

**Pedestrian Bicycle Advisory Committee**  
Minutes from December 13, 2011  
Lincoln Parks and Recreation – 2740 “A” Street

**Members Present:** Parks Coble, Barb Fraser, Marynelle Greene, Elaine Hammer, Delrae Hirschman, Albert Maxey, Jordan Messerer, Dalyce Ronnau, Bill Spielman, Beth Thacker, Bill Wehrbein.

**Staff Present:** Terry Genrich, David Cary, Harry Kroos, Lynn Johnson, J.J. Yost, Randy Hoskins, Milo Mumgaard,

**Others Present:** Al Wickman, Bob Boyce, Damon Hershey, Rosina Paolini, Wes Trout, Sarah Janiak, Carl Eskridge.

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

Approval of minutes: Dalyce Ronnau moved and Delrae Hirschman seconded to approve the November 8, 2011 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

**Staff Reports:**

The Stonebridge Trail Project is ranked 6<sup>th</sup> on a list of 15 trail projects for possible funding of Enhancement Funds, depending on how much is available this year. This is a pretty good place to be ranked and hopefully with adequate funding, the project will receive final approval in the near future. The City Public Works Dept. also submitted a grant to fund replacement of the Sheridan Street Bridges over the Rock Island Trail. This project is ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> on that same list.

The issue of plowing the trail after the last snowfall was brought up. It was a very difficult snow to remove for two reasons, it fell on a Saturday into a Sunday and it was very wet. The snow then froze making it difficult to remove until the weather warmed up.

J.J. gave an update of the Jayne Snyder Trails Center and the fact that it is on schedule for a May opening. There was discussion of the need for the subcommittee that is looking at finishing the space meet in another month.

Parks had a question regarding the funding being requested from the Visitor Improvement Fund from CVB to rebuild the Boosalis Trail between 27<sup>th</sup> and 48<sup>th</sup>. This is to increase the width of the trail to accommodate more runners for the marathon. The project would require removal of the existing trail and construct a new trail. The funds are from Lodging Tax. The city is working on putting together a funding package to see if this is possible.

**Old Business**

Planning Dept. update on December 3, 2011 workshop. The city was surveyed to add on to Bike Routes into areas where none existed as well as into new areas. Twenty four volunteers drove various parts of town and 18 people attended the workshop on Saturday, December 3. The consultant and staff are going over the information and developing priorities. Outcomes from the workshop included identifying the need for better signage, markings on pavement, new trail

segments, bicycle parking, need for either a trail or wider shoulders in some places, etc. There were also discussions on making connections from neighborhoods to trails and pedestrian issues such as gaps in the sidewalk network and transit stops near schools and parks. A rough draft of a strategy will be ready the end of December and this will be shared with the committee at a future meeting. Will list out the needs and then determine what can be done with the limited funding available.

Sign committee update. Terry has met with Public Works to make sure they are aware of what we are doing. Due to the cost of the signs, we are going to have to bid them out. We are hoping to get the signs installed by next spring. There will be a separate sign with the name of the trail on it. Arrows will be separate making it easier to install, replace. Etc.

Bicycle Friendly and Walkable Community Applications are progressing. Mike is going to send out several essay questions he would like answered. He will compile the comments to determine the priorities.

### **New Business**

Councilman Eskridge was at the meeting to discuss the Downtown Bike Lanes. The downtown area is going to be resurfaced and a question has come up as to whether the bike lanes are going to be re-stripped as part of that project. There was discussion of the protected bikeways that would be on the south side of "N" Street. This same thing could happen along 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. The downtown master plan is being reviewed at this time. DLA is in support of the protected bikeways. Urban Development is the department that has been involved in the update of the downtown master plan.

Carl mentioned a lot of individuals are concerned about the bike lanes as they are now downtown. It was mentioned that there has not been any increase in vehicle/bicycle accidents since they were installed. There are better ways to provide for a bicycle facility such as protected bikeways which is what is being proposed for "N" Street.

There is a concern about eliminating the bike lanes because there was considerable discussion when they were first put in. David Cary handed out a follow-up report done a year after the bike lanes were installed that showed an increase in usage. It noted that there has not been an increase in accidents, so there is not a crash problem. The idea with the protected bikeway is that they will attract more riders.

Sometimes there is a perception that the bike lanes are not safe, so drivers are safer driving on the streets where there are bike lanes. Bicyclists don't have many options in the downtown area so something is needed.

Moving bicycle traffic downtown is the issue. We can get riders to the edges so we need to provide them something. When a bicyclist is in the bike lane, bicyclists are able to travel at their own speed and don't have to keep up with traffic so car drivers are not getting irritated. Riding in a bike lane is safer than riding on the sidewalk.

The committee very strongly stated that the bike lanes need to be re-striped as a commitment for bicyclists. They can be striped and if a better solution comes along, they do that then. It would be a mistake to let the lanes go away. The sharrows on "G" Street also need to be re-done. If we don't keep these facilities, we discourage bicyclists in the downtown area.

If we want people downtown, we need to facilitate them to get downtown. We want a vibrant downtown and we need to get people downtown on bicycles. Fort Collins was a community brought up that has 10,000 individuals come into the downtown area everyday. The comp plan encourages growth in the downtown area and facilities for bicyclists needs to be provided.

A motion was made to send a letter to the Mayor stating the committee thinks the bike lanes need to be re-striped when the resurfacing takes place. Motion made by Beth Thacker and seconded by Albert Maxey. Motion carried unanimously.

The committee feels it is important to keep a bicycle facility in the downtown area and until a better option such as a protected bikeway is identified and funding provided, we keep the bike lanes on 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.

It was mentioned to invite Urban Development to a January or February meeting to continue discussions on the Downtown master plan.

The Haines Branch Prairie Corridor Project was discussed with the committee. This is a greenway corridor following Haines Branch from Pioneers Park to Spring Creek Audubon, about a 6-6.5 mile stretch. Initially a master plan will be developed. Working with the Planning Dept. we are seeking \$50,000 to do an initial inventory of the resources and develop the master plan. It will involve acquisition of easements or fee simple to protect parcels of prairie along the corridor and plant native grasses and wildflowers with a trail connecting the two facilities in the future.

The city received initial approval of funding Phase I of the restoration of the trail in Pioneers Park. The trail will be from Bison Circle to the sled run parking lot and the entrance to Pinewood.

The slate of officers was presented. Barb Fraser as Chair and Bill Wehrbein as Vice Chair. Elaine Hammer made a motion of the nominations and Beth Thacker seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Alan Wickman registered a complaint about the closed nature of a planning subcommittee meeting that was held on December 3rd. He had previously expressed an interest in attending and couldn't find any notice of the meeting nor was he informed of when the meeting occurred. David mentioned the consultant wanted a small working group that included members of PBAC as well as staff so they could get through a lot of material.

Milo Mumgaard stated that Mayor Beutler is requiring that a Sustainability Plan be developed and to have it in place for the next budget cycle. Performance measures will be built into the budget so that the Mayor and City Council can be accountable for what the public wants. Milo would like to come to the committee early next year to work on these measures.