



WORTHINGTON BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the Monday, April 24, 2023, Meeting

Members Present: The members present were Mike Bates, Danielle DavisRoe, Rebecca Green, Brian Iarocci, Brian Meilton, Whitney Sullinger and Kelly Whalen.

City staff members John Moorehead (Service & Engineering Director) and Celia Thornton (Parks & Recreation Project Supervisor) were also present.

Minutes from the March 27, 2023, meeting were approved by all present.

Olentangy Trail Etiquette Project: The board reviewed Mr. Whalen's revised etiquette project proposal. It was noted that sign/tattoo locations denoted north of the I-270 bridge at the tennis courts and south of S.R. 161 are outside of Worthington city limits and on property that belongs to Columbus (managed by Metro Parks), so signs outside of those locations were deleted. There was board discussion around the project, including that \$100,000 was set aside to accomplish sidewalk gaps, trail etiquette, bike racks and possibly a bike app. Given that this amount was to be divided, Ms. Thornton agreed to get updated quotes for the signs. She and Mr. Hurley would look at sign locations (consulting with Mr. Whalen, if necessary, on exact locations) and get maintenance and safety feedback from Parks Crew. Ms. Thornton would also begin working on the education and encouragement aspect of the project in partnership with the Parks & Recreation Marketing Team. Ms. Thornton and Mr. Hurley would also continue to follow up on completing the Metro Parks contract.

Education & Encouragement Events (Memorial Day Parade & July 4th Bike Corral): Ms. Thornton asked who was available to ride bikes in the Memorial Day Parade and represent the Bike & Pedestrian Advisory Board. Mr. Bates, Mr. Whalen and Mr. Moorehead said they would ride (and bring any children or grandchildren who wished to join). Ms. Thornton said that she would send in the permit and work on getting signage for the group, along with flyers and candy to handout to the crowd. Mr. Moorehead then explained that due to construction at Thomas Worthington High School (TWHHS) and more limited parking, the City is encouraging everyone who can to walk or bike to the July 4th festivities this year. He then asked if the board would be interested in running a bike corral for this event. Mr. Iarocci said that it had been fairly simple to manage one before, especially since Parks Crew had put up the fencing beforehand. He had

gotten portable bike racks from Franklin Cycle Works and used coat check tickets to keep track of bikes. From his perspective the one thing he'd do differently is more advertising- particularly signs around the event pointing to the location of the bike corral. Sandwich boards and political signs were discussed as options. Mr. Moorehead then said that the location being considered for the bike corral was Galipault Field. Ms. Sullinger asked where people were supposed to cross S.R. 161 to get to the festivities and voiced concerns about the crossing and darkness of that area. There was board discussion around lighting, safety and other potential locations, including the tennis courts or McConnell Arts Center. Mr. Moorehead promised to work on looking for a different location and to reach out about getting bike racks. Ms. Thornton asked who would be available to work the bike corral. Mr. Iarocci and Mr. Bates offered themselves as volunteers. Ms. Thornton said she'd see if she was available. There were concerns that three volunteers wouldn't be enough for the rush after the fireworks. Mr. Schweller suggested partnering with someone who could also make volunteers available. The Rotary, City's Green Team, Worthington Partnership and Chamber of Commerce were all brainstormed as good potential partners.

Board Photo: The board decided to take this year's picture outside the front doors of the Community Center by the bike racks. Ms. Thornton took the picture.

Updates:

Burton Planning Services (BPS) – Mr. Moorehead has signed a contract with BPS and he and Mr. Hurley and Ms. Thornton have already met with them regarding bike boulevards. Once they have some concrete plans he will bring them back to the board for a presentation and board review. Mr. Bates requested that bike boulevard plans be shared with the board prior to the presentation and discussion.

Thomas Worthington High School Trail – Mr. Moorehead shared that Worthington Schools is seeking final approval from the City for the TWHS construction plans and are presenting to the Planning Commission this week. Worthington Schools says that they are willing to construct an eight foot path/sidewalk along the front of the TWHS from Evening Street west to Farrington Drive. They are still deciding whether to use asphalt or concrete. A crosswalk will also be installed at Seabury Drive. They will also extend a sidewalk on the west side of the driveway down to the improved Seabury intersection. There is already back of curb sidewalk that extends from Farrington to Seabury Drive (and further down to cross over S.R. 315 and connect with trails going north and south). Improving the path down to the S.R. 315 exchange would be a major infrastructure project given the hillside and other issues and isn't something that the schools can take on at this time.

Hartford Park – Mr. Moorehead was not aware that he was supposed to present anything on Hartford Park. Worthington Schools are working to make improvements to this area and have renamed it Hartford Field. He shared some early concept drawings that showed a trail going around the field. Mr. Schweller said that the Kilbourne Middle School students have to run around the field for gym class- so it would be nice to have it paved for them. Mr. Moorehead will inquire about the final plans for Hartford Field.

Other – Ms. Green asked for updates on the sidewalk gap project. Mr. Moorehead gave a review. He said that he has negotiated agreements and contracts with the property owners (each property has physical challenges such as landscaping, etc.) and that the contracts allow workers onto private property if required during the construction of the sidewalks. The City does have cost estimates and this project will be bid as part of the Street Improvement Program and will be built this year. The flashing beacon at Linworth Road will also be installed as part of that project this

year. He said the lesson he's learned doing the sidewalk gap trial is that this is a lengthy process. If the board wishes to continue doing it, they should identify the next few sidewalks and start sending out letters now. The board agreed to do more, but also let Mr. Moorehead know that they were tasked with doing several as a trial, with the understanding that City Council would then formalize the process and take it over. Ms. DavisRoe asked where the bike rack mapping project was at. She noticed that a bike rack had been added at the Church Residences on Stafford, and said that it should be added to the City's bike rack map. Mr. Moorehead told the board he'd just lost a 27 year GIS staff member to the City of Columbus, so he was a little behind, but would follow up with Ms. Kimberly Myers who was entering all of Ms. DavisRoe's information into our GIS systems and would report back to the board.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.