

REPORT OF THE BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN STREET SAFETY COMMISSION

January 14, 2021 – 3:00 PM
Zoom Conference Call Meeting

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

ALSO PRESENT: Director Kernosky, Associate Planner/Zoning Administrator Kuhn, Director Beduhn, Secretary Mohr, Alderperson Jennings, Keith Kedrowski, and Bryant Scharenbroch, 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 December 17, 2020 meeting of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Street Safety Commission
4. Strategic goal setting of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Street Safety Commission

Staff Update:

5. Educational efforts on the clearing of snow along sidewalks and curb cuts
 6. Update on the 2021 street reconstructions
 7. Adjourn
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1. Roll call.

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

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

Commissioner Lane-Browne highlighted the importance of installing sidewalks with new construction, such as a new subdivision. Commissioner O'Meara noted how it would be more cost effective for prospective owners, as well as lead to more continuous sidewalks. He was asked that the item be placed on a future agenda for further discussion.

Chairperson Roark reiterated the importance of shoveling sidewalks and curb cuts for maintaining proper accessibility. There was a brief discussion on who held responsibility for maintaining sidewalks, as well as the process the Community Development took in addressing violations.

Discussion and possible action on the following:

3. Report of the December 17, 2020 meeting of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Street Safety Commission

Motion by Commissioner Fehrenbach to approve the report of the December 17, 2020 Bicycle and Pedestrian Street Safety Commission meeting; seconded by Alderperson Leek.

Motion carried 5-0.

4. Strategic goal setting Bicycle & Pedestrian Street Safety Commission

Director Kernosky summarized the previous meeting in which they introduced goal setting. Since then, the top goals had been identified and summarized. The following comments were made relating to individual goals:

2020-2021 Goals

1. Install a bicycle corral within the two parking stalls in front of the Portage County Library.
 - a. Potential to partner with CREATE Portage County.
 - b. Potential to source funds through donors in commissioning an artist.
 - c. Goal verbiage should also note the need to review optimal design and placement to best serve the area and population.
 - d. No wheel-bender racks.
2. Include educational initiatives in municipal communication.
 - a. Revisit educational presentation on bicycle facilities, which had originally been performed without much consult from the BPSSC.
 - b. Contraflow lanes are a new concept within the area, and there is confusion on how those functions.
3. Create a brochure to highlight the City's Bicycle Friendly Community Silver designation.
 - a. In addition to single page 'cheat-sheets' and brochures, more in-depth handouts, such as a tri-fold brochure could be made available at the Visitor's Bureau, as well as reference individuals to the Green Circle Trail Map.
 - b. Research a financial benefit report, like one performed by the City of Lax. Would provide leverage to pushing plans forward.
4. Encourage five local businesses to apply for Bicycle Friendly Business designation, assist with application.
 - a. Need to increase interest. Make it fun, possible competition aspect. Who is the most bicycle friendly business in the City?
 - b. Commissioners directed or assigned to a business, assist one-on-one on getting them through the designation process.
 - c. Keeping in mind that some businesses are limited to what they can do.
5. Increase usage/education of bicycle lanes
 - a. Videos providing real-time education on use of bicycle facilities.
 - b. How to reduce sidewalk use and increase comfort to use facilities and get through intersections.
 - c. Interest by community advocates in leading educational rides or demonstrations.
6. Submit a walkable friendly community application.
 - a. No additional comments, City staff will take lead and consult with BPSSC.
7. Increase communication and collaboration between BPSSC and the Portage County Traffic Safety Commission.
 - a. County meets quarterly, required by statute to meet.
 - b. Clarification on encouraging the County to form their own BPSSC, as the Traffic Safety Commission's charge differed.
 - c. Comment to promote inter-governmental collaboration in the form of a new commission as to be involved with all community representatives.
 - d. Due to the scale and nature of the goal, it would be a long-term goal.
8. Enforce & Educate the City's Vision Zero Policy.
 - a. While trying to get Vision Zero is the goal, a bit more difficult to implement as each project looks different. Continuing to stress importance with consultants.

- b. Reiterated need to review the policy, lacking teeth for implementation.
- c. Review of the policy's goal.

2022-2025 Goals

1. Alter funding for sidewalk continuation projects (transfer from property assessments to the City's budget).
 - a. Program currently not sustainable, City staff working to move to capital budget.
 - b. Look into additional funding sources
2. Provide safer access to route bicyclists and pedestrians from businesses along Highway 10 to the Downtown.
 - a. Public Works working with Park's Department on the connection from Ben's Lane to Hoffmeister Drive, as well as a connection to the Green Circle Trail.
 - b. DOT plans were still projected for 2022, to which sections of the plans will come forward for review.
3. Educate citizens on safe bicycling practices through small group rides.
 - a. Pushed to the following year due to the gathering nature of the goal and COVID-19 uncertainties
4. Increase bicycle education in school curriculum.
 - a. Drawbacks in performing educational demonstrations at the school in that not every child has a bicycle, and schools don't have the resource either.
 - b. Openness to performing more bicycle rodeos.
 - c. Potential for donation or purchase of bicycles for schools.
5. Map out preferred walking and biking routes for each school into the city.
 - a. Identify areas of importance (congregation points, school locations, school routes, etc.).
 - b. Safe routes to School Plan already included a lot of that information, but a need to update existed.
6. Advocate for the winter maintenance of the Riverfront Trail for pedestrian use.
 - a. Potential for directing funds from the Emerson Park's skating area, which is not ideal for skating conditions, to the Riverfront Trail pedestrian way.
 - b. Reiterated the need to set priorities in the budget, noting that the Riverfront Trail would most likely see more activity than the additional skating areas.
 - c. Pros and cons about doing a Riverfront Trail on a trial-basis.
7. Amend bicycle rack standards within the City's bicycle parking ordinance.
 - a. Several discussions have occurred regarding rack standards, but officially reviewing and codifying within the code is ideal.
8. Adopt a complete streets policy.
 - a. Educational process in terms of implementation, as there is often public confusion in what is to occur.
9. Join the Wisconsin Bike Federation.
 - a. Lacking budget within the current year to move forward with 2021, but overall great resources within the organization to pursue the following year.
10. Apply for a gold designation when the city needs to re-apply as a bicycle friendly community in 2024.
 - a. Once report card is obtained, can reverse engineer goals to implement and then meet them next application cycle.

Aldersperson Jennings (District One) inquired on the difficulty of creating a 3D map that incorporates the Bicycle and Pedestrian Count data, to which Director Kernosky noted that they would investigate the item with the City's GIS technician.

Director Kernosky noted that staff would further flesh out the goals reviewed and provide them at the following meeting for approval.

Aldersperson Leek noted the Council's interest in working towards the extension of bicycle facilities along Highway 10 to the Downtown, but overall agreed that the list of goals was attainable.

No action was taken, but there was a consensus to move forward.

Staff Update

5. Educational efforts on the clearing of snow along sidewalks and curb cuts

Associate Planner/Zoning Administrator Kuhn stated that staff was actively working on fleshing out some educational items, such as the printed material, but hoped to have audio files in place to review regarding clearing of sidewalks and curb cuts within the short future.

Commissioner O'Meara noted the importance of early snow maintenance to reduce ice issues.

6. Update on 2021 street reconstructions

Director Beduhn provided the following Update:

1. Had public informational meeting early January. Had a good turnout, and residents had a lot of good follow-up questions.
2. Early February will lead closer to final designs and hope to go into the Spring for bidding for project start in the summer months.
3. To meet the bidding deadlines, staff would have to bring forward an unfinalized design to the commission in February.

7. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 4:19 PM.

These minutes are not verbatim, but rather a summary of the statements and conversations that occurred. A recording of this meeting can be viewed/heard at: <https://stevenspoint.com/365/AgendasMinutesVideos>