



WORTHINGTON BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the Monday, February 22, 2021 Meeting

Note – This meeting was conducted virtually via Microsoft Teams.

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

City Support staff Darren Hurley (Parks & Recreation Director) and Celia Thornton were present. Also present were Rachael Dorothy (City Council Member) and residents Jill Dardig (6949 Candace Place) and DJ Falcoski (5971 Olentangy River Road).

Minutes from the January 25, 2021 meeting were approved by all.

Visitor Comments: Ms. Dardig attended to hear if there was an update on the sidewalk issue she had spoken about at the last meeting. Mr. Hurley indicated there was not and that he needed to figure out how to address it as a policy issue with city leadership and City Council.

Mr. Falcoski shared his safety concerns about a street crossing. He and his family live near the Olentangy River Road crossing just north of Antrim Park with the flashing yellow lights. They use this crossing daily and are very concerned that driver behaviors on this road could easily lead to an accident and make crossing dangerous. He shared that drivers rarely stop at the flashing yellow lights and that speeds far exceed the posted limits. The police have been very helpful and have put out speed carts multiple times, but that doesn't seem to resolve the issue. Mr. Whalen wondered if posting pedestrian crossing warnings before (both north and south) the crossing would be helpful. Ms. Thornton promised to forward the original email from the Falcoski family onto the board. Mr. Hurley said that this issue will also be going to the City's Safety Committee. He will share that discussion with the board and will bring it back with more framing for further review.

Non-Capital Project Prioritization Final Review:

- a. Community Encouragement & Education - The board had further discussion on what projects to pursue for 2021. Mr. Schweller still thinks it makes sense to create an informal West Worthington sub-committee that will communicate with neighborhoods and gather feedback. Mr. Hurley shared that Officer Tammy Floyd (Worthington Police Department)

reached out and inquired whether the board was interested in participating in another Bike Rodeo. Ms. Horton had concerns that it wasn't well attended last time. Ms. Martin thinks that's a great idea, with a change of venue. Mr. Hurley suggested that better advertising along with a connection to another even might help. Ms. Martin suggested the Thomas Worthington High School parking lot, maybe pods of activity from Evening Street down to the Flats. Mr. Hurley said this might be ideal in summer when there is activity at the pool. Ms. Horton and Mr. Schweller still think it makes sense to combine another Stroll & Roll event with a bike boulevard pilot project and concentrate on that. Mr. Whalen suggested concentrating on Bike to School Day in May, which we would need to start planning for now, and Walk to School Day in October. Mr. Bates said the bike rodeo could also be a good activity to pair with a bike boulevard pilot project and he would suggest it occur in the spring since that is when everyone is getting started walking and biking for the year. He added if we wait for fall it wouldn't be as helpful since most average bikers don't bike in the winter months. Mr. Hurley suggested checking to see if schools are interested in participating in the walk to school activity. Ms. Thornton said she'd work on that with the SRTS sub-committee. Ms. Green suggested limiting the number of schools to one or possibly two, so that it's more manageable. Mr. Bates said if a school is interested, then we can see what Engineering and Police support the City can provide.

- b. Advisory Board Education Topics – Mr. Hurley heard at the last meeting that the board is interested in more Complete Streets training, but was hoping that a more general discussion could be had about training expectations, how many per year and what type would be desired in addition to that. Mr. Meilton felt that quarterly trainings would be useful. Ms. Green would like a presentation on the bike and pedestrian aspects from the City's Visioning process. Mr. Hurley said that was a perfect segway. City Council is currently having discussions about how to best reach out to the various City boards and commissions about the Visioning Process and how to connect the Visioning Committee to the boards. Mr. Hurley said that he would see if someone from the Visioning Committee could present to this board in March. Mr. Bates said that another topic he'd like to add to the list is information on the Ohio to Erie Trail. Mr. Hurley said staff could look at presenting on statewide trail connections, including the Ohio to Erie. Ms. Horton asked about the City's Age Friendly efforts and how it might tie to bike and pedestrian initiatives. Mr. Hurley said that he is closely monitoring how that process parallels this board's efforts.

MORPC Rapid 5 Project Overview: Mr. Hurley gave a brief overview of MORPC's Rapid 5 project and shared the City is considering joining the effort. MORPC hopes to team up with local governments, the business community, and residents to further develop the Rapid 5 project. The intent is to develop one of the largest inter-connected greenspaces in the country, while reimagining how residents move around the region for commuting, recreation, and other activities. Better linkage from neighborhoods to job centers, more diverse greenspace activities and equitable connectivity to greenspace are all major goals of the project. Ms. Thornton then shared a short, more detailed, presentation and promised to email the presentation, along with other information, to the board. Ms. Horton asked if there was an expectation that the board should endorse this. Mr. Hurley said the intent was just to share the information and get input from the board for City Council consideration. Ms. Martin asked if there had been any further development of the State Route 161 corridor project. Mr. Hurley said that momentum for that project seemed to have fizzled. Ms. Martin asked him to get an update for the board.

Other: Mr. Hurley said that the Pingree/S.R. 161 project was bid and awarded for \$61,145. Construction will likely begin in late spring or early summer and Mr. Hurley will keep the board updated as the project progresses. This project will be funded out of 2019 funds, leaving 2020 and 2021 funding free for the west side intersection crossing projects and the efforts to further scope and define the additional projects on the list.

Ms. Dorothy had received a resident question about city plows throwing snow onto sidewalks causing issues for walkers. Ms. Thornton will share the resident email and the City's response with the board via email.

Ms. Thornton also shared that Katie Burkely had reluctantly resigned due to her school workload.

Updates:

1. **Sidewalk Gap – Resident Update**– Mr. Hurley has had conversations with City Hall that a philosophical conversation on sidewalk gaps is needed on City Council. While this seems like a straightforward issue, the policy around sidewalk gaps is challenging and the City needs a policy that can be applied equally.
2. **Visioning Process** – Mr. Hurley shared that this group was looking for ways to engage with City boards and that a presentation would be likely at the March meeting.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.