



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

### **Minutes of the Monday, May 22, 2017 Meeting**

**Members Present:** The members present were Larry Creed, Emma Lindholm, Jeannie Martin, John Rist and Kelly Whalen.

City Support Staff Darren Hurley (Parks & Recreation Director) and Celia Thornton (Project Supervisor). Also present were residents Beth Kowalczyk (203 W. Selby) and Paul Dorothy (179 Kenbrook Dr.) and Kristin Studabaker from Carpenter Marty Transportation.

Minutes from the April 24, 2017 meeting were approved.

**Safety in Active Transportation Community Workshop:** The workshop was given by Kate Moening, Field Services Manager for Safe Routes to School, on Monday, May 15, 2017 and was attended by board members Mrs. Horton, Mr. Bates, and Ms. Martin. Also in attendance were Ms. Rachael Dorothy (City Council), Mr. Matt Greeson (City Manager), Mr. Dan Whited (Service & Engineering Director), Mr. Lee Brown (Planning & Building Director), Chief Jerry Strait (Police Department), Mr. Darren Hurley (Parks & Recreation Director), Mr. Jeff Eble (Worthington Schools Director of Business Services), Mr. Tim Gehring (Worthington Schools Director of Facility Management), Mr. George Bleimes (Farmer's Market), Ms. Nina Parini (Old Worthington Partnership), Mr. Keith Mayton (RideHome), Mr. Jordan Whisler (Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission) and Ms. Celia Thornton (Parks & Recreation Project Supervisor). Ms. Thornton shared an overview of the meeting. The focus of the workshop was the development of a community Active Transportation Plan (ATP). An ATP outlines the visions, goals and strategies needed to support increased walking, biking and other active modes of transportation. Many communities around Worthington have ATP's and they have been developed at the state level, as well. Ms. Moening delved into examples from other communities in the United States (Portland, Salt Lake City, Oakland) and the benefits of having an ATP: economic, health, and environmental. She then led the group through the key steps to creating an ATP. Ms. Thornton's perspective was that this would be a great project for the board to lead, if they decided to do so. Having a plan in place does several things:

1. Helps prioritize board projects
2. Gives the City a plan to follow
3. Opens revenue (grants) and designation options (Bike or Walk Friendly Community)

#### 4. Can have a big impact in the community with minimal need for funding.

What became apparent to Ms. Thornton during the group discussion was something Mr. Knight had touched on early in the boards formation, that there is a real need for community education and encouragement even before infrastructure is built. One example is the car lines at the schools (ninety percent of children can walk to their neighborhood schools, but most don't as parents drive and drop-off using the car lines, which create traffic and safety issues). Ms. Thornton also shared that the MORPC representative, Mr. Whisler, contacted and offered the City MORPC's use of their Technical Assistance Program and Complete Streets Equipment Library. Ms. Martin added that one of the things that jumped out at her was Ms. Moening referring to the 6 E's- the sixth one being equity. Ms. Martin also picked up education packets that can be used for bike and pedestrian education of school age children, and they are separated by grade (K-3, 4-6, etc.). She has them and can share them with the group when needed. Mr. Rist asked how long a process like this would take. The response was at least a year. Mrs. Lindholm asked what the next steps were, should the board decide to proceed. Ms. Thornton said that the next step would be for the board to discuss and decide if this is a route they want to pursue, as the board would need to lead the effort, bring people together, and keep a community planning process moving forward. Ms. Martin clarified that the meeting we just had was a "train the trainer" on how to do just that. Mr. Hurley said it depends on the boards approach going forward. The board has its big projects framed and had a conversation last month about looking at low hanging fruit while Council mulls over how to get some of the projects moving. You have heard Ms. Martin tout that the next step is a Bike & Pedestrian Master Plan so the board needs to decide how to do that. This is obviously more of a community approach, but do you also need a formal master plan? If so, do you first do one and then the other, or do you do them together? These are the questions that need answering. Mr. Rist asked how we balance this with Safe Routes To School (SRTS)? Ms. Thornton reminded him that the schools can't currently actively engage in a SRTS process, not until they finish their facility planning process. Ms. Martin said that would be at least 9 to 12 months. Mr. Hurley added that SRTS will be included in the community plan. It wouldn't include specific school travel plans, but would be addressed generally. Ms. Martin sees this as the first step of SRTS- have a community plan, which the schools would be part of but not leading) and then focus later on SRTS. The discussion ended that the board has been briefed and will make a decision whether or not to pursue this activity at a later date. Mr. Creed would like to see it on a later agenda to keep it in the forefront.

**City Council Presentation:** Mr. Hurley reminded the board that they will give their presentation to City Council at the Monday, June 12 Council meeting. Mr. Hurley then gave an update on the Parks & Recreation Commission presentation from May 8, 2017. The Commission gave City Council an overview of their plan and Council made a motion to adopt the plan, which passed. Council made it clear that they supported the plan, that it is a priority for the City, and they then began to discuss funding options. Mr. Creed asked exactly what adopting the plan meant. Mr. Hurley said there is then a record of the document. It is not the same as an ordinance or resolution, and no timeline or process was defined. Mr. Creed asked if the Parks Commission had done public input. Mr. Hurley said they had, in the form of surveys and open houses, and that it was part of the presentation, along with a park by park list of recommendations. City staff had spent time working on what it would take to prepare for a levy and go to the voters and City Council said that this could be an option for the future. Mr. Hurley also said that what would be beneficial to City Council is to focus on what the board is recommending. Ms. Martin said she believes in telling a story. She would like to go back to the Steering Committee and then proceed

with how the board has evolved. There was much group discussion about what to include in the presentation and the best way to showcase projects and share how much money would be needed to make a significant impact on the project list. By the end of the meeting the board had come up with the following outline:

- Background / History
- Survey results
- Board activities
- Use of allocated funds
- 5 E's (equity)

#### Recommendations by Category

- a. CIP Infrastructure
  1. Worthington-Galena Road
  2. Snouffer Road – Linworth Road West
  3. Sidewalk Gaps – Evening Street Elementary
- b. CIP Study
  1. Overview of total number of projects in this category
  2. High Street Bike & Ped Assessment (speed, bikes, pedestrians)
  3. Worthington Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan
  4. Sidewalk Analysis
  5. Connecting Potters Creek and west side to existing trails
- c. Programmatic
  1. Overview of total number of projects in this category
  2. Complete Streets Policy Adoption
  3. Safe Routes to School
  4. Targeted Education and Enforcement

#### Funding Recommendations

- a. CIP funds
- b. Operating Resources
- c. Alternative options

Mr. Hurley promised to take the thoughts captured on the large sticky notes and to put them into a rough presentation outline for the board's review.

#### **Updates:**

Bike Rodeo Event – Approximately 130 parents and children attended. There were beginning, intermediate and advanced agility stations for children to try. Quite a few associated vendors also came. Mrs. Lindholm said that AAA thought it was a fun event and that they had many ideas for moving forward.

Mr. Hurley then shared with the board that Mr. Erickson had resigned. He enjoyed serving but found that it was too much of a time commitment at this point. City Council will begin the process to replace Mr. Erickson.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.