



WORTHINGTON BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the Monday, February 24, 2020 Meeting

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

City Support staff Darren Hurley (Parks & Recreation Director) and Celia Thornton were present. Also attending was resident Kim Crowley (120 E. South Street) and City Council Representative Rachael Dorothy.

Minutes from the January 27, 2019 meeting were approved by all in attendance.

Visitor Comments: Ms. Crowley has concerns about the intersection of Hartford and S.R. 161. That road is heavily traveled by kids walking and biking to school, seniors, young parents with strollers, etc. It also has heavy automobile traffic, frequent accidents and she's seen many cars run red lights. A sign has been added that warns drivers they are approaching a school, but wonders if more signage, school crossing lights or pedestrian lead cycles at the intersection would be helpful options. Mr. Hurley said that this concern had been brought up at the City's last Safety Committee Meeting and that the Service & Engineering Department had looked at the intersection. There is a list of four or five ideas for improvements, and not just for the intersection but for the entire corridor (which includes three schools). Ms. Crowley added that she saw a car jump the curb there just the other week and has had her own experience in being hit in this area. Mr. Hurley said that he would ask for an update from Engineering on what is planned for the corridor. Ms. Lindholm asked Ms. Dorothy about options for educating students on bike and pedestrian safety. Ms. Crowley said she thinks education for students is also a good idea. Ms. Dorothy let everyone know that the Worthington Partnership has a "Green Initiative" and that there is a "Green Transportation Event" being held at 6pm on June 15 at the Griswold Center. Ms. Lindholm and Ms. Horton thought this might be a good opportunity for the board to see what's going on and get involved.

Board Picture for City Annual Report: The picture was taken at the end of the meeting and will be included in the City's 2020 Annual Report.

Education & Encouragement Project Prioritization: Mr. Whalen gave some background on how this list (included in packet) was compiled. There was a lengthy discussion around the items on the list. Bike boulevard trainings (and training in general) was discussed, not just for the board but also possibly opening it to City Council and the public. Ms. Horton suggested that when communities bring projects to the board, or before the board starts a project (such as the Pingree/161 crossing), we should consider hosting walk audits as a form of community outreach, engagement and as a way to gather more information. This might be a better way to get public input or publicize the project prior to starting. She thinks this might have helped with the neighbors who had concerns with the Pingree/161 crossing. Pilot projects and harnessing community engagement were discussed. Mr. Schweller advocated for creating buzz about biking by doing some encouragement, possibly through the use of bike corrals at Farmer's Market and other Community events. Beyond just education and encouragement for biking, corrals are also a way to gather data. We can see how use rises if we offer them at every Farmer's Market. There may also be an app or way to track where people are riding from. If the board were to start the corrals in partnership with the Worthington Partnership, and it was popular, perhaps the Partnership would take it over in following years. Also, Farmer's Market businesses could take turns monitoring the corral and could give out coupons to those who park their bikes at the corral as further encouragement to bike to the market, which could also help cut down on traffic congestion and parking issues. After Mr. Schweller develops the idea, he can contact Ms. Thornton for help in contacting the Partnership and looking into who provides bike corrals. Mr. Hurley reminded the board not to take on something they couldn't keep up with or to create something that could be handed off or self-sustaining. Tasks were assigned as follows:

- Set up bike boulevard training (and training in general) – Ms. Thornton / Mr. Hurley
- Work on ideas for a community bike light event (Be Safe, Be Seen) – Ms. Burkley
- Explore the possibility of providing bike corrals at community events (particularly the Farmer's Market) to encourage bike riding – Mr. Schweller
- Signing board up for spot in Memorial Day Parade – Ms. Lindholm
- Scoping engineering projects (as needed) prior to giving them to Engineering Department – Mr. Whalen / Ms. Horton

Capital Project Follow-Up: Mr. Hurley and Ms. Thornton are meeting next week with the City Engineer and his Project Coordinator to discuss the board's upcoming projects. The Pingree/161 project is out to bid and then Engineering will concentrate on scoping the Linworth crossing projects, so by March there will be more information for the board to use to decide how to proceed with those projects. Staff is also working on setting up a meeting with Columbus to talk about the crossing to Perry Park and discuss partnering opportunities. Staff also has a meeting set up with Toole Design regarding their ability to help us scope and plan some of the pilot projects that the board is interested in pursuing.

Board Member Education: This topic was covered during the Education & Encouragement Project discussion. Mr. Hurley and Ms. Thornton will be speaking with Toole Design about scoping some board with pilot projects and we will also discuss with them the possibility of providing training to the board.

Updates:

1. **Pingree/161 Crossing Project** – The project is out to bid.
2. **SRTS Activities** - The SRTS Sub-Committee has set a meeting with two members of the Worthington School Board for Wednesday, March 11, 2020. At this meeting sub-committee

members will see what the School Board's interest and capacity is to partner with this board to help move ahead SRTS initiatives, particularly in making sure that as the new buildings are designed that they take into consideration children's ability to walk and bike to school. Ms. Horton also attended a Wilson Hill SRTS meeting to help answer questions and keep them connected to the board. Finally, Ms. Thornton has been in connection with a Mr. Rob Smith who is the Physical Education teacher at Liberty Elementary. While Liberty doesn't have a travel plan, he rides his bike to work and does a lot of education and encouragement with students at the school around walking and biking to school and elsewhere. He is interested in coming to one of the school board meetings and would also be happy to speak to Wilson Hill's group if they feel that would be beneficial.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.