



WORTHINGTON BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the Monday, January 28, 2019 Meeting

Members Present: The members present were Mike Bates, Katie Burkley, Larry Creed, Ann Horton, Emma Lindholm, Jeannie Martin, Gary Schmidt, John Stephan, and Kelly Whalen.

City Support staff Darren Hurley (Parks & Recreation Director) and Celia Thornton were present along with City Council Members Rachael Dorothy and Beth Kowalczyk. Also in attendance were interested community members David Roseman (2843 Blendonwoods Blvd.) and Dr. Cal Taylor (7600 Huntington Park Dr.) and Kristin Studabaker of Carpenter Marty Transportation.

Minutes from the November 26, 2018 meeting were approved by all in attendance.

Introduction and Swearing In of New Member: Mr. Hurley introduced Ms. Burkley to the board and had the board introduce themselves to her. Mr. Schmidt then swore in Ms. Burkley.

Selection of New Chairs: Mr. Schmidt let the board know that in the near future he plans to move to Colorado, so he will no longer be able to serve as Chair. Mr. Hurley asked if anyone had interest in being nominated for the position of chair or vice-chair and gave a brief overview of the responsibilities of each position. After some discussion Mr. Whalen offered himself to serve as chair and was nominated for 2019. The Board unanimously voted Mr. Whalen as the new Chair. Mr. Bates offered to assist Mr. Whalen in the position of vice-chair and was also nominated and unanimously approved as Vice-Chair for 2019.

Lime Trial Review: Mr. Hurley gave an overview of the Lime trial, which extended from June through November of 2018, using data provided by Lime and provided in a handout to the board. He then said that the point of this discussion was to get the board ready to make a recommendation to Council as to whether they would like Lime or another bike share company to be invited back to provide services to the City in another trial or more permanently. He also said that the board should consider the scooter option and how they might want to respond if the City were asked to enter into an agreement for them. Mr. Hurley then asked what information the board would like staff to gather to help them make those decisions in the coming months. Mr. Schmidt asked if Lime was pushing scooters. Mr. Hurley shared that Dublin had been notified by Lime that they weren't interested in continuing the bike share program in the Dublin area and he's

not sure what that means for Worthington. He added that Lime had approached the City about adding scooters during the trial but the City asked to wait to assess that option until the end of the trial. Ms. Horton said she is interested in knowing the direction contiguous communities were planning on heading with bike share and scooters (Westerville, Columbus, etc.). Mr. Roseman (guest visitor) volunteered that Westerville had put out a Request for Information (RFI) to multiple bike share programs. Ms. Lindholm asked if we could find out from Lime how many of the rides done in Worthington were “free” first time rides versus multiple uses. Mr. Bates was interested in getting some commuting facts such as how many people used Lime for commuting and where did they ride (how far outside of Worthington)? Dr. Taylor (guest visitor) voiced concerns about the data collection that Lime and companies like them were able to collect on users of the bikes, everything from credit card information to travel patterns. He also expressed concerns about irresponsible users leaving bikes in inappropriate locations, such as handicap ramps and on private property and safety concerns (no helmets are provided with the bikes for users). Mr. Schmidt responded that as far as data collection goes, people do not have to participate and he sees that as a personal choice. He thought things really went pretty well, with the exception of low ridership. Mr. Hurley said that staff could gather data to help frame a conversation for the board around scooters. He also asked if there was anything else the board wanted to know about bikes. Mr. Stephan said he is still personally against scooters in Worthington. No one he’s spoken to has asked for them, though residents have expressed approval for the bike share program. He thinks the board should not seek out scooters and only entertain the idea if pushed by residents. Mr. Bates asked to play devil’s advocate for scooters and suggested that they could be appropriate in Worthington for the “last mile” piece for alternative transportation plans. Ms. Dorothy stated that she would like the board to look for transportation options that are available for everyone. She would like to shift the conversation and have them discuss looking at right of way for alternative transportation options. Dr. Taylor (guest visitor) said he wondered how the City could manage right of way for alternative transportation options when we can’t even keep sidewalks and ramps clear of snow and ice in the winter, and in fact plow the snow into those areas. Ms. Martin expressed her disapproval of scooters and said that they were hard to see, must be in the road (if motorized) and shared that according to agreements she’s seen people must be 18 to use them. She said we need to figure out something else that would work for everyone as opposed to something that is unsafe and often used inappropriately. She also said she would like to see data on scooter injuries. Mr. Roseman (guest visitor) said whether the board liked scooters or not the community must be prepared to deal with them as they are coming. Electric bikes (eBikes) are also coming and are being legislated at the state level now, so the community needs to adjust and be ready to deal with both. Mr. Stephan suggested Worthington let other communities be “test” areas first and then we can learn from their experiences. Mr. Creed suggested that discussing scooters is moot until the City has the regulatory infrastructure in place to support scooters, and the regulatory piece shouldn’t come from the board. He doesn’t see a downside to continuing the bike share program. Many on the board agreed with both statements. Ms. Burkley asked a few questions about how eBikes work (petal assist) and then asked if they are allowed on bike trails. Ms. Thornton promised to get the board an update on the state legislation regarding eBikes. Mr. Schmidt offered that what he likes about all of these options are that they are all alternatives to cars and are making a dent in transportation and they all mean there is one more person out there yelling for a bikeway on the roads. He thinks legislation issues will get resolved. Ms. Burkley said she likes the idea of eBikes better than scooters. Mr. Hurley said that what he was hearing is that more data is needed for the board to come to any decisions. If anyone had specific requests for information they should email Ms. Thornton by Friday, Feb. 1. He said he’d try to get that info back out to the board a couple of weeks prior to the next meeting to better frame a discussion for the February meeting. He is hearing that the board has no interest in fast-tracking scooters but does want staff to monitor the situation and bring information and updates to the board. Mr. Creed asked exactly what the board was being asked to do. Mr. Hurley said he was asking whether the

board wants to continue with a bike share program, and if so, what process do they want to use to pick the provider? Ms. Kowalczyk shared that she had directly contacted Lime about a bike in an inappropriate place, and wondered how many other complaints they received directly from residents of Worthington (as opposed to the ones recorded as made by City staff).

Discussion of 2019 Priorities and Funding: Mr. Hurley asked the board when they would like to plan to have their 2019 Priority and Funding meeting. He suggested that we could have a longer than usual February meeting or the board could choose to pick a different date as was done in the past. Ms. Horton asked for a Complete Streets update. Mr. Hurley said the board would get a good update on that when the consultants were in town for the draft master plan because the two are so closely tied together. He assured the board that Mr. Hull is heavily involved in the Complete Streets process because the Master Plan depends on the Complete Streets typologies. He told the board both plans will be presented together during the next engagement sessions. Ms. Horton then said she would prefer to extend the February meeting. Mr. Stephan agreed and said because we'd have a draft of the Master Plan by February, he also thought we should extend the next meeting. Mr. Bates suggested the next meeting go from 6pm to 9pm if necessary. Mr. Whalen asked that a proposal for new bike racks be included in the February planning meeting. The board all agreed to utilize the February meeting for the planning session and to extend the time as needed.

Updates:

1. Master Plan Update and Next Steps – Mr. Hurley referred to the flyer included in the board packet and let the board know that while they wouldn't have the opportunity to meet privately with the Blue Zone consultants, there would be multiple opportunities for the board and the public to engage and give the consultants feedback on the draft plan. He also stated that there would be opportunities to view the draft plan and give feedback online. The board requested that Ms. Thornton publicize the Open Houses on a Village Green sign. Mr. Hurley indicated he would send a draft of the plan to the board once he received it from the consultants.
2. 161 Access Road Project – With the exception of the signage, the project has been completed. Mr. Stephan asked how the intersection at 161 and Evening Street was working. Mr. Hurley said he had heard some positive feedback on the incremental changes made by the Service/Engineering Department. Mr. Bates added that at some point we should add to an agenda looking again at the requested crossing further up 161 at East Granville Park.

As an additional update, Mr. Hurley let the board know that he'd been invited to be part of the City's Safety Committee due to his work on this board. He promised to give the board updates after each quarterly meeting. Ms. Kowalczyk asked how snow removal notices were sent. Mr. Hurley confirmed that they were sent by mail. Ms. Kowalczyk said she encourages people to make complaints to put businesses on notice when they don't clear their walks.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.