

WEST DES MOINES BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, September 7, 2023

The regular meeting of the West Des Moines Bicycle Advisory Commission was called to order on Thursday, September 7, at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Berg.

Commission	Missy Berg <i>Chair</i>	Nick Welter <i>Vice Chair</i>	Lyndley Kent	Bobby Kennedy
Present	X	X	X	X-Arrived at 5:49pm
Commission	Michael Berry	Steve Herwig	Diane Witt <i>Secretary</i>	
Present		X	X	

Staff	Ryan Penning <i>Director of Parks & Recreation</i>	Marco Alvarez <i>Superintendent of Parks</i>	Eric Doll <i>Park Planner</i>	Tina Tate <i>Parks & Recreation Administrative Assistant</i>
Present	X	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		

Council	Matt McKinney <i>City Council Liaison</i>			
Present				

On Item 1. Approval of Agenda

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

On Item 2. Citizen Forum

No Report.

On Item 3. Approval of Minutes of May 4, 2023 Meeting

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

On Item 4. Old Business

No Report.

6. New Business

On Item 5A. Presentation – Raccoon River East Greenway

Eric Doll, Park Planner, presented on the Raccoon River East Greenway Master Plan and 1st Street River Access Project. Funding from a REAP grant allowed the City to acquire property located south of Historic Valley Junction along the north side of Raccoon River. Improvements made to this area will include both passive and active programming. Some of these features include a boat launch, kayak access, multipurpose trails, mountain biking facilities, and a nature play area. There is a partnership with Polk County Conservation to incorporate a campsite area, boat ramp and parking lot. Passive recreation would be located on the north side of the island involving prairie reconstruction, fishing, and educational soft surface trails. Doll stated that the entire project would take five to ten years due to funding. Alvarez added that the first phase would include the installation of the boat ramp, kayak access, and parking. The intent is to have construction start in 2024 for this phase.

Doll updated the Commission on the status of the major trail connection resulting from the 1st Street Bridge Replacement Project. There is a preliminary design for a trail to be installed on the north side of the bridge that would connect to the Levee Trail. Funding for construction is slated for 2025.

Committee Reports

On Item 7A. Education and Encouragement Committee

Alvarez stated that the Committee met recently to discuss the Mayor’s Bike Ride. Because participation was lower than in previous years, changes are being considered to create a featured stand-alone event. Alvarez mentioned that the helmet giveaway and the youth bike programs had high participation rates and would continue to be offered in the spring and summer. After the success of the West Des Moines Running Club that was just launched, a Riders Club could be considered. Future suggestions were made to promote Bike Month in May by posting Tidbit Fridays on social media that share bicycle and trail facts and information.

On Item 7B. Report – Enforcement and Evaluation Committee

Alvarez stated that the goals in the three-year plan were reviewed to evaluate current policies. One item was the Metro Model Bike Ordinance that was intended to be adopted by communities to create a consistent bike ordinance. This was tabled by the Executive Committee and hasn’t moved forward due to staffing changes at the Metropolitan Planning Organization. Another evaluation goal is to track the number of crashes. There were no incidents reported in the last year. The future status of sharrows was discussed to determine if they continue to be painted or rely only on signage. The Committee also reviewed tracking and usage through Strava as well as the Pilot Trail Counter Program data. There are plans to request additional funds for more trail counters.

On Item 7C. Report – Engineering Committee

Alvarez stated that the Committee discussed making updates to the Bicycle Master Plan. The proposed network for the northeast quadrant of West Des Moines was reviewed to make future trail connections based on how it integrates with the off-street trail system. The full plan will be brought to the Commission and the public for input and discussion.

Staff Reports:

On Item 8A. Engineering

Petersen stated that construction updates and drone videos are posted on the website.

On Item 8B. Public Services

No Report.

On Item 8C. Police

No Report.

On Item 8D. Parks and Recreation

Alvarez provided an update on the Asphalt Trail Renovation Project along the Westridge Greenway Trail. The piers are being installed for the Athene Pedestrian Bridge. The main entrance to Raccoon River Park will be closed starting on September 11 for several days due to railroad improvements.

Penning added that Illumifest is schedule for September 23. The ribbon cutting for the Raccoon River Park Playground Replacement Project will be held on Saturday, October 14 during Raccoon River Rally.

On Item 9. Other Matters

Kennedy is working with Central Iowa BMX to potentially build an indoor BMX race track. They are researching business models of different tracks throughout the United States.

On Item 10A. City Council Communications

A. City Council Communications

May 15, 2023 Proclamation - Bike Month - May 2023

June 19, 2023 Resolution - Accept Work – Valley Junction Levee Trail Connection

B. Des Moines Area MPO, Central Iowa Bicycle

C. EcoCounter Trail Counter Report


Herwig moved to adjourn the meeting. Kent seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

 11/2/23

Tina Tate
Administrative Assistant

ATTEST:

 11/2/23

Diane Witt
Commission Secretary