



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

### **Minutes of the Monday, April 22, 2019 Meeting**

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

City Support staff Darren Hurley (Parks & Recreation Director) and Celia Thornton were also present, along with City Council Member Rachael Dorothy. Also in attendance was resident Jenny Fuerst (179 Lake Ridge Road).

Minutes from the March 25, 2019 meeting were approved by all in attendance.

Mr. Whalen invited Mrs. Fuerst to introduce herself to the board and asked her to share with the board her particular reason for attending the meeting. Mrs. Fuerst said that what brought her to the meeting was the five point intersection in Colonial Hills of Park Boulevard/Lake Ridge Drive, Colonial Avenue and Foster Avenue. She said that crossing that intersection before and after school is like playing the game "Frogger". She has spoken with the City Engineer and was told that the best route was to walk up Park Boulevard, on which there is no sidewalk for a long stretch, so her choice is to walk in wet grass/mud or in a busy street, neither of which is possible with a stroller. Mrs. Fuerst stated that walking in the street is dangerous as she has to contend with St. Michael's school traffic, school busses, and commuters trying to get to I-71. She indicated she had also spoken with the Police Chief and his response had been there isn't enough volume to warrant further action at this intersection. She shared pictures she had taken with the board which illustrated that there is no good place to cross Park Boulevard (or any safety signage/warnings that this is where children cross) and that there are significant sidewalk gaps. Mr. Hurley said that he would get history on this intersection from the City Engineer (what responses were given and the reasons) and from the Police Chief and would highlight Bike & Pedestrian Master Plan recommendations for the area. Mrs. Lindholm said that she would like to see a study done on this area. Mr. Hurley said that he would pull together information and frame this issue for a future meeting.

1. **Crossing Improvement at 161/Pingree Drive/East Granville Road Park:** Mr. Hurley shared that the City Engineer has received proposals and is preparing to enter into an agreement with a traffic consultant to review the crossing and make a recommendation on the best treatment. That recommendation will be brought to the board and then work will be authorized. The funding is in place and approved by Council. City Council was very supportive of the crossing project. If any funds are remaining, the board has some options to consider including the bike racks at East Granville Road Park and Pingree Park, using funding for a demonstration project in the area this year, or considering if there are sidewalk connections that can be made. The board reviewed the possible sidewalk connections in the area as recommended previously by the Engineering Department. After completing all agenda items Mr. Hurley said the board could walk the area of the proposed crossing and staff will note any additional observations or comments to share with the City Engineer and the Traffic Consultant on the project.
2. **Special Events for 2019:** Mr. Hurley shared that special event staff recommend that the board integrate a bike awareness event into a new event being planned around the summer solstice for 2019 on June 22. The event is being held at the Olentangy Parklands and will highlight the park and the Olentangy Trail. Activities can be planned to educate and encourage people to walk and bike. In addition, staff are open to other events as recommended by the board as resources will allow. Finally, staff will be sending out a list of events where the master plan can be publicized. Mr. Hurley said if each board member would commit to being at a booth for one event then staff will circulate the sign up and get materials together for the events and several could be covered. Mrs. Lindholm asked if staff had received any response to the board tagging onto the Picnic with the Partnership event. Mr. Hurley said that there were some questions about how to run an open community event next to an exclusive adult event that includes alcohol. The board seemed to agree that this could be difficult. Mrs. Lindholm then asked about the possibility of a group of board members riding in the Memorial Day Parade. Board members could hand out flyers regarding the Master Plan, ride bikes with a banner and throw candy. She asked Ms. Dorothy if it was too late to get a spot in the parade. Ms. Dorothy said that any group can register through the Blackstone American Legion and that they are still accepting registrations. Mrs. Fuerst suggested that the board could ask Ride Home to sponsor them (to purchase the banner, candy, etc.). Many members were unsure if they could commit at this point and Mrs. Lindholm said she would consider working on this idea as an event for the board.

#### **Updates:**

1. **Bike & Pedestrian Master Plan Wrap Up** - The consulting team is planning to return to present the final plan to City Council on Monday, May 20. This will be the final step in the planning process. Since the board's May meeting date falls on Memorial Day, the chairs are proposing that the board meet briefly before the Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m. that night and then encourage members to attend the 7:30 p.m. Council meeting afterwards. The other options would be to cancel the meeting or reschedule it for another date. The board unanimously passed a motion to reschedule their normal fourth Monday meeting in May and meet at 6:00 p.m. on May 20, 2019.

2. Safe Routes to School - At the April 15 City Council meeting, a resident testified to Council of their concerns with the school redistricting. Some of the changes would include children having to cross High Street and as the Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan shows there are few good crossing locations north of the PHB's along High Street. She was hopeful the advisory board could help engage the schools in that dialogue as facility improvements are being made. Mr. Hurley noted that the master plan did put a priority on projects near schools in the scoring matrix that was used to prioritize projects and that the school did have representation (Mr. Randy Banks) on our steering committee for the plan.

Ms. Thornton shared that she had received an email from a resident on Franklin Avenue (in the Pingree Park neighborhood) that asked for pedestrian safety data for Worthington. The resident shared the data Ms. Thornton had given her with Mr. Girard (principal of Wilson Hill Elementary School) and suggested that Bike & Pedestrian Advisory Board members be allowed to give a presentation to the PTA on Safe Routes to Schools, which the school system could use to help make sure student safety was being considered during the redistricting process. Mr. Stephan suggested that with residents concerned about these changes in school walking patterns, could Mr. Hurley ask the consultants to take one more look at the Master Plan (prior to presentation to City Council) through the prism of these changes. Mrs. Lindholm agreed with Mr. Stephan's suggestion and said that she and Mrs. Horton would be willing to attend PTA meetings if needed. Mr. Hurley agreed to share the information with the consultants working on the plan with the understanding it may be too late to change the recommendations overall or the prioritization which is complex but perhaps something could be done. Mr. Stephan agreed and suggested at least maybe something could be noted in the text.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned and the board members walked to the proposed Pingree Drive/Route 161 intersection crossing for a modified walk audit.

#### Walk Audit Notes:

- Board members noted the setting sun to the west and the difficulty it causes west bound drivers at that time of evening. It was around 7:00 p.m.
- Board members liked the idea of a refuge being built in the turn lane to both make crossing easier and to potentially help calm traffic and speeds.
- Board members were concerned about the number of poles and raised access covers on the northeast corner of the intersection but conceded there probably wasn't a lot that could be done.