



WORTHINGTON BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the Monday, February 26, 2018 Meeting

Members Present: The members present were Mike Bates, Lawrence Creed, Emma Lindholm, Gary Schmidt and Kelly Whalen.

City Support Staff Darren Hurley (Parks & Recreation Director) and Celia Thornton were present, along with Council Member Rachael Dorothy. Also in attendance were residents Steve Tornes (211 Chaucer) and Paul Dorothy (179 Kenbrook) along with Kristin Studabaker of Carpenter Marty Transportation and Michael Blau of Burton Planning Services.

Minutes from the January 6 and January 22, 2018 meetings were approved.

Mr. Bates then opened the floor to the guests to share any comments they had with the board. Mr. Tornes shared that he came because he was interested in listening to the LimeBike discussion.

Selection of Chairs: Mr. Hurley passed out a copy of the authorizing Resolution for the advisory board's chair selections (No. 06-2015). Since the board has several new members and has not selected new chairs since its initial meeting, Mr. Hurley provided an overview of how the process works. Mr. Schmidt asked what the obligations of a chair included. Mr. Hurley answered that the Chair and Vice-Chair should be comfortable leading meetings, facilitating discussion amongst members and guests and should help build consensus on issues that arise, help keep the group on track, and provide leadership to the overall Board. The Chair and Vice-Chair also should be able to meet for about one hour each month either one or two weeks prior to the meeting with staff to help assemble the upcoming agenda. Periodic email and phone communication with staff is also necessary depending on current issues and projects. Members asked each other for interest and made some suggestions for chair and vice-chair but ultimately decided to table any motions until the March meeting with more members present.

LimeBike / Bike Share Discussion and Recommendation:

The board reviewed the "Questions & Answers" that had been submitted by email (attached) from LimeBike. Mr. Hurley shared that Whitehall and Dublin are entering into agreements with LimeBike. Westerville and Columbus are still in the process of assessing whether or not to enter

into a trial agreement with LimeBike. Mr. Bates stated that he was comfortable with the amount of information he'd received and thinks the board should make a recommendation for a trial agreement. Mr. Creed raised concerns about the contract (and how easy it would be to exit) and Mr. Schmidt had concerns about the placement of bikes, especially through the downtown. Mr. Bates responded by asking if bikes weren't visible along High Street would people even be aware of them. Mr. Whalen asked why the board should recommend a trial. What are the benefits to the community? Mr. Bates said for him it's as simple as encouraging walking and biking. Mr. Whalen wondered if it would hurt to wait and allow other communities to try it first while we observed. Mr. Bates said that if we don't do it now, we would miss this year's biking season. Mr. Bates then opened the floor to public comment. Mr. Tornes (resident) asked if the board had checked on the experience of other communities. Mr. Bates shared that we had through articles and the direct experience of Council Member Rachael Dorothy. Mr. Dorothy shared that he liked the fact that the bikes are bright green from a safety standpoint because it makes them highly visible. It will also help the community see the bikes move around the community. He believes that visual clutter is an issue of failure to provide the proper infrastructure for the bikes- basically providing enough bike racks and preferred parking spaces. He would encourage, if this trial moves forward, that the City collect data of where the bikes are clustering and use it to provide more bike racks. Ms. Dorothy would encourage all bikes be parked together (LimeBike and others). Mr. Schmidt made a motion to recommend to City Council that they proceed with bringing LimeBike to the City of Worthington for a three month trial period. Mrs. Lindholm seconded the motion. All present members were in favor and the motion passed.

2018 Project Prioritization Follow-up:

Mr. Bates led the board through a review of the prioritized list of projects to make sure that the board was still okay with the list and rankings, and if needed to clarify the scope of the projects. Since several of the priority projects include sidewalks, it was requested that staff prepare a sidewalk meeting in March to include an overview of current sidewalk policy, framing for ways to consider utilizing this year's funding to do some sidewalk connections, and to be briefed on legalities of sidewalk options. There was a little discussion about how to accomplish these and the timing with the Master Plan. Mr. Bates then asked Mr. Hurley to make the roads identified by the Service Department's Street Program a March agenda item. Mr. Creed also asked for sidewalk unit costs for the next meeting, any suggestions about how to start putting together a program, and whether it could fit somehow with the Street Program.

Updates:

1. Bike & Pedestrian Master Plan RFP – Mr. Hurley shared that the RFP had been distributed to 8-10 firms and is posted on-line on the City's website. Staff have had feedback and received several questions, leading us to believe we should be receiving some good proposals. Proposals are due March 5, 2018. We'll be working to put together the steering committee soon. If you are interested please let Celia know as soon as possible.
2. Safe Routes to School – Ms. Thornton shared that she, Mrs. Horton and Mrs. Lindholm had met with Kate Moening (SRTS Coordinator) and a Franklin County Health Department representative to discuss the best way to approach Worthington School PTA's about starting SRTS initiatives. This meeting lead to other contacts in Upper Arlington and with the Columbus Health Department. The subcommittee is currently working to get on PTA agendas and is putting together a PowerPoint presentation about Safe Routes to School for these organizations.
3. Holiday Inn Redevelopment – Mr. Brown had responded via email to questions that arose regarding the Holiday Inn Redevelopment. He had intended to provide some information

when he attended the January meeting, but it went so long and the other topics were so involved, he just didn't get to it. The site plan and architecture were approved by the Planning Commission. There are still several variances that need to occur along with the approval of the Planned Unit Development (PUD). If you have further questions or concerns let Mr. Hurley know and he will follow up with Mr. Brown. Mr. Bates shared that the owner anticipated the existing site would close in July, liquidate assets in August and begin moving dirt in the fall.

4. Crosswalk at S.R. 161 (between Pingree Park and East Granville Road Park) – Council Member David Robinson asked the advisory board to look at connection options between the two parks and research some options. There aren't currently any close options for crossing from one to the other along 161 and the road is dangerous. Mr. Hurley said he wanted to introduce this to the board and will put it on a future agenda for discussion. Mr. Dorothy offered to write a memo with options as he has done with past projects for the board. He also told the board that the "mid-grade" option is no longer allowed in Ohio (pedestrian flashing beacons) so the board would be looking likely only at two options- a striped cross walk or a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon.
5. Northeast (NE) Gateway Project – The latest plans for the NE Gateway Project that were presented to City Council were mostly about aesthetics and included light posts, entrance signage, etc. However, one interesting facet was a fairly large open greenspace at the new intersection where there may be a possibility for a trailhead, bike/ped way-finding, or some sort of rest area. Mr. Bates commented that replicating something similar to what exists at the Olentangy Parklands entrance would be nice.

Mrs. Lindholm asked Mr. Dorothy how the Bike Worthington medallion project was progressing. Mr. Dorothy said it was moving and that he was still trying to line up funding before talking to the Engineering Department. Mr. Dorothy also wanted to share with the board the three big things Bike Worthington is currently working on:

1. Medallion Project
2. Compiling all 2017 Worthington bike and pedestrian crash information and doing field reviews on each (Bike Worthington is looking for volunteers to help with this project)
3. Comfort Mapping – They are also looking for volunteers to help with this and for someone with GIS capabilities for colorized mapping.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.