

**EAU CLAIRE
BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Meeting of March 15, 2016

The meeting was chaired by Aaron Salmon in the City Council Chambers and called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Members Present: Aaron Salmon, Catherine Lee, Kirk Jansen, Dave Bohlinger, Marian Ritland, Martin Goettl

Members Absent: Luke Hoppe, Dick Johnston, Nathan Ruland, Dan May

Staff Present: Leah Ness, Pat Ivory

Visitors Present: Jeremy Gragert, Jason Duba, Calvin Henderson

Minutes. The minutes from the February 16, 2016 meeting were approved as written.

1. Presentation and Discussion of Walk [Your City]. Jason Duba, from West Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission provided an overview of a walkability program sponsored by the Walk [Your City] organization that promotes walkability within participating communities. A participating community selects a neighborhood or area and then installs temporary signs along the streets to provide wayfinding information to key destinations within the area.

Jeremy Gragert, spoke in favor of the program and indicated that he had submitted a grant application to Mayo Hospital for their Home Town Health Grant program to cover the costs associated with the fabrication of the signs.

Calvin Henderson spoke in favor of the program stressing the importance of improving walkability in Eau Claire.

Pat Ivory indicated that staff had concerns about the placement of temporary signs within the right-of-way. He noted that Xcel Energy would not allow such signs to be attached to their poles. In addition, issues of sign clutter, installation by volunteers, and potential motorist confusion/distraction because of the additional signage is a concern. Pat also noted that advertising or recognition of individual businesses would not be allowed by the City code.

The Commission discussed the program including other options where the temporary signs would not have to be placed within the right-of-way, possibly in yards or storefront windows.

ACTION TAKEN: Marian Ritland moved that the Commission support the implementation of the program. Kirk Jansen seconded the motion. The motion did not pass with Commissioners Goettl, Salmon, Lee, and Bohlinger voting against.

The Commission did indicate that they would like to discuss the program further to see if the program could be implemented in a way that would address the concerns noted by staff.

2. Discussion on Walkable Community Workshop. Pat Ivory provided an overview of a potential walkability audit and workshop that would be provided by the organization "Blue Zones". The walkability audit and workshop would be funded by a grant from the National Association of Realtors and the Chippewa Valley Realtors Association. The audit would provide general recommendations about improving walkability in the community and then focus on two or three specific sites to develop possible recommendations. Bruce King from the Chippewa Valley Realtors Association would prepare the grant applications.

The Commission discussed the audit and workshop and noted their support. They questioned the provision in the email to Bruce King regarding a possible commitment to implement recommendations from the workshop. Pat indicated that he would contact Bruce King about this provision.

ACTION TAKEN: Aaron Salmon moved that the Commission support the grant application for the possible walkability audit and workshop. Kirk Jansen seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

3. Discussion of 2016 CIP Recommendations. The Commission discussed the wording of the staff reports for the recent CIP Street projects. Aaron Salmon noted that there was some confusion with some of the City Council members relating to the staff reports where the Commission had agreed with the staff recommendations. In these staff reports, it was noted that BPAC had no recommendations.

It was suggested in such cases, that the staff report should record the Commission's action differently. The Commission suggested that revised wording for the staff report could be something similar to "BPAC has reviewed the proposed project and agrees with Public Works staff recommendation." The Commission also indicated that part of the problem with the communication with the Council is that there is not a Council member on the Commission.

Jeremy Gragert also noted that the staff present at the Commission meetings are not the same staff members that attend the Council meetings.

The Commission discussed alternatives to further improve their review of the street projects and providing their recommendations to the Council. They noted that they should give consideration to the cost of the improvements that they are recommending to the City Council.

Leah Ness stated that for the next meeting, she would prepare a worksheet that highlighted the 2016 street projects where the Commission's recommendations differed from what was approved by the Council. She also will provide an overview of the City's five-year capital street improvement program. This will show the City's tentative street replacement projects for the next five-year period.

4. Discussion of 2016 Commission Work Program and Budget. Pat Ivory provided an overview of the Commission's budget expenditures for 2015. The Commission then discussed possible expenditures and projects for 2016. They utilized the recently completed work program priority

worksheet as a guide. The Commission decided to continue their discussion at the April meeting and that each Commission member should discuss two or three projects for the Commission to undertake during 2016.

5. Discussion of Bicycle Friendly Community Site Visit. Pat Ivory informed the Commission that Steve Clark from the League of American Bicyclists would be in Eau Claire on April 28th to conduct a site visit. The visit will include a bicycle tour and discussion of bicycle-related improvements for the community. Pat noted that all Commission members were encouraged to attend.

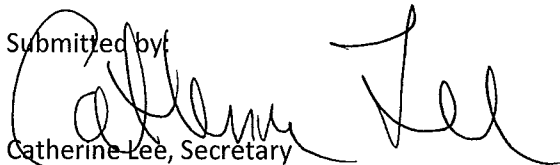
6. Update on Crosswalk Treatment Policy Committee. Martin Goettl informed the Commission that the Crosswalk Treatment Policy Committee held their first meeting. The Committee includes various staff members and people from the community. The committee will meet monthly.

Calvin Henderson noted that the Committee should consider bicycle-pedestrian encounters at crosswalk locations as part of their discussion.

7. Future Items and Updates.

- a) Madison Street Bridge. The Commission again noted that pedestrian and bicycle safety issues on the Madison Street bridge be discussed at a future meeting.
- b) Update of Bicycle Routes. Pat Ivory indicated that he would send an email to all the Commission members to schedule the third meeting to update the bicycle routes in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.
- c) UWEC Pedestrian and Bicycle Committee. Martin Goettl noted that he was a member of the newly formed committee at the University related to pedestrian and bicycle issues. He indicated that he would provide the Commission with periodic updates from the committee.
- d) Margaret Street. Jason Duba from the East Side Hill Neighborhood Association informed the Commission that the association had some concerns about vehicle speed along Margaret Street and wanted to discuss the issue with the Commission at the next meeting. The Commission agreed to place the item on the agenda.
- e) Boyd Park Signs. Martin Goettl stated that one of the informational signs at Boyd Park had been vandalized by removing some of the lettering. Dave Bohlinger indicated that he would contact the Parks Department to address the problem.
- f) Trail Striping. Martin Goettl noted that there is a portion of the recreational trail along Galloway Street in the vicinity of the railroad crossing that has a center striping to separate the travel lanes. He indicated that this is doing a good job in separating the traffic and should be considered in other areas along the trail.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Submitted by

Catherine Lee, Secretary