
Date: Tuesday, February 19, 2008
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: City Council Chambers, City of Urbana, 400 S. Vine Street, Urbana, IL

Members Present: Brandon Bowersox, Gary Cziko, Rick Bernotas, Audrey Ishii, Barak Rosenshine, Dana Mancuso, Susan Jones
Staff Members Present: Jennifer Selby
Absent: Gary Biehl, Gary Engलगau

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.

III. Approval of Agenda

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

IV. Approval of Minutes

Meetings minutes from January 23, 2008 will be distributed soon. They have not been reviewed by staff – they will be emailed out to the members soon and we will approve at the next meeting

V. Public Input

There was no public input.

VI. New Business

A. Bicycle Master Plan Update – Rita Black & Gabe Lewis

Rita Black and Gabe Lewis from the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission presented the draft Bicycle Master Plan, found at: <http://www.ccrpc.org/planning/transportation/urbanabikeplan/documents.php>. The draft plan will be on-line for public comment through March 17. Once it is reviewed, BPAC can approve or deny the plan. The Plan is being reviewed by the Plan Commission and then it will be taken to the City Council for adoption. Rita Black said the best way to implement this plan into the City policy is to have a Bicycle Coordinator to coordinate all aspects of the Plan. Just having the facilities won't be enough. We need to make sure we cover education and enforcement. The main task of the Bicycle Coordinator will be to implement the projects, to pay attention to other issues that come up with the implementation of the plan, and to work with the community.

The next step in the Bicycle Master Plan process will be to incorporate all the public input comments – public comment period is open until March 17, 2008. The plan will be presented to the Planning Commission for endorsement on February 21, 2008 and to the Urbana City Council for review on March 3, 2008 and hopefully for final approval on March 17, 2008. After that CCRPC will prepare the final Urbana Bicycle Master Plan document and will make it available on the City of Urbana web page and the CCRPC's web page.

Discussion ensued. Feedback (either a phone call or email) needs to be sent to Rita and Gabe as soon as possible. Brandon Bowersox recommended the approval of the plan by the Commission. Rick Bernotas made a motion to recommend approval of the plan, Barak Rosenshine seconded. A vote was taken and all ayes have it.

B. Community Pedestrian and Bicyclist Education Campaign – Charlie Smyth, Cynthia Hoyle- CU MTD, Rick Langlois(not in attendance), Morgan Johnson - University of Illinois.

The Community Pedestrian and Bicyclist Education Campaign is a proposed plan for the Cities of Champaign and Urbana, Champaign County Bikes, CUMTD and University of Illinois. Charlie Smyth presented the master schedule for all the events and activities going on about bicycling in our community. This Education Committee wants to serve as a collection point for the different ideas for the different groups in the community. Mr. Smyth gave an outline of upcoming projects which include PTA leadership training, Bike Fest 2 and Bike to Work Week. They will begin TV PSA's and be involved with U of I Campus Safety Day.

Morgan Johnson gave an update on the plans for the University of Illinois. She said she has some students working on bike parking on campus. She is working with staff members and faculty of the department of Kinesiology and Community Health to do a "white bike" project – which is to check out the bikes and use for whatever they need and then return them. The parking will be at Freer and Huff Halls. She is working on getting a registered student organization to support this campaign.

Cynthia Hoyle explained that the Safe Kids Champaign County and the CU-MTD have been the primary sponsors of International Walk to School Day and last year they had 4,500 kids participate in this event. They put in two different grant applications to the Illinois Department of Transportation through the Safe Routes to School grant funding to carry the program to all the elementary schools in the community and possibly middle schools and expand Safe Routes to Schools as a year round program. Some of the activities on the calendar are contingent upon funding. There is a private – non profit organization called The National Partnership for the Safe Routes to School and Illinois is one of eleven States that was selected to participate in the grant. She recommended King School to serve as a model for the State. It looks like they will be selected which means they will have staff and resources to come down and do training to help develop a safe routes to school program. This funding is in place. The funding through IDOT has not been announced yet. She sent out an "action alert" to the group regarding that issue. They are hoping at a community level all of us can pull together and figure out a way to organize and fund these activities.

Charlie Smyth said they want to start a publicity campaign called "share the road" concept. He showed an example from Des Moines, Iowa – they have a bus wrap. They have their own version of this idea and they are looking for outside funding to help with this. This can serve as the start of a major campaign. They are looking for donations for the maps and the bus wrap. Please feel free to contact Charlie Smyth if you know of donor.

Discussion ensued about the maps they are creating with the help of Illinois League of Bicyclists. Charlie Smyth said it is his understanding that the League of Illinois Bicyclists will take the liability of the maps. Morgan Johnson explained that the donation (if the City decided to make one) could possibly go to the bus wraps or the bike fest. They are looking for sponsorship from the City for the maps not necessarily endorsing it. They want the map to reflect all the bike facilities in all three communities.

Brandon Bowersox asked Charlie Smyth what he needed from our group. Charlie Smyth asked the group to encourage the City of Urbana to provide them with a donation to go towards their efforts. Morgan Johnson encouraged the group to give them feedback on this plan.

Brandon Bowersox asked about making the recommendation to the City Council provide support to the Community Pedestrian and Bicyclist Education Campaign plan. Barak Rosenshine made a motion, Sue Jones seconded – all ayes has it; no one opposed.

VII. Old Business

No old business

VIII. Announcements

Cynthia Hoyle met with the staff for the Safe Routes to School low income school project in Chicago last week. She will be coming back to BPAC to ask for support for a SRTS project at King School. She has a memorandum of understanding that will need to go through the school and the City prior to finalizing the project. She might have to go to the City Council to get a memo of understanding before coming back to us. She has met with the administration of the school district and the superintendent and his staff and they are very supportive and interested in this program.

Jennifer Selby added that this is a good project to be involved with because in the first year of our commission we have been really focused on bikes so it would be nice to be involved with pedestrian and children issues. Cynthia Hoyle reminded us to look over the action alert and share it with friends.

IX. Adjournment

Brandon Bowersox adjourned the meeting at 8:56.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Hoffman
Recording Secretary