



## **WORTHINGTON BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY BOARD**

### **Minutes of the Monday, March 28, 2022, Meeting**

**Members Present:** The members present were Michael Bates, Danielle DavisRoe, Rebecca Green, Ann Horton, Brian Iarocci, Brian Meilton, Jordan Schweller and Kelly Whalen.

Also in attendance were resident guests Kristen Poland (240 Melbourne Place) and Teena Parker from the Northbrook neighborhood. City staff members Robyn Stewart (Assistant City Manager) and Celia Thornton (Project Supervisor) were also present.

Minutes from the January 24, 2022, meeting were approved by all present, with Kelly Whalen abstaining.

**Visitor Comments:** Mr. Whalen introduced Assistant City Manager Ms. Stewart, who came to help support the conversation. He then introduced Ms. Poland and Ms. Parker. Ms. Poland's home is located on Northbrook Drive West in Worthington (though the address is 240 Melbourne Place) and in front of her yard is an approximately 150-foot dirt path that acts as a connector between Riverlea and Worthington neighborhoods. This path exists on City right of way. Members from the neighborhood met with Steve Tennant (Maintenance Superintendent) and the Riverlea Mayor on March 17 at the site. During the short meeting approximately 10 people used the path, which illustrates the need for an improved pedestrian path. Currently the neighborhood maintains this easement area. The Poland family mows it, and another neighbor has paid for mulch to improve the path. The neighbors maintain that in 2020 the land began to flood, and the path has become a safety concern, especially in winter when it turns to ice. The neighborhood is requesting that the city improve the land and construct a pedestrian path and resolve the flooding as part of the project. Mr. Tennant had led them to believe that if a path is constructed the land will be categorized as "improved" and then the city would be responsible for mowing it and maintaining the path. An improved path would have an immediate and lasting impact on the safety, well-being, fitness, and happiness of neighbors. A letter summarizing this information was included in the board packets. The neighborhood also has a petition signed by 150 Worthington residents. Ms. Stewart said that as the land lies now, occasional flooding in the right of way is acceptable to the City. The water is being held there to slowly sink into the earth, does not flood often (or for more than a day or two) and is not causing any damage or seeping into resident basements. Any path would require a storm water review. Ms. Poland said that a sidewalk would give people a place to

walk without mud and would keep them out of her front yard. Board members asked a few questions of Ms. Stewart. Ms. Horton asked if anyone in the neighborhood was opposed to an improved path (no). Mr. Schweller asked if they would be here with this request if the land had not started flooding (probably not). Mr. Whalen asked if neighbors had a preferred treatment or surface type (not picky)? Ms. Poland asked what the next step was? Mr. Whalen said that the board may decide to take it up as an agenda item at a future meeting to figure out how it fits in with other identified priorities and then would make a recommendation to City Council. He also asked the guests to remember that the board operates in an advisory capacity and that City Council makes the actual decisions regarding projects. Ms. Parker said they would like to make this a city priority and will do whatever they can to advance it. The board then had some discussion, which included Ms. Horton making the point that there are two issues, the flooding, and the connectivity, and that is why it got referred to the board. There was discussion about asking Service for the cost of pavement and perhaps general grading costs to get an idea of how much money a project like this would take. Mr. Bates reminded the board that there has been flooding throughout the city and sometimes in places that impact a great many more people. After more discussion Ms. Stewart said that the board's main role was to figure out where this project fits when prioritized against all the other Bike & Pedestrian Master Plan projects. Mr. Whalen suggested that this item be put on a future agenda.

**Selection of 2022 Chairs:** Mr. Whalen gave a review of the responsibilities that go along with the positions of chair and vice-chair. These mostly consist of an additional short monthly agenda meeting with Ms. Thornton and Mr. Hurley, giving occasional memo updates to City Council and running the board meetings with assistance from staff. The vice-chair acts as a backup when the chair is not available. Mr. Whalen shared that he had spoken to most members of the board and that Ms. Green and Mr. Meilton were both willing to consider being nominated for a position. Ms. Horton nominated Ms. Green for chair. This motion was seconded, all approved, and Ms. Green accepted. Mr. Whalen nominated Mr. Meilton for vice-chair, his motion was seconded, all were in favor and Mr. Meilton accepted the position.

**Board Picture for Annual Report:** The board took an updated picture against the bricks in the Community Center front entryway.

#### **Updates:**

1. **Toole Design Memo** – Ms. Thornton reviewed the work that Toole Design has already begun (scoping the board's top three infrastructure projects) and what is yet to come, including technical memos, board training, community surveys and a pop-up event. Ms. Thornton asked if the board had training topics in mind. Bike boulevards and a review of Complete Streets policy were given as suggestions.
2. **Huntley Road Repaving** – Tilton's Automotive is moving across the street and some redevelopment will occur. Huntley Road is also going to be re-paved as part of the Street Improvement Program this summer. Given these developments the city is looking for opportunities to add bike and pedestrian accommodations along this section of Huntley. The master plan calls for a barrier separated bike lane along Huntley, but since this is just re-paving that extensive of a project is not feasible at this time. This item may show up on a future agenda.
3. **Pingree/161 Crossing** – City staff have been working with CT Consultants (the City's current contracted engineering firm) to explore fixes to the refuge island visibility issues. Additional markings and reflectors are being installed to improve visibility.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.