

Minutes of the Conway Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Board

Thursday, May 18, 2017
City Hall Conference Room
6:00 pm

Present: Peter Mehl, Bethany Stovall, and Matthew Murphy. Ex-Officio Present: Jack Branscum and Beth Sketoe.
Absent: Tom Courtway, Emily Walter, Michael Yoder, and David Barber.

Chairman Peter Mehl opened the meeting at 6:14 pm

1. A quorum was not present.
2. April meeting minutes were not reviewed or approved.
3. Beth Sketoe gave the Treasurer's report. BPAB reimbursed Emily Walter \$85.05 for expenses related to National Bike to School Day. This leaves a remaining available balance of \$398.18.

OLD BUSINESS

4. Peter mentioned a potential new Board Member, Sharon Bradley. She is a coach at Simon Middle School and a cyclist. She was very responsive during Bike Rodeo preparations, but less so now. Not sure if it will work out. Peter asked for other possible nominees, but none were presented. **Who will follow up with Ms. Bradley? Peter?**
5. Peter thanked Emily Walter for organizing the Reddin's Route dedication ceremony, held Saturday, May 13. He reported that it went well and was greatly appreciated by the Greg Reddin's family.
6. Beth Sketoe updated the Board on the status of the BPAB website. She explained that she has provided the City's IT department with a document that lines out the structure and content of the site as it will be rebuilt by and hosted on the City server. Peter noted that term expirations listed on the current site are incorrect as well as some other documents being out of date. Beth explained that since the site is going to be rebuilt and moved she was no longer updating the Wordpress site. **Beth Sketoe will continue to work with IT and report back on the progress.**
7. Peter has coordinated a meeting with the Mayor, the Street Department, and Beth Sketoe/Planning & Development Department for Monday, May 22 @ 10:00 am. He presented a draft agenda for a previous meeting Peter had with the Mayor that prompted this new meeting. Key topics include the Bicycle Master Plan, funding status and sources, and trail expansion.
8. Jack Branscum updated the Board on the Zagster Bike Share program.
 - >The City has entered into a 3-year contract with Zagster. Phase 1 includes 5 stations with 4 bikes each, but slots for up to 6, to be located at the Kinley trailhead at Tyler Street, the Kinley trailhead at Salem Road, Simon Park, Rogers Plaza, and Conway Station Park. These are to be installed over the weekend of May 20-21.
 - >Rental rates: \$30/year (\$20/year for students); \$15/month; \$2/hr not to exceed \$18. Annual memberships cover first hour of each ride. Each subsequent hour is \$2. Program is smart phone based through the Zagster app.
 - >Erik Leamon [of The Ride] has been retained to provide maintenance for the bicycles.
 - >There will be a Grand Opening event Wednesday, May 24 at 10:00 am at Simon Park, organized by Aaron Knight, City of Conway Chief Information Officer. Speakers may include the Mayor and the CEO of Baptist Hospital.
 - >Program will be evaluated at 6 months and 1 year to check ridership.**Jack has a promo poster he will share a scan of to help promote the event and program on the CAB and BPAB Facebook pages.**
9. The Board discussed the merits of the Strava Metro data purchased by the City. Feelings seem to be mixed across City departments. Matt Murphy and Bethany Stovall think the data is useful and can help the City to concentrate resources to serve cyclists and pedestrians. Jack agreed that the data is useful, but not comprehensive for usage across the City.

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Matt agreed. We know there is high pedestrian use in the eastern part of the City, but those users do not use Strava. Peter asked if and how the data can be refined. He is interested to see pedestrian route use analysis in addition to the ridership route use analysis. The Board discussed how to tag activities to further refine them, i.e. tagging a ride as a 'commute'. **Beth Sketoe will discuss further refinement of the data with Mike Sakinejad, City of Conway Planning & Development Department.**

10. Bethany Stovall noted the committee working on the Pedestrian Master Plan consists of herself, David Barber, and Michael Yoder. David Barber was not in attendance, but Peter agreed with some of his comments from an email, saying while the Plan needs to be further developed with goals and an implementation strategy, we should refer to peer cities and follow their examples, not reinvent the wheel.
11. Report on Bike to School event was postponed until next meeting or until Emily Walter reports via email.
12. Peter noted that the CycloFemme ride only had 2 participants. Matt noted that the ride was hosted on Mother's Day at 2:00pm and that may have contributed to the low turnout.
13. Peter reminded the Board about other bike month event
 - >Bike to Work day is Friday, May 19. CAB will sponsor a group ride leaving from the Dave Ward Drive Wal-Mart at 7:45am to Simon Park where there will be breakfast.
 - >Jack Branscum asked if anyone has used the new light crossing on Salem Road. Beth Sketoe has used it as a pedestrian. Jack suggested riding that way for Bike to Work to see how it works. He said the cameras are supposed to sense cyclists approaching on the trail and initiate the light change automatically.
 - >Conway Community Bike fest is Sunday, May 21 at 2:00 pm at the trailhead behind Conway Regional Fitness Center. Peter and Matt are volunteering at the event.

NEW BUSINESS

14. Bethany Stovall reported on the meeting she attended between the Mayor's office and the Conway Public Schools on Thursday, May 11. The need for Safe Routes to Schools was discussed, but methods were not. Where to locate new schools was the primary topic of discussion. Both parties want to avoid placing future schools in further out areas that are disconnected from the City. Bethany visited with Dr. Diane Robinson, Conway School Board member. **Bethany will see if Dr. Robinson will provide input on the Pedestrian Master Plan. Beth Sketoe will confirm if Conway Public Schools are subject to sidewalk requirements in new developments. [Conway Public Schools are subject to sidewalks requirements when projects trigger subdivision or development review, i.e. new construction and/or expansions of 2,000 sf or greater or greater than 20% of the existing structure].** Jack clarified that the map indicating the Western Arterial Loop path, available on the Street Department website, was a preliminary path identified prior to the construction of Carolyn Lewis Elementary School, through which the road was planned.
15. Peter asked Matt to research the use of "Bikes May Use Full Lane" signs vs. "Share The Road" signs, as regards national trends and effectiveness. *[Peter has since directed the BPAB to the Fort Collins bike plan, which uses a mixture of paved trails and buffered bike lanes].*

Jack noted that the City has been looking into new construction concepts and studying peer cities [like the Razorback Regional Greenway in Northwest AR] with the hope of providing the most people with the safest option for alternative transportation methods. The City is finding that more people are comfortable using bicycle/pedestrian paths. Peter asked how does the City know this? The City is moving away from the use of sharrows. Peter noted that this is probably a good thing, but asked how was this decision made. He commented that the BPAB needs to be consulted on such decision. Jack shared the plans for the how the 6th Street project is using multiple types of signage and paths, including buffered bike lanes. The Transportation Alternative Program is a possible source of funding for future improvements. This is partly how the Dave Ward Drive pedestrian bridge is being funded.

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16. The Mayor confirmed to Peter that Beth Sketoe is the Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager for the City. Peter suggested that a position description be developed so Beth has a clear idea of what the position involves; he will work with Beth on that with Beth.

Meeting concluded at 7:24 pm