



WORTHINGTON BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the Monday, January 25, 2021 Meeting

Note – This meeting was conducted virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Members Present: The members present were Michael Bates, Katie Burkley, Rebecca Green, Ann Horton, Brian Meilton, Jordan Schweller, and Kelly Whalen.

City Support staff Darren Hurley (Parks & Recreation Director) and Celia Thornton (Project Supervisor) were present. Also present was guest resident Jill Dardig (6949 Candace Place).

Minutes from the November 23, 2020 meeting were approved by all.

Appointment of 2021 Chairs: Mr. Hurley reminded the board of the process to nominate and appoint chairs. Mr. Schweller and Ms. Horton nominated Mr. Whalen to serve as chair again, and the board voted unanimously to re-elect him. Mr. Schweller and Ms. Burkley then nominated Mr. Bates to serve as vice chair again, and he was also approved by all in attendance.

Education and Encouragement Activity Prioritization

- a. Community Encouragement & Education:** Ms. Horton suggested that Safe Routes to School (SRTS) pieces, including walk and bike to school days should be a top priority. These objectives are highlighted in the board's Master Plan and need to be addressed, and this could be done while also leaving bandwidth to work on other projects that may come up throughout the year. She also identified a need to get middle school students safely across High Street with the school redistricting. Mr. Bates advocated for building on the Stroll & Roll event. Mr. Hurley asked the board to consider what purpose they hope to achieve with these events and then choose which events will best achieve those goals. Ms. Horton suggested that perhaps a bike boulevard pilot project could be combined with the Stroll & Roll event. Mr. Schweller liked that idea and would like to combine projects where possible for more impact. He suggested taking Ms. Horton's idea but then also add a destination, such as the Farmer's Market. Mr. Bates brought up some events that an activity could be tied to, such as July 4th or the food truck festival. Ms. Green noted that everyone seemed to like the Stroll & Roll event and wondered if we should just go ahead and create a sub-committee? She likes it because it is flexible and adaptable. Mr. Hurley cautioned about tying the Stroll & Roll to any event at this point since all summer plans are still tentative and

COVID conditional. Mr. Bates, Ms. Green and Mr. Schweller formed a Stroll & Roll sub-committee. Mr. Schweller wondered if there shouldn't be a west Worthington sub-committee as well. Mr. Bates suggested he take a month to think through the idea and then if he decides it would be a good idea, he could bring it back as an agenda item for further clarification. Mr. Bates and Mr. Whalen were open to discussing the idea with him over the next month.

- b. Mr. Whalen proposed more education on Complete Streets for the board, along with more education on how and when to get involved on new development and re-development projects (as they related to bike and pedestrian goals). Ms. Horton wondered if MORPC could help with this educational piece, but not just for the board but also for the City Engineer. Mr. Whalen then asked if the board had discussed and brought up all the ideas they wished to discuss. Everyone said yes.

Sidewalk Gap – Resident Suggestion: Ms. Dardig had previously sent an email to the City Manager requesting that the City of Worthington construct a sidewalk in front of 824 Morning Street. She states that the absence of approximately 125 feet of sidewalk, across the front of this property, means that residents of Franklin Avenue and other adjacent streets wishing to walk to the library or CVS (and other businesses within walking distance in central Worthington) must walk in the street, across a private lawn, or through the middle school football field (Hartford Park). Ms. Dardig's elderly mother lives on Franklin Avenue in a house she owns. This sidewalk gap has created a situation of inaccessibility for her and her neighbors. Mr. Hurley shared a little history on the property provided by the Service Department. The Morning Street property belongs to an elderly resident and the house was built prior to when the other sidewalks were put in. Part of the initial resistance to putting in a sidewalk could have been a large tree in the right of way, but that tree came down recently due to windstorms. Mr. Hurley wanted to let the board hear the concern now and staff will try and get answers about what kind of recommendation might be welcomed by City Council before the next meeting. Ms. Horton asked if there was a previous history of petitioning for a sidewalk in this location and asked when Morning Street might be due for repaving, adding that the board would want to advocate for Complete Street upgrades at that time. Mr. Hurley responded that there was no history of petitioning that he's aware of but noted that the gap is mentioned on page 132 of the Bike & Pedestrian Master Plan. Mr. Hurley thinks at this point it's more a matter of City Council's appetite to pursue enforcing sidewalk construction and what process the board would like to develop to address sidewalk gaps in general as we move forward. Mr. Bates wondered if this could be tied to City Council's "Age Friendly" process, as well. Ms. Horton asked Ms. Dardig if she understood the city's current options to residents for sidewalk petitioning and Ms. Dardig indicated no. Mr. Hurley volunteered to follow up with Ms. Dardig to give her the information.

Updates:

1. Project Updates

- a. **Pingree Crossing** – The Pingree crossing project is out to bid (bidding will close at noon on January 27) and the project will go directly to City Council for approval. Mr. Hurley anticipates a spring starting date for construction and 2019 funding will be used.
- b. **Linworth Crossing Projects** – Columbus received a complaint/suggestion from Columbus residents regarding the crossing at Collins Drive. Columbus contacted Worthington and asked to partner with the City on this crossing, expressing a willingness to do the study that Worthington would otherwise have to pay to complete. Columbus also expressed interest in helping with the Linworth Park crossing further south. The city's stealth stat has already been used on the south crossing at Beechview and Linworth and that data will be shared with Columbus. Columbus would like to wait until

later in spring to study the crossing (hoping for more activity, equaling better true user numbers). Columbus will fund the study, which is excellent. The downside is that we are then tied to their timeline, but they were told that it is our goal to complete these projects by the end of the year.

c. Additional Project Assessment – The City is considering hiring a consultant to help scope additional projects that have emerged as priorities for the board but currently do not have enough details to discern a specific project. This will help us be able to decide how to proceed with some of these improvements. While we will incur some costs for this service, it will put us in a better position to evaluate each project and ultimately prioritize and get them underway if selected by the board. City Council will be getting an update on the Foster intersection study. The stop sign was not effective. The speed hump seemed to work best, followed closely by the chicane (which is hard to do effectively with cones). This is being monitored by the City’s Safety Committee, but Mr. Hurley wanted to keep the board informed.

2. Mountain Biking Proposal – Mr. Hurley wanted to share an idea that was being considered by the City on the creation of a small mountain bike learning course that could be built at the Olentangy Parklands, in the woods behind the Skate Park. The idea was the brainchild of a 7th grade Phoenix Middle School student, Kelly Shaw. The student had done his homework and approached Council Representative Rachael Dorothy who suggested he speak with Mr. Hurley. Mr. Hurley took this project to the Parks and Recreation Commission, but he wanted to keep this board informed. Both Mr. Schweller and Ms. Green are members of COMBO (who will be partnering on the project and maintenance) were very excited and think it’s a great idea. Mr. Hurley said the land is currently unused and there aren’t any obvious impediments from a walking tour (there is lots of honeysuckle which volunteers can help eradicate as the tracks are built). Additional people using parking and the trail along with liability management are the biggest concerns of the Parks and Recreation Commission so far.

Mr. Whalen then asked all board members to look at the list of City’s development projects and the activities proposed at tonight’s meeting before the February meeting. Mr. Whalen promised to send out an updated list of education and encouragement suggestions.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.