

REPORT OF THE BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN STREET SAFETY COMMISSION

September 10, 2020 – 2:00 PM
Zoom Conference Call Meeting

PRESENT: Chair Roark, Alderperson Leek, Commissioner O'Meara, Commissioner Lane-Browne, Commissioner Finn

ALSO PRESENT: Director Kernosky, Associate Planner/Zoning Administrator Kuhn, Director Beduhn, and unidentified audience members via Virtual Zoom Meeting.

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1. Roll call.
2. Persons who wish to address the committee for up to three (3) minutes on a non-agenda item.

Discussion and possible action on the following:

3. Report of the August 20, 2020 meeting of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Street Safety Commission
4. Discussion and updates on the September 16th bicycle/pedestrian count
5. Discussion on updating the City Bicycle Parking Ordinance
6. Discussion on the 20's Plenty for Us campaign, Stockholm Resolution with Resolution No. 11, and NACTO speed limit guidance

Staff Update:

7. TAP Grant update.
 8. University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point capstone project application
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1. Roll call.

Present: Roark, Ald. Leek, O'Meara, Lane-Browne, Finn
Excused: Fehrenbach

2. Persons who wish to address the committee for up to three (3) minutes on a non-agenda item.
 1. Commissioner Lane-Brown: Resident approached them regarding concerns for lack of sidewalks along Highway HH, noting they didn't extend down to condominiums beyond the trailer park, and children were walking in the road to school. The Chairperson asked that they forward the information to staff so they could review if area was within City limits.
 2. Chairperson Roark read testimony into the record from resident David Finnel (1501 Maria Dr) regarding traffic lane street lines.

Discussion and possible action on the following:

3. Report of the August 20, 2020 meeting of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Street Safety Commission

Motion by Commissioner O'Meara to approve the report of the August 20, 2020 Bicycle and Pedestrian Street Safety Commission meeting; seconded by Commissioner Finn.

Motion carried 5-0.
4. Discussion and updates on the September 16th bicycle/pedestrian count

It was noted that Commissioner Finn had taken lead on project.

Commissioner Finn summarized the following:

1. Commissioner Fehrenbach had acted as a mentor for the learning process.
2. Commissioner Lane-Brown also assisted in coordinating the count and preparing the materials for the volunteers.
3. Had more than enough volunteers and all spot locations and slots had been filled.
4. Clarification that they had established proper COVID protocol for volunteers picking up count materials, as well as prompting safety by adhering to CDC recommended protocols.

Chairperson Roark commended the commissioners' efforts in coordinating the 2020 count.

Roark asked for comments from the audience, to which there were none.

No action was taken.

5. Discussion on updating the City Bicycle Parking Ordinance

Chairperson Roark briefly explained that the ordinance before them had been finalized and recommended to staff several years ago. The plan was to update the ordinance along with the new zoning code rewrite, but now that the rewrite had been delayed, the ordinance had not moved forward for adoption. As such, the commission would look to working on a new bicycle parking ordinance draft for the City. Staff was looking for additional review, comments, and feedback to move forward.

Commissioners made the following comments:

1. 5.51.6.1 Bicycle Parking A, B: ~~approximately~~
2. 5.51.6.6 Maintenance B: '...shall be *kept well drained and* maintained as mud free...'

Associate Planner/Zoning Administrator Kuhn stated that while they expected the zoning code rewrite to be a long-term project and solution, City staff and commission Chairperson had agreed to update the ordinance sooner. Due to the changing climate and commission turnover, it was beneficial to have new commissioner input for the update. Once input was taken and changes made, the ordinance would be brought forward for final review. Once finalized, the ordinance would then be brought before the Plan Commission for review and subsequent approval with the Common council, as well as giving members of the public input.

Director Kernosky, regarding language for draining, explained that staff did not want to exceed standards that they maintained for parking lots as it would be outside the purview of the City to require more than just regular maintenance.

There was a brief clarifying discussion regarding drainage, noting that the commissioner was not requesting installation of drains, but rather maintenance and upkeep of standing or accumulating snow or water around bicycle parking. Staff stated the need to further discuss internal options as there were difficulties of potentially enforcing maintenance on private property. Staff did however, agree that the right-of-way areas did fall under the City's purview for enforcement of maintenance.

Chairperson Roark suggested having a future discussion regarding items under the purview of the City.

Associate Planner/Zoning Administrator Kuhn inquired whether the commission had any additional comments or concerns regarding bicycle parking minimums, to which there were none.

Chairperson Roark asked that commissioners review the Parking Ratios (Table 5-46) within the agenda packet and provide any necessary feedback to staff, as well as any additional comments or concerns regarding the overall ordinance.

No action was taken.

6. Discussion on the 20's Plenty for Us campaign, Stockholm Resolution with Resolution No. 11, and NACTO speed limit guidance

Chairperson Roark summarized the following programs:

1. 20's Plenty for Us campaign: Campaign that emphasis limiting local residential and urban streets speed to 20mph.
2. Stockholm Resolution with Resolution No. 11: Speed management, mandated maximum travel speed of 30 km/h (20mph) and strengthened enforcement.
3. NACTO guidance: National Association of City Transportation Officials implemented City Limits guide which outlines methods to set safe speed limits on urban streets.

The Chairperson further added that it had previously been discussed to have a joint meeting amongst additional bodies, such as the Board of Public works, the Police and Fire Commission, and any other relevant bodies to discuss similar programs and possible future action. The material included in the agenda packet was more of a first look into the discussion, noting that Complete Streets would also be discussed.

Staff had no additional comments and referred to the materials in the packet for review.

Commissioners made the following comments:

1. NACTO guidelines were workable within the City but would need to work with the State and County.
2. Would have to sign the lower speed limit on each local street, if even possible.
3. NACTO guidelines included a map showing Minnesota as the nearest state that managed to change the statute to allow cities to decide on city street speed limits.
4. Recent road changes assisted in slowing down speeds, but actual signage for reduced speeds would make it more than a suggestion.
5. Can't enforce every City street at the same time, but street design can be a helpful factor in doing so.
6. Other options besides signage as NACTO showed various street designs that assisted in slowing down speeds

Chairperson Roark asked that the commission take their time in reviewing all the materials provided for future discussion.

No action was taken.

Staff Update:

7. TAP Grant Update

Director Beduhn stated that the Downtown was the last significant area needing long lines, otherwise there were a few pavement symbols to be put in. They anticipated completion by the end of the following week.

Chairperson Roark asked for an update on extending onto Highway HH, to which Director Beduhn stated that it wouldn't occur at the current time as the County had concerns with what the City had

proposed, and additional discussion would need to occur. Chairperson Roark voiced his frustrations as the proposal was based on a County-wide plan.

General comments from the commission about having a higher sense of security for bicyclists, and that most drivers had been accommodating with sharing the road. Agreement that the more residents got used to the lines, the more they would be used.

8. University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point capstone project application

Associate Planner/Zoning Administrator Kuhn explained that the City had not yet received a response yet from UW-Madison regarding a previous capstone submittal but hoped to hear back from UW-Stevens Point regarding another capstone project for mid-September.

Chairperson Roark projected the next meeting to occur on the second Thursday of October at 3 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 2:58 PM.

A recording of this meeting can be viewed/heard at: <https://stevenspoint.com/365/AgendasMinutesVideos>