



WORTHINGTON BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the Monday, June 28, 2021, Meeting

Note – This meeting was conducted virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Members Present: The members present were Michael Bates, Rebecca Green, Ann Horton, Brian Meilton, Jordan Schweller and Kelly Whalen. Also present were Chris Hermann, Peter Macrae and Paula Ryan from the Building Worthington's Future (BWF) group to give a presentation on the Worthington Mile concept. Kevin Carpenter and Gina Balsomo of Carpenter Marty Transportation attended to listen as did an area Boy Scout Leader and his son.

City Staff Darren Hurley (Parks & Recreation Director) and Celia Thornton were present along with Council Member Rachael Dorothy.

Minutes from the May 24, 2021, meeting were approved with one correction (under the fourth "Update" the second bullet point was amended- a suggestion for bike boxes as a specific education example was removed).

Worthington Mile Presentation: Mr. Hurley introduced the Building Worthington's Future (BWF) members, mentioning Mr. Eddie Pauline who was unable to attend at the last minute, and gave a brief overview of their project concept and its commonalities with the City's Bike & Pedestrian Master Plan. Mr. Hermann and Ms. Ryan then presented their information, which is also captured in a video and information on their website: [Visualizing the Worthington Mile \(buildingworthingtonsfuture.com\)](https://buildingworthingtonsfuture.com). The BWF's belief in this project was reinforced by the finalized Visioning Plan which had significant community input. Mr. Hermann said the main idea is to create the "Old Worthington" feel throughout the High Street corridor, all the way up to Wilson Bridge Road. Mr. Macrae added that it's one thing to build it, another to get people to walk along it and utilize it. He wants to encourage businesses to contribute to the walking experience by having each one come up with some small project or space that will enhance enjoyment and walkability such as lighting, benches, plants, and other unique features. Ms. Ryan thanked the board for allowing them time to present. The board members overall liked the concept but did have some questions about where BWF was in the process (fundraising, etc.), speeding along the corridor, sidewalk access to the front of buildings along High Street, jaywalking concerns and trending median usage. Mr. Macrae recommended that if they haven't recently, board members should walk through Old Dublin and see how pedestrian friendly it is and how outdoor space has been

reclaimed for people to use, which also almost doubles restaurant capacity (densification). Ms. Dorothy said she was very excited by the plan and would love to have development documents. Mr. Macrae asked if she could suggest the proper time to bring this idea before City Council. Ms. Dorothy responded that they just need to ask for a time to make the presentation or perhaps return to this group to see if they would be interested in making some sort of recommendation to City Council. She thanked them for the nice presentation.

Stroll & Roll / Community Event Discussion: Mr. Whalen asked for volunteers to serve on the Stroll & Roll sub-committee (Mr. Whalen and Mr. Bates volunteered) and said that he would set up a meeting within the next two weeks to begin planning for this event. Ms. Thornton reminded the board about the City's Family Bike Ride event and promised to email out event details. Even though the board prefers to focus on their own Stroll & Roll event, that doesn't preclude board members from having an information table at the city event and volunteering, and she asked members who were interested in volunteering to email her.

Updates:

1. **Olentangy Trail Through Clintonville** – Mr. Whalen gave a brief update on the new bike route that will take users off roads as they ride Clintonville's section of the Olentangy Trail. He showed a map of the new route and said its proposed opening date is 2024. Mr. Whalen also noted that users can continue using the current trail and will not experience disruptions or trail closures as the new route is built.
2. **Request For Proposal (RFP) For Design Services** – Ms. Thornton has written the RFP and is forwarding it to four firms. The City expects to begin the interview process and ask for approval from City Council in early July. By the July board meeting staff hopes to be able to share which firm was chosen and begin working with them soon after.
3. **West Worthington Working Group** – Mr. Schweller did not have much to report for this meeting. He has been meeting with residents and is collecting information and ideas.
4. **Project Updates (Linworth, Olentangy River Road and Pingree/S.R. 161 crossings)** – The City of Columbus has finished collecting data on Linworth Road and has forwarded it, along with some initial thoughts, to Mr. Whited (Director of Service & Engineering), but they have not yet completed their recommendations. Once Columbus has finalized their recommendations and they'd been reviewed by Mr. Whited, they will be brought to the Bike & Pedestrian Advisory Board for input and a recommendation. The Pingree project mast arms have not yet arrived, so that project is still on hold. Mr. Bates asked if there will be a pedestrian refuge island and Mr. Hurley confirmed that there would be. Ms. Horton said she thought they weren't going to include greenery and Mr. Hurley said that was correct, the island would have brick pavers but no plants due to maintenance concerns.

Other

- Mr. Hurley shared that the July meeting will take place in person.
- Mr. Whalen want said that part of the reason for the addition of an "Other" category at the end of the updates section is so that board members have a chance to speak and the ability to bring up any items that they'd like to discuss which might not be on the agenda. It is also a time to share additional feedback. Mr. Whalen wants to make sure that as board members we're meeting each other's expectations and that everyone has a chance to feel heard. If members prefer, they can also email him thoughts, concerns, or questions at any time throughout the month.

- Mr. Hurley shared that City Council is reviewing new board member applications and hopes to soon appoint three new members to this board.
- Ms. Horton would like to draft a letter to Wilson Hill Elementary stating the board's support for a "Walk to School Day" and in creating a school travel plan. Mr. Whalen and the board approved that idea and gave their permission for Ms. Horton to move ahead with the letter.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.