



WORTHINGTON BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the Monday, May 22, 2023, Meeting

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

City staff members Lee Brown (Planning & Building Director), Kenny Ganter (Planning & Building Assistant), John Moorehead (Service & Engineering Director) and Celia Thornton (Parks & Recreation Project Supervisor) were also present.

Minutes from the April 24, 2023, meeting were approved by all present.

Planning & Building Presentation: Mr. Ganter introduced himself and gave a presentation to the board which overviewed the department, including a staffing chart and their work duties (slides included in file packet). He then shared a GIS (geographic information system) map that showed the boundaries of Worthington, some statistics (land use, etc.), and overviewed the boards that their department is responsible for, including the Architectural Review Board (ARB), Municipal Planning Commission (MPC), and the Board of Zoning and Appeals (BZA). He also presented and discussed tax incentives, planning documents, rezoning issues, and walked the board through the steps of a typical development process. He finished by asking for questions. Mr. Bates asked how homeowners can learn about the permit process? Mr. Ganter responded that they can call the department or look online. Ms. Horton asked how bike and pedestrian improvements factored into their process. Mr. Brown answered that they follow the Bike & Pedestrian Master Plan, it's part of the review process, and push for those improvements anytime there is redevelopment. Unfortunately, the City doesn't always have the ability to force compliance with guiding City plans, but the department pushes for those improvements to be part of the development plan. Ms. Horton said she's seen where sidewalks have been added and appreciates that those are required of new properties. Mr. Brown used Fresh Thyme as an example on how these projects typically develop and the difficulties that arise and why sometimes compromise is required. Ms. Green asked if this board can have input into the process. Mr. Brown reassured her that his department always takes the Bike & Pedestrian Master Plan into account and frequently calls Mr. Hurley or Ms. Thornton to clarify. He also said that residents are always welcome to show up at public meetings to give input.

Trail Etiquette Follow Up / Metro Parks Contract: Ms. Thornton shared that she, Mr. Hurley and the Park Supervisor had walked the entire trail to look at the best locations to place signs according to Mr. Whalen's plan. She then shared a map of all the signs and the fact that they'd like to change the verbiage on one of the signs to "Slow Down." There was some discussion, including optimal height of the signs, reflectivity of the posts, and sign design. Mr. Whalen still had a concern about a sign in one location. Ms. Thornton said it was the only location that a sign didn't seem to fit. Ms. Green wondered if that might be the location to add trail tattoos rather than a sign. Mr. Moorehead suggested that we install the signs as presented and then the board can review the work. It would be easy to move or add a sign if necessary. Ms. Thornton promised that she would email the board the presentation.

Stroll & Roll Route and Volunteers: Ms. Thornton shared that the Worthington Partnership's Sunday Funday Oktoberfest event is on Sunday, September 24 and begins at noon. The board had decided to do the Stoll & Roll event from 10am to Noon on the same day again. The board had some discussion about whether to use the same route as last year or a new one. It was decided that a sub-committee would come up with a route and bring it back for board approval.

Updates:

Marketing Plan – Ms. Thornton shared that the City is planning on sending out trail etiquette updates throughout the summer using the graphics and videos designed by the Rails To Trails Conservancy. These updates will go out on the City's Facebook and Instagram pages, as well as in the E-Village Newsletter. This will reinforce the new signs and tattoos on the Olentangy Trail. She also showed the flyer that was designed as a handout for the board at all events this summer. It was already given out during the Memorial Day Parade.

Bike Corral (July 4th) – Ms. Thornton and Mr. Moorehead showed the board where the bike corral was to be located at the July 4th festivities. Ms. Thornton was working with Franklinton Cycle Works to get the bike racks for the corral. Service & Engineering will set up the fencing and the police will supply the required lights. Volunteers will be needed to take and return bikes. There was some discussion around other groups, beyond the board, that might be willing to help. Ms. Thornton promised to reach out to those organizations.

Bike Rack Map (GIS) – Mr. Moorehead shared that Ms. DavisRoe's map had been loaded into the City's GIS system. The system shows public versus private racks and gives information about each rack (capacity and a picture). There was some discussion about how it displays and how to share the information with the public (City website, QR codes on the racks, etc.). Mr. Moorehead will send out a public link for board review of the map. At a future meeting the board can decide where more racks might be needed.

Budget Update – Mr. Moorehead explained about how much he thinks the sidewalk gaps and final crossing will cost, and the reasons the sidewalk gap cost might fluctuate (and options should that occur, such as carving out and disputing the price of the sidewalks). Once Mr. Moorehead gets the final prices he will share them with the board. The board will also need to decide soon on the next set of sidewalk gaps they'd like to try and fill.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.