



WORTHINGTON BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the Monday, January 27, 2020 Meeting

Members Present: The members present were Mike Bates, Katie Burkley, Ann Horton, Emma Lindholm, Jordan Schweller, John Stephan and Kelly Whalen.

City Support staff Darren Hurley (Director of Parks & Recreation) and Celia Thornton were present. Also in attendance was City Council Representative Rachael Dorothy.

Minutes from the November 26, 2019 meeting were approved by all in attendance.

Visitor Comments: City Council Representative Rachael Dorothy shared that the Worthington Partnership, in conjunction with Sustainable Worthington, has formed a Green Team that is planning a series on sustainable living (called "Learn & Grow") for summer 2020. One of the featured topics is on transportation (along with composting, energy efficiency, etc.). There is a meeting regarding the transportation topic on Thursday, Jan. 30 for anyone who is interested in attending.

Selection of 2020 Chair and Vice-Chair: Mr. Hurley reminded the board that each year the board selects a chair and vice-chair for the board. This is done through a nomination and voting process. Staff lead the process so that the current chair isn't put in an uncomfortable situation. Mr. Bates nominated Mr. Whalen for the chair. No other board members expressed interest and Mr. Whalen's nomination was approved by all present. Mr. Whalen then nominated Mr. Bates to serve as Vice-Chair. Mr. Hurley confirmed that no one else was interested and Mr. Bates was approved by all.

Finalize 2020 Project Prioritization: In an effort to pick up where the board left off at the last meeting, Mr. Whalen referred to his previous spreadsheet and Mr. Hurley's memo to remind the board of previously identified priorities. He then asked Mr. Hurley to review the background on each item so that the board could have some further discussion and finalize the prioritization for staff. Mr. Hurley began that he expects there could be \$20,000 to \$30,000 left over from the Pingree and 161 crossing project which could be allocated towards 2020 projects. He then reviewed his memo in some detail (included in packet) and when he was done there was brief

board discussion. Mr. Whalen championed the Linworth pedestrian crossings since it was a process the board already knew how to implement, but also said that the pilot project could be a good experience for the board. Ms. Lindholm thinks the board should start with Crandall Drive because it will come up as a Safe Routes to School topic with the work Wilson Hill Elementary is doing. She also thinks the two Linworth crossings and the five-point intersection in Colonial Hills should be priorities. Mr. Hurley provided aerial photos of the five-point intersection. He reminded the board that when resident Jenny Fuerst came to the board, she was initially requesting a sidewalk connection along Park Boulevard going east from the intersection as a possible solution. Ms. Lindholm thinks it also needs a crossing and that sidewalks alone won't fix the issue. Mr. Hurley said he'd ask Service & Engineering to analyze the situation and provide some options. After further discussion Mr. Hurley suggested that a study may be necessary since there didn't seem to be obvious solutions. Mr. Bates brought up the previous discussion about the board paying for extended fencing along Wilson Bridge Road over the Olentangy River (as presented by Mr. Brown from Planning & Building). The board discussed and decided that this seemed to mainly be a perception issue rather than a safety concern. They made and passed a motion to decline funding the proposal to extend fencing on Wilson Bridge Road. Mr. Hurley promised to communicate the decision to Mr. Brown. Mr. Whalen said that the consensus seemed to be that the board would like to fund the first three projects on the priority list if possible (Crandall pilot project, Linworth pedestrian crossings, Colonial Hills five-point intersection), and is requesting the City to start exploring the fourth project (multi-use path from Snouffer to S.R. 161). Mr. Hurley said he will get pricing for the crossing projects and will try and frame the pilot project and five-point intersection for upcoming meetings. Ms. Horton said that she would like the City to consider pavers for the mid street crossings, as visual cues for drivers. Ms. Lindholm then asked about surveying the Colonial Hills neighborhood to get their input on the five-point crossing. Mr. Hurley said that if the board/City went forward with this project that would be a part of the process. Mr. Whalen also agreed to go out to the intersection and take notes during school hours on what occurs at the intersection.

Sub-Committee Work – Education and Encouragement Activities for 2020: Mr. Whalen reminded the board that at the last meeting Ms. Burkley had brought up the idea of sub-committees for some education and encouragement activities. Ms. Burkley stated that the board had come up with education and encouragement ideas but that having a committee to help organize and round up volunteers could help the board achieve more of these objectives. Examples include walk and bike to school days, bike light giveaways, volunteers at crosswalks, bike repair workshops, etc. Mr. Bates and Ms. Dorothy suggested going to other Worthington groups for support (Sustainable Worthington, Worthington Partnership, local bike shop). Ms. Dorothy also commented that there is a meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 8pm with Mr. Greeson and a group of residents on busing and transportation issues in the City. It was agreed that Ms. Burkley would discuss this further with staff and prepare for a more detailed discussion at the next board meeting.

Updates:

1. **Pingree/161 Crossing Project** – The bidding documents are finished and ready to be sent out with the hopes that construction can begin in late spring/early summer. The apron fixes would be completed as part of the summer street improvement program. Once the bids

come in Mr. Hurley will be able to give the board a better idea of how much money may be left over to put towards 2020 projects.

2. **SRTS Initiative** – Ms. Thornton shared that the sub-committee was meeting briefly after the board meeting and was still working on setting up a meeting with school board members. She had attended an Active Transportation meeting hosted by MORPC and one of the presentations covered the requirements that must be met prior to applying for SRTS funding. Ms. Thornton suggested that the best way the board could help Wilson Hill move forward was to encourage them to meet these requirements this year so that applying for funding would be an option for them in 2021.
3. **Resident Safety Concerns** – Mr. Hurley said that one of the signs of this board's progress is that he has been invited to City Safety Committee meetings. He said that there was frequently crossover with Bike & Pedestrian issues. This month's topics were:
 - Students walking along Hartford and trying to cross S.R. 161 to get to Kilbourne Middle School. Speeding along S.R 161 is a concern. This is also a high crash area.
 - Speeding on Worthington-Galena Road
 - Pedestrians attempting to cross Olentangy River Road at Plesenton Drive from the multi-use trail
 - Cars turning into and out of parking access in Old Worthington in the lot in front of Graeter's and across High Street into the alley beside the Worthington Inn heading back to the city parking lot. The turns across traffic coming off High Street and into these situations lends for drivers to be focused on beating cars and not watching for and yielding to pedestrians.

Mr. Hurley also shared that the City hired a new Police Chief, Robert Ware, and that he will invite him to a future meeting to meet the board.

Mr. Whalen asked when a new member would be appointed to the Bike & Pedestrian Advisory Board. Ms. Dorothy said that City Council is in the process of setting up interviews.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.