

WEST DES MOINES BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, March 2, 2023

The regular meeting of the West Des Moines Bicycle Advisory Commission was called to order on Thursday, March 2, at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Tom Suckow.

Commission	Tom Suckow <i>Chair</i>	Nick Welter <i>Secretary</i>	Lyndley Kent	Missy Berg <i>Vice Chair</i>
Present	X			X-arrived at 5:32
Commission	Steve Welsh	Steve Herwig	Diane Witt	
Present		X-arrived at 5:31	X	
Staff	Sally Ortgies <i>Director of Parks & Recreation</i>	Ryan Penning <i>Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation</i>	Marco Alvarez <i>Superintendent of Parks</i>	Tina Tate <i>Parks & Recreation Secretary</i>
Present		X	X	X
Staff	Joe Cory <i>Deputy Director of Public Services</i>	Eric Petersen <i>Traffic Engineer</i>	Jason Bryan <i>Police Sergeant</i>	
Present	X	X	X	
Council	Matt McKinney <i>City Council Liaison</i>			
Present				

On Item 1. Approval of Agenda

A quorum occurred after the approval of the agenda.

On Item 2. Citizen Forum

No report.

On Item 3. Approval of Minutes from November 3, 2022 Meeting

Witt moved to approve the minutes as presented. Herwig seconded. Motion carried, 4 ayes.

On Item 4. Old Business

No report.

5. New Business

On Item 5A. Recognition of Outgoing Officers

Penning recognized Tom Suckow and Steve Welsh for their years serving on the Bicycle Advisory Commission.

On Item 5B. Presentation – Automated Trail Counter Pilot Program

Alvarez presented on the trail counter program. Trail data has been collected at four locations since 2013 by using TRAFx Trail Counters. These counters use infrared sensors to track trail users so they cannot distinguish between pedestrians, cyclists, or wildlife. The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) received a Wellmark grant that allowed them to purchase eight EcoCounter trail counters. The City of West Des Moines was able to install one of these trackers on November 2, 2022 and committed to sharing the trail data with the MPO for a minimum of one year. The new trail counters capture data

every 15 minutes, automatically transmits data, and can distinguish between pedestrians and cyclists. Data collected from trail counters is used in grant applications, helps justify infrastructure spending, as well as capturing trail use volumes and trends. Alvarez stated that this data would be included in Bicycle Advisory Commission packets going forward.

Committee Reports

On Item 6A. Education and Encouragement Committee

Have not met. Penning stated that the next meeting will include items such as Mayor's Bike Ride and Park Palooza scheduled for Saturday, June 3.

On Item 6B. Report – Enforcement and Evaluation Committee

No report.

On Item 6C. Report – Engineering Committee

No report.

Staff Reports:

On Item 7A. Engineering

Petersen updated the Commission on the increasing annual expense of repainting the shared lane markings. Currently, there are around 1,000 sharrows that need to be hand-painted costing an estimated \$70-85,000 per year. Penning inquired about supplementing the lane lines by using permanent signage. Petersen stated that while this would be a longer-lasting, less expensive option, it would also be less visible to users.

Petersen stated that the Council voted not to pursue the shared use path for the current Ashworth Road project. Striping will be completed later this year for the first phase which will include 1st -19th Street. There will be a side path trail installed on the east side of 8th street. Alvarez stated that Windsor Heights wanted to create a trail connection previously and had hired a consultant to determine the feasibility to cross the creek in that location. Although the study was paused, the installation of this side path trail will create future infrastructure opportunities.

On Item 7B. Public Services

No report.

On Item 7C. Police

No report.

On Item 7D. Parks and Recreation

Penning discussed the process for selecting new Commission members. From the four eligible candidates, Mayor Trimble will submit two selections for approval at the next City Council meeting. Once appointed, the two members will attend the next Bicycle Advisory Commission meeting.

Alvarez provided an update on the Athene Pedestrian Bridge. Two bids were received and the low bid was \$1.2 million over the engineer's estimate. The cost is likely impacted by the difficulty of construction access as well as artistic elements and materials. If the bid is approved by the Council on March 6th, the project would begin in Spring 2023. Penning stated that the fundraising campaign is less than \$300,000 away from the \$3 million goal. Through project planning and potential grant funding, there are options to offset the \$1.2 million difference without making cuts that are important to the project.

On Item 8. Other Matters

None.

On Item 9A. City Council Communications

A. City Council Communications

Herwig moved to adjourn the meeting. Berg seconded. Motion carried, 4 ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

 4/6/23

Tina Tate
Secretary

ATTEST:

 4/6/23

Nick Welter
Commission Secretary