

Meeting Minutes
Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: City Council Chambers, City of Urbana, 400 S. Vine Street, Urbana, IL

Members Present: Brandon Bowersox, Susan Jones, Rick Bernotas, Dana Mancuso, Gary Biehl, Gary Cziko, Barak Rosenshine, Audrey Ishii, Gary Engelgau

Staff Members Present: Jennifer Selby

Absent: Alexander Herder, Bruce Meissner, Sheldon Katz

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Brandon Bowersox called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Roll call was taken by verbal record and a quorum was present. Jennifer Selby let the committee know that Bruce Meissner has resigned his position with this commission due to a busy schedule.

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. Upon voice vote the motion carried unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by to approve the October 17, 2006 minutes. Susan Jones mentioned that we did not spell Scot McCullom's name properly and we did not have another speaker in public input mentioned. It was decided to make those changes and then approve the minutes. Gary Cziko seconded the motion and minutes will be accepted with the corrections.

V. Public Input

Marianne Downey 503 E. California ; She is involved with HEUNA (Historic East Urbana Neighborhood Association). She came here from Indianapolis about three years ago and watched the rails to trail process in Indianapolis evolve. She saw that property there increased in value, people used the trails, they created linear parks and she is looking forward to using trails here. She wants to help out HEUNA and their interests. She is concerned about the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians. She sees a lot of people walking in the street and sidewalks without awareness of vehicles in the roadway. The pathways can offer safety. She went over the executive summary of HEUNA plan that was submitted and accepted by the City. This plan has several areas that would overlap with our commission goals. Some of these goals include: determining the best streets for paths; Victory Park – it's perimeter and paths; and the Green Street corridor – Weaver Park to Victory Park to Lincoln Square Village. There is a concern to conserve brick sidewalks on one side and construct a multi-use path on other side along Green Street. She is willing to come to other meetings and take information back to HEUNA. Susan Jones recommended that Marianne look to the League of Illinois Bicyclists for more information on path design for multi-users.

VI. New Business

A . Bicycle Master Plan

Jennifer Selby told the group that the City will hire CCRPC to create the Bike Master Plan. CCRPC will hire Ed Barsotti as a technical representative. She passed out the Scope of Services for the committee to review. She asked the members to read thru the Scope of Services and let her know by 2/2/07 of any changes that need to be made.

She gave several reasons for the selection of CCRPC including: expedition of process (should be complete in 11 months); CCRPC's familiarity with the City of Urbana, as well as other local municipality and agency projects; local; and their great public involvement skills.

Process will include looking at existing paths and conducting public meetings to get public input on future paths. CCRPC will talk about the goals and tasks and ask the public where they bike. They will explain different types of

facilities and give the public an opportunity to mark up maps. They plan on having three presentations to BPAC, two public meetings and a final presentation at City Council. Ed Barsotti will come to all of the public meeting and then stay for a day or two to work on the technical side of things. CCRPC will be responsible for writing reports.

Gary Biehl added that campus often uses CCRPS and that they have a very professional staff and he is very confident that we will be satisfied.

Brandon Bowersox asked the group what has to happen in the process in order to successful. Gary Cziko said that hiring Ed Barsotti is one way to make it successful. Dana Mancuso added that this plan should dovetail with the Park Districts planning. Jennifer Selby explained that they are forming a steering committee that will include representatives from Urbana Park District, MTD, Urbana Public Works, Urbana Planning Division and the University of Illinois. This group will meet monthly.

Gary Engelgau said it would be important to insure that we distribute the information to the neighborhood groups. Brandon Bowersox said the public meetings can be advertised on their email groups. Jennifer Selby added that CCRPC will have a website set up for this purpose and will be sending out e-newsletters.

B. Update of Current Public Works Projects

a. Florida Avenue

This road construction project will be from Abercorn Street to High Cross Road. There will be three lanes of traffic – two lanes and a bi-directional center turn lane. It will be a concrete street. It will have a five feet wide concrete sidewalk on the north side and a continuation of an eight feet wide concrete multi-use path on the south side. Construction schedule is slated to begin late summer. Menards will be constructing the intersection of High Cross Road and Florida Avenue, which will be signalized. There will be access control along the multi-use path, there will be no driveways and only street crossings on the south side. There was talk about the width of the lanes and gutter pans. Jennifer Selby said this road will be a major street and we need to keep the widths as they are presented – 11.5, 12, 11.5. Gary Cziko explained to Jennifer Selby that he thought a bicycle safe grate would be one that has no slots and is perpendicular to the road. Gary Biehl added since we have Ed Barsotti involved in the Bicycle Master Plan that his input will help with road design.

There was a lot of discussion on who will be using the multi-use paths in the various areas. It depends on the preference of the cyclists – you have to be going in the right direction with traffic. It also depends on the type of cyclists if they are recreational or commuting. It should be safe to ride the bikes on the roadway. Multi-use paths have more intersections with driveways and street entries.

There was talk also of asphalt paths vs. concrete paths. This multi-use path on Florida Avenue will be concrete because the existing path is concrete. Brandon Bowersox said this path will be used by a lot of students going to Thomas Paine School and families that live in the area. Gary Cziko mentioned a two foot limestone screening next to the multi-use paths. Jennifer Selby will take this idea back to City engineering staff.

Brandon Bowersox mentioned that Washington Street is planning to expand and the city council discussed the High Cross Road Corridor Study – one of the highly ranked projects in the study is to make a three lane cross section that includes two five foot wide AASHTO lanes for the street bike lanes. CUUATS put this in the plan via Public Works recommendations. There is an on street bike connection that should happen soon. It will connect High Cross Road to the more western neighborhoods of Urbana.

b. Windsor Road

This road construction project will be from Philo Road to High Cross Road. Windsor Road will be four 11 feet wide lanes with a 12 feet raised median down the center with cut outs for the turn lanes. The street will be concrete with a 12 inch gutter pan. A four feet wide concrete sidewalk will be constructed on the south side between Myra Ridge and Susan Stone. Then there will be an eight feet wide asphalt multi-use path on the north side from Philo Road to High Cross Road. Construction is scheduled to take place in 2009 and 2010. The section from Philo Road to Boulder Drive will be constructed this year by Meijer Grocery Store. There will be signals at Philo Road, Boulder

Drive and Myra Ridge Drive. The speed limit will be 40 MPH. Rick Bernotas asked about the locations of pedestrian cross walks – Jennifer Selby said she would check on the locations.

Gary Cziko asked about the center median being ten foot instead of twelve foot. He wondered if we could change it to ten feet and then add a foot to each of the outside lanes. This would help cyclists and traffic turning in and out because it is easier. Jennifer Selby said that these plans were completed after a study that was approved by IDOT in 2005. She will have to look into that question. She will email the group the answer.

c. Goodwin Avenue, Illinois Street, Oregon Street

The City drafted a preliminary design of Goodwin Avenue from Gregory Street to Springfield Avenue. This plan adds on-street bike lanes along the entire corridor. This plan was a result of the proposed construction of bump-outs at the intersection of Illinois and Goodwin, scheduled for construction this summer (2007). The bump-outs are being constructed to shorten the crossing distance for pedestrians and to align the crosswalks. The design of the bump-outs depended on how much pavement width was needed between the bump-outs. Adding the bike lanes set that width.

The Goodwin Avenue plan shows one lane of traffic in each direction (10-11 feet wide) and a bike lane in each direction (5-6 feet wide). The plan also includes high visibility crosswalks at all crossings with yield bars 25 feet in advance of mid-block crossings. The plan shows improved bike and pedestrian warning signage and bump-outs at every intersection to shorten the pedestrian crossing distances.

The City has shared this information with the U of I and MTD. Most of the concern was in regard to the bike lane at the intersection of Green Street and Goodwin Avenue. There was talk of dropping the bike lanes prior to the intersection or adding LED lights or detector loops at this intersection to warn vehicles of bicycles crossing through the intersection. This plan will go to the CATS III group in March.

Illinois Street will be resurfaced this year (Summer 2007) from Goodwin Avenue to Gregory Street. After resurfacing, the parking lanes will be narrowed to 7 feet wide, the driving lanes to 10 feet wide, and two 5 feet wide bikes lanes will be added. Bump-outs will also be constructed at Gregory and Illinois.

Oregon Street is planned for resurfacing in the Summer of 2008. After resurfacing, the parking lanes will be narrowed to 7 feet wide, the driving lanes to 10 feet wide, and two 5 feet wide bikes lanes will be added. Bump-outs will also be constructed at all intersections.

C. BPAC – Membership Guidelines

Jennifer Selby is working on an amendment to the current ordinance which established BPAC. The original terms are one year, but the ordinance did not state what happens after this one year. Questions such as how long terms will be as well as how many terms one person can serve need to be addressed. Also there is an issue of attendance at the meetings. We have had a member who has never come to a meeting without letting us know. The guidelines would clarify what happens when a member does not attend meetings. The draft guidelines are in the legal department right now getting issues clarified. Jennifer will bring that draft to the commission for review when it is available.

VII. Announcements

There is a conference at the Planning Institute at Levis Center February 26-28, 2007. Cost is \$50.00 and the cost can be paid for through the city. Please let Brandon Bowersox know if you would like to go and he can make the arrangements.

Gary Cziko said The Bike Project of Champaign-Urbana (www.thebikeproject.org) has a spot in the IMC Building (former post office) in downtown Urbana and they are having a meeting on Sunday, January 28, 2007 at 1:00. They will have a workshop opened to fix up bicycles, and purchase a bike inexpensively.

Jennifer Selby said there will be a training session for the Safe Routes to School on February 13, 2007 at the Illinois Terminal from 10:00 am-3:00 pm. Ed Barsotti will be the presenter. This is a free session. Just register at www.dot.state.il.us

Jennifer Selby will email all of the members as to when the next meeting will be held.

VIII. Adjournment

Brandon Bowersox adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Hoffman
Recording Secretary