adjusting the sidewalk to comply with ADA standards, and installation of a shared-use path.

### **On Item 8B. Public Services**

Cory stated that Public Services is continuing to work on street and trail maintenance.

### **On Item 8C. Police**

Bryan stated that, as part of the Bike Patrol Unit, he represents the Police Department to provide updates for the Commission and participates in city events such as the Mayor's Bike Ride, Fourth of July Parade, and Earth Day.

In reference to M.J.'s presentation, Bryan mentioned that bike theft often occurs when garage doors are left open overnight. The Police Department has implemented Operation Kickstand in previous years to test bike theft activity in Valley Junction. Officers are also trained to check serial numbers when searching for bicycles that are reported stolen. Chief Scott supports the bike program and has

authorized more officers to be part of bike patrol during the spring and summer months to increase trail safety.

**On Item 8D. Parks and Recreation**

Alvarez stated that the contract was approved for the Athene Pedestrian Bridge and will allow construction to begin next week. Penning added that there is an upcoming meeting with the Great Outdoors Foundation and Shive Hattery to discuss a groundbreaking event for the bridge.

Bids for the 2023 Asphalt Trail Renovation Program are due on April 19<sup>th</sup>. These areas will include the section of Jordan Creek Trail west of 60th Street, Westridge Trail starting at EP True Parkway, and Willow Springs Park trail loop. The project is anticipated to start this summer.

There was a discussion to create a master plan study for the section along the Raccoon River Greenway on 1st Street. Input was requested from stakeholders and the public regarding river access, boat launch, and parking lot. Feedback from this study indicated that the public would like more trail connections.

Alvarez provided an update on the trail counter data. In the last two days of March, there were over 840 trail count hits which brought the total up to 6,616 users.

**On Item 9. Other Matters**

Kennedy provided feedback after attending the Iowa Bicycle Summit. The discussions emphasized the importance of improving trail infrastructure by adding connections between trail systems.

**On Item 10A. City Council Communications**

A. City Council Communications

April 3, 2023 Resolution – Order Construction and Notice of Public Hearing on Plans, Specifications, Form of Contract, Estimate of Cost, and Direct Advertisement of Bids – 2023 Asphalt Trail Renovation Project

B. Des Moines Area MPO, Central Iowa Bicycle

C. EcoCounter Trail Counter Report


Welter moved to adjourn the meeting. Herwig seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

 5/4/2023

Tina Tate  
Secretary

ATTEST:

 5/4/2023

Diane Witt  
Commission Secretary