

Pedestrian Bicycle Advisory Committee
Minutes from November 8, 2011
Lincoln Parks and Recreation – 2740 “A” Street

Members Present: Gary Bentrup, Parks Coble, Rick Dockhorn, Barb Fraser, Elaine Hammer, Delrae Hirschman, Albert Maxey, Jordan Messerer, Dalcyce Ronnau, Bill Spielman, Beth Thacker, Neal Thomas, Bill Wehrbein.

Staff Present: Terry Genrich, David Cary, Harry Kroos, Lynn Johnson, J.J. Yost, Randy Hoskins, Mike Heyl

Others Present: Al Wickman, Bob Boyce, Damon Hershey, David Schoenmaker, Rosina Paolini, Wes Trout.

This meeting was called to order at 7:00 a.m. followed by recognition of the Open Meeting Act.

Approval of minutes: Neal Thomas moved and Albert Maxey seconded to approve the October 11, 2011 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Staff Reports:

A presentation will be made to the Recreational Trails Program Committee next week supporting the application for the Pioneers Park Trails Restoration Project. We should have a good idea later that week if it will be forwarded for approval. Approval will take place in January when the Commissioners meet.

Design of the Bison Trail is moving forward with a survey completed.

The Billy Wolff trail east of the Children’s Zoo and a NRD project is scheduled to be open the end of the week. Some tree removal and final cleaning needs to take place before it is officially opened.

Harry said work on the retaining wall near 52nd and Old Cheney will begin soon.

Old Business

David Cary gave an update on LPlan 2040 stating the County approved the plan on October 25 and the City Council approved it on October 31. There are still a few amendments that need to be acted on, however none of them impact transportation. The LRTP will be acted on for approval by the Officials committee on December 1 and that will officially complete the transportation portion of the plan.

Planning Dept. Study Update – Many of the staff and members of the committee have been brainstorming on this. There are funds leftover from LSA who helped develop the LRTP. Those funds are going to be used to move some of the concepts forward that are identified in the Comp Plan relating to pedestrian and bicycle facilities and will look at building out the sidewalk system, mid block crossing possibilities, full build out of pedestrian countdowns at intersections, improving or changing existing on street routes and new routes, sharrows, amenities for bicycles,

and where should bike lanes could be placed. It will be concentrating on the capital side of projects. Will be put together on an as needs basis. Trail system is part of the system, but that won't be part of this project. This project is on the fast track. Considering doing a one-day, full day charette and then come back to the PBAC to report what has been identified. It will be open to anyone that wants to attend. Looking at doing this prior to the next meeting so a report can be give to the committee at the December meeting then having a public meeting in January and wrapping things up the end of February. David is looking at using the sub-committee as part of the charette and other Dept. staff. This plan will not be addressing education components but capital improvements that we want to get done in the near term.

There was discussion on the downtown protected bikeway. The system is separate from the above project will continue to move forward as a parallel project. This was discussed at a pre-council meeting at which the Mayor was supportive of the concept. Adam Hornung is not in support of it.

Sign Committee: Thanks go out to the individuals that rode the routes and double checked what had been listed as being needed. Special Thanks to Dalcyce for his efforts to tabulate the reports. There are a few details that need to be looked at but it is close to being ready to order signs.

Mike Heyl gave an update on the Bicycle Friendly App. He said it is about 70 questions long. Some of it is information that is more data related, but is at the point where he is going to need the opinion of members of the committee. February 17 is the due date for the Bicycle Friendly App. Bike Friendly Business Application deadline is coming up. There is also an application for Bike Friendly University. Walk Friendly Community application is similar. They have only done it once before with 13-14 receiving it. Questions are similar so will be requesting information from members of PBAC for that. Mike thinks we should apply for the Bicycle Friendly Community every year.

Randy Hoskins presented information on the sharrow on "G" Street and challenges with maintaining it. Funds for the project were stimulus funds that are no longer available. One of the challenges is the pavement is not in good shape. Because of this, the city elected not to put in durable markings but to paint the symbols. One time money was used. Randy stated that if PBAC thinks the Sharrow is a real asset, a letter of support for additional funds should be sent to the Mayor. There are a lot of streets falling apart that might have higher priority. It cost initially around \$30,000 to sign and mark "G" Street. Rick said the stencil was very heavy and not an easy process to actually paint on the concrete.

Rick said he thinks sharrows make Lincoln a better bicycle community if these amenities are built and maintained. There was discussion of the signals not being tripped by a bicycle and if this is a bicycle facility, it should be built to accommodate a bicycle using it including being able to trip the signal.

Elaine Hammer moved and Rick Dockhorn seconded to have PBAC prepare a letter to be sent to the Mayor asking for funds to keep the sharrow on "G" Street painted and signage installed on an ongoing basis instead of a one time event. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

A nomination committee was appointed to elect a new Chair and Vice Chair. Neal, Dalyce and Rick were appointed.

There was discussion of how PBAC could coordinate and communicate with other groups including the Mayor's Environmental Task Force.

There was discussion of a new group called Bicyc Lincoln that is looking at creating a Bicycle Challenge. Damon is involved with this as well as Julie Harris from Omaha. The challenge created a lot of interest when Omaha did it. Workwell has interest in it.

14th and Warlick intersection was discussed and that a connection through that intersection is important when that project moves forward.

David Schoenmaker from Dept. of Roads is the Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator. They are working on a new map that includes blow up maps of various communities showing shared use trails. Hopefully the new map will come out in the spring. The state has also been working on their Long Range Transportation Plan.