



WORTHINGTON BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the Monday, February 22, 2016 Meeting

Members Present: The members present were Michael Bates, 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). Also present were residents Mr. Paul Dorothy (179 Kenbrook Dr.) and Mr. John Stephan (168 Boyd Drive).

The minutes from the January 25 meeting were approved with changes to the Enforcement and Evaluation Committee (from Enforcement and Data Collection).

Sub-Committee Organization & Special Event Follow Up Discussion: Mrs. Lindholm agreed to serve on the Education & Encouragement sub-committee. Mrs. Horton agreed to move from Engineering to the Enforcement & Evaluation sub-committee to offer more balance. Mr. Hurley announced that due to a job relocation Amy Cooper has resigned from her spot on the board. Mr. Hurley has already requested that City Council fill the spot.

The 2016 Worthington Community Events Schedule was distributed to the group and Ms. Martin reiterated that Old Worthington Partnership (OWP) has expressed interest in partnering with the board for their Green on the Green event. Mr. Bates asked what the objective of attending the event would be. Ms. Martin and Mr. Hurley said it would be a good place to begin data and public feedback collection. Mr. Creed thought it might be a good place to distribute a survey. Ms. Martin added that asking how people traveled to the event, from where they traveled, and mapping the answers could be useful. Since distance is difficult to deal with on surveys Mr. Dorothy suggested using a map with ranges/zones so we can see what areas people are and are not able to travel using alternative transportation (and the reasons). At this point Mr. Hurley summarized the discussion and Ms. Martin is going to reach out to Green on the Green and see what our partnering possibilities are. Mrs. Horton stated that she wants to make sure that what the board does is in context and conjunction with City projects already in progress, i.e. sidewalks, 161 projects, etc. Mr. Bates inquired about who physically gets maps and materials together when necessary and was told that Ms. Thornton would coordinate these needs for the board.

Safe Routes To School Conference: The board was informed that the City had agreed to pay to send one board member to this conference (along with a Council member and city staff person). Both Ms. Horton and Ms. Martin expressed interest in attending.

At this point a city resident showed up to share a brief suggestion with the Advisory Board. Mr. John Stephan lives on Boyd Drive and talked about the need for safe access (perhaps in the form of a multi-use trail) from Worthington Christian High School and by neighboring residents (including Boyd Drive) down Worthington Galena Road to High Street.

Linworth Crossing & S.R. 161 Updates: Mr. Hurley updated the group that the construction at Linworth Crossing is underway. Known tenants include an Urgent Care and pharmacy. The plan includes improved crossing to the Wendy's and UDF and direct access to Linworth Park. Mr. Hurley also reminded the board of the need to revisit and respond to resident Cheryl Graffagnino's request of improved crossings from the neighborhoods on the east side of S.R. 161 into Linworth Park. Mr. Hurley then summarized the S.R. 161 improvement project. In 2014 Worthington participated in a MORPC conducted traffic study along with Perry Township, Columbus, Franklin County Engineers Office and ODOT. The study looked at current congestion, projected growth in the area, and evaluated the extent of future congestion using computer modeling. The major problems documented in the study as contributing most to congestion are the Linworth intersection, Olentangy River Road intersection and the at-grade railroad crossing. The next step is to conduct a planning, engineering and design study to more fully evaluate alternatives for addressing the need for reduced congestion, safety improvements and improved bike and ped facilities. The study will look in detail at environmental issues, ROW impacts, costs, how multiple alternatives address the challenges, and will include extensive public feedback. Columbus, Perry Township, MORPC, ODOT and Worthington are all considering funding contributions to this study. City Council is expected to hear a report on this in mid to late March. After that, legislation would have to be introduced to approve financial participation in the study. The end result would be the selection of a preferred alternative for improvement and strategies for implementation.

Mr. Rist asked if there is a fee for new development that helps to pay for infrastructure improvements? Mr. Hurley said there wasn't a specific fee and that the City tries to negotiate those needs as part of the development. Mr. Rist also wondered how the board is to know and align its work with projects that are already occurring in the City? Mr. Hurley responded that it is on staff to bring those items to the attention of the board so that it can dovetail onto ongoing projects and be more proactive rather than reactive.

Other: In response to Mr. Hurley's earlier reminder about responding to residents requests, Mrs. Horton asked how we do that, by note, phone, email? There was some discussion that this needs to occur but no clear resolution on procedure.

Mr. Dorothy addressed the board regarding the City's Charter Review Committee. City Council member Rachael Dorothy had asked Mr. Dorothy to make the board aware that the City's charter will be reviewed this summer and that there may be items that require input from the board (for example- sidewalk width). Mr. Bates is on the review committee and will keep the board informed of process and Mr. Hurley and Ms. Thornton will begin going through the document and pull out any items that they feel need a board recommendation. The charter review will be completed in July so that it is ready for the next election cycle.

The board requested Ms. Thornton email board contact information out to the board again.

Ms. Martin informed the board that Worthington now has its own Pelotonia Team, and is looking for people to join.

Mr. Rist asked if the board's memo to City Council was sent and if so whether there was any feedback. Mr. Hurley affirmed that they did receive the Bike & Ped Advisory Board memo, that it was referred to at the Council retreat and that there was no feedback at this time.

A group photo was taken of the board for the city's Annual Calendar.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.