

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

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

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

On Item 1. Approval of Agenda

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

On Item 2. Presentation – Budget Review Team - HF718

Tim Stiles, Finance Director, presented on House File 718 and how it could impact budgets for growing cities in Iowa. With this new legislation in place, the State has dictated that cities must reduce their general fund levy rate based on the amount of growth in the taxable value of property each year. The City of West Des Moines is conducting a review of services and identifying any duplications or inefficiencies that can be cut or modified to reduce costs.

Parks and Recreation will still receive Hotel/Motel Tax that will help fund current and future projects. Stiles ensured that the current projects budgeted for this year will still be completed, however, the number of new projects could slow down. Penning stated that the Department has already implemented cost-saving measures such as reviewing program and membership fees, finding sources of funding through grants, and bringing concessions in-house at the aquatic centers and Raccoon River Park Softball Complex. Also being considered, are field naming rights at Raccoon River Park Softball and Holiday Park Baseball and bringing field maintenance in-house at Raccoon River Park Softball Complex. The instructor contracts for the recreation programs will also be reviewed. Penning added that it is important to provide these programs and amenities to improve the quality of life for our residents.

On Item 3. Citizen Forum

Srijan Karim, 1225 28th St., requested that 4 ft. bike lanes be painted on each side of the roadway for 30 ft. wide streets that have sharrows. Welter mentioned that about \$100,000 is spent annually on repainting sharrows. Peterson stated that they are continually updating the Master Plan to create more consistent bike lanes.

On Item 4. Approval of Minutes of September 7, 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. Presentation – FY 24-25 Parks Capital Improvement Program

Alvarez presented the Capital Improvement Plan for FY24-25 highlighting six of the 18 projects that include trails. These six trail-related projects include the Sugar Creek Greenway Trail-Phase 2, completion of the Singletrack Trails at Southwoods Park, 1st Street Trail Connection, Raccoon River Park Asphalt Trail Reconstruction, Raccoon River East Greenway Trail, and the City Campus Pedestrian Improvements. Ongoing maintenance towards trail renovations is funded through GO Bonds. Penning stated that the Capital Improvement Program will be presented to Park Board for final approval in November and then Council will review it in March.

On Item 6A. Presentation – Trail Counter Master Plan

Eric Doll, Park Planner, presented the Trail Counter Master Plan. Metrics and data from trail counters can be used to apply for grants, capture trail usage trends, and justify infrastructure spending. The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) launched the EcoCounter Pilot Program in Fall 2022 and provided the City with one EcoCounter-MULTI trail counter. This device can detect the difference between cyclists and pedestrians and will automatically transmit data through a web-based subscription. Another option being considered is the EcoCounter-PYRO. Because all users are counted without differentiating, the cost is around \$2,000 less than the “MULTI” model. The Trail Counter Master Plan consists of five phases starting in 2024. The proposed locations for the initial phase are City Campus Pond, Raccoon River Park Loop Trail, Athene Pedestrian Bridge, and Valley View Park. Data collection will occur for two years before new counter locations are added. The replacement cycle starts over around year ten. When all the trail counters are installed, the estimated maintenance cost is around \$10,000. Alvarez stated that a supplemental request for four counters was submitted this year. There are opportunities for this program to be funded by grants and/or sponsorships.

Committee Reports

On Item 7A. Education and Encouragement Committee

No Report.

On Item 7B. Report – Enforcement and Evaluation Committee

No Report.

On Item 7C. Report – Engineering Committee

Alvarez stated that the Committee discussed the Draft On Street Master Plan and reviewed individual routes. Staff will apply feedback from the Committee to update the plan which will then be presented to the Commission at a future meeting.

Staff Reports:

On Item 8A. Engineering

Petersen updated the Commission on current construction projects such as the Ashworth Road restriping, the second phase of 8th Street reconstruction, and Grand Avenue to South Grand Prairie Parkway. Petersen reported on data collected from the DOT Bike Crash Analysis Tool. In the past 11 years, there were over 12,000 crashes and of those, 45 were pedacycle-involved. It is important to note

that these crashes are typically only reported if there are injuries or major damage. Most of the crashes occurred during the summer, in areas of low visibility, and often involved juveniles. This data helps when determining ways to increase visibility such as street light placement and signage. It also highlights the importance of youth bicycle safety programs.

On Item 8B. Public Services

Cory recommended that residents use the SeeClickFix app to request assistance with a City service or report non-emergency issues like a tree branch over a trail. For more information or to download the app, visit: <https://www.wdm.iowa.gov/government/public-services/seeclickfix>

On Item 8C. Police

Bryan stated that Bike Patrol will be ending soon for the season. There were about 1,000 miles of patrol completed this year by 12 officers.

On Item 8D. Parks and Recreation

Alvarez provided an update on the Athene Pedestrian Bridge. The piers are currently being installed and the project remains on track to be completed by Fall 2024. Annual trail inspections will be scheduled soon. This involves inspecting every mile of trail to determine a two-year renovation plan. Park restrooms are winterized for the season.

Penning stated that Axios recently published an article featuring metro roads becoming less safe for cyclists in the Des Moines area. The MPO received a grant that is allowing them to create a “vision zero” plan with the goal of ending traffic fatalities and serious injuries. Metro communities will be able to apply for additional grant money to help fund street improvements and protected bike lanes.

Winter/Spring program registration opens on Tuesday, November 7. The FY24-25 Budget has been submitted. The Raccoon River Park Playground Ribbon Cutting, held on October 14, was a very successful event with the help of Diane and the Friends Group.

On Item 9. Other Matters


No Report.

On Item 10A. City Council Communications

A. Des Moines Area MPO, Central Iowa Bicycle

Herwig moved to adjourn the meeting. Witt seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tina Tate
Administrative Assistant

11/4/2024

ATTEST:



Diane Witt
Commission Secretary

1/4/2024