



## **WORTHINGTON BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY BOARD**

### **Minutes of the Monday, September 28, 2015 Meeting**

**Members Present:** The members present were Michael Bates, Amy Cooper, Lawrence Creed, Ann Horton, Emma Lindholm, John Rist, Kelly Whalen, and Jeannie Martin (Chair).

City Support Staff present were Celia Thornton (Project Supervisor) and Darren Hurley (Director of Parks & Recreation).

Additional city staff present included Pam Fox, Director of Law and William Watterson, Director of Service & Engineering. Also present were Dan Bieberitz, Project Manager for DLZ and Kevin Stotts, a resident from 39 W. Stafford Avenue.

The minutes from the August 4 meeting were approved with one change- a typo regarding Amy Cooper's last name.

**Records Requests and Personal Email Use by Board Members:** City Attorney, Ms. Pam Fox, briefly discussed with board members the ramifications of using personal email for City business as it pertains to public records requests. She explained what a records request is and how it impacts people conducting City business, and stressed that these records must be available upon request, even in the future after members had left the board. If members wish to continue using their personal email accounts, they may do so but were encouraged to create a separate folder for all board related communication. This would allow easy access if/when records requests were made. As an alternative, City IT staff is willing to create City email accounts for all board members. Ms. Thornton should be notified of any requests for City email.

**Mobility Study, Phase 1 High & Stafford, Presentation:** Mr. Watterson shared with members that the City had hired Burton and DLZ to conduct a mobility study in Old Worthington. He explained phases 1-4 and gave a short explanation of what constitutes a crossing in Ohio (basically the intersections of all streets). He also noted that in Worthington, for safety reasons, we don't stripe crossings that are not signaled. He also briefly discussed phase 3 which deals with sidewalks and ADA compliance.

The DLZ consultant, Mr. Dan Bieberitz, presented their recommendations from Phase 1 of the Old Worthington Mobility Study which is focused on the High Street and Stafford Avenue crossing. His presentation was going through the report that has been distributed to the Bike and Pedestrian

Advisory Board and City Council. The Board and a resident in attendance, Mr. Kevin Stotts from 39 West Stafford Avenue, had several questions and participated in a long dialogue about the options presented. Mr. Bieberitz and City Engineer Bill Watterson answered several questions for the group. After about an hour of discussion, it was concluded that some additional information would be needed before the Board would be ready to make a recommendation to City Council. The following information was requested as follow up items to be brought back at the next meeting:

1. Where have Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons been installed at four way intersections and what has the impact been in those locations?
2. How does the Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon work in relationship to traffic coming from Stafford onto High Street that may see the stopped High Street traffic as an opportunity to move quickly onto High Street?
3. What positive impact would be had by removing the north crosswalk at the intersection and only having one on the south side?
4. What information can be collected regarding the other phases of the Old Worthington Study because uniformity is something worth considering as a recommendation is made on Stafford and High Street?
5. What exactly is included in the \$55,000 cost estimate for the Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon?
6. Some clarification on some of the standards as they relate to the Ohio Manual.

Mr. Watterson will be working with Mr. Bieberitz and DLZ to take care of the follow up information and DLZ will return to the October 26 Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Board meeting to provide additional information. Staff anticipate the Board will hear the presentation, public feedback, and then make a recommendation to City Council on the Stafford and High intersection at that October meeting.

There was also a suggestion from the board to do some additional public notification for the meeting to increase awareness about the process and potential recommendation to Council for action by the board. Mr. Hurley agreed to work with the City's public information staff to get information out once the agenda is ready.

**Olentangy Parklands Trailhead Design Discussion:** Mr. Hurley shared with the board that \$25,000 has been allocated in the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to create a trailhead at the Olentangy Parklands trailhead near the tennis courts. Examples of various amenities and a map of the proposed location were provided for reference and as a starting point for discussion. Board members seemed to like the location suggested and agreed that wayfinding, a fix-it station and shade should be priorities. Paving the gravel trail from the lower parking lot to the main trail was suggested as an additional improvement. If members had other thoughts or suggestions in the next few weeks Mr. Hurley asked for that input to be emailed to Ms. Thornton or himself.

**Other:** Ms. Martin expressed a desire for the board to have a strategic planning session early in the 2016. In response, Mr. Bates would like resident input as part of that process and Ms. Lindholm shared that Oct. 7 was National Walk to School day and would like to see the board also focused on some of these types of community education and outreach programs.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.