

**EAU CLAIRE  
BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**Meeting of January 17, 2017**

The meeting was chaired by Aaron Salmon in the North Conference Room and called to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** Aaron Salmon, Dick Johnston, Catherine Lee, Marian Ritland, Kirk Jansen, Scott Kmetz

**Members Absent:** Keith Daniels

(There are currently three vacant positions on the Commission. Nathan Ruland recently announced his resignation from the Commission.)

**Staff Present:** Leah Ness, Pat Ivory

**Visitors Present:** Jeremy Gragert, Martha Heidt

Scott Kmetz was welcomed to the Commission. Scott fills a three year term ending on December 31, 2019.

**Minutes.** The minutes from the December 20, 2016 meeting were approved as written.

**Election of Officers.** The following officers were appointed by the Commission:

**A. Chairperson.** Marian Ritland moved to nominate Aaron Salmon as Chairperson. Kirk Jansen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**B. Vice-Chairperson.** Marian Ritland moved to nominate Dick Johnston as Vice-Chairperson. Kirk Jansen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**C. Secretary.** Marian Ritland moved to nominate Catherine Lee as Secretary. Kirk Jansen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**1. Review of Letter on Street Projects.** The Commission reviewed the draft letter to Dave Solberg, Director of Engineering regarding the Commission's suggestions for the proposed street projects including: West Hamilton Avenue, Craig Road north of Clairemont Avenue, and Golf Road/Prill Road in the vicinity of Highway 53.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Marian Ritland moved to approve the letter. Dick Johnston seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

**2. Discussion on 2017 Commission Work Program.** The Commission continued their discussion of their 2017 work program that included a review of the priority ratings that they had submitted to staff. (It was noted that in 2018, the Commission should use a rating scale of 1 to 5 when prioritizing activities.) The Commission then reviewed the projects and combined several into one grouping related to education and promotion of bicycling and walking. In addition, they decided to omit consideration of the Walk Friendly Community application and list the Blue Zones grant project as one that would be contingent upon the Chippewa Valley Board of Realtors receiving a grant from the Blue Zone organization.

Jeremy Gragert requested that the Commission consider the addition of a work item to assist with the update of the Chippewa Valley Bicycle Map and that the Commission continue to provide input in the development of a regional bicycle route system.

Pat Ivory indicated that he would draft the final wording for the work program items and send copies to Commission members to respond back to him.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Catherine Lee moved to approve the work program as discussed with the addition of assisting with the update of the bicycle map and continuing to provide input regarding the regional route system. Staff will draft the final wording for the individual work plan items and send out a copy for each Commission member to review and respond back to staff as to whether it is acceptable. Kirk Jansen seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

**3. Other items.**

- a) **Update on Eastside Hill Neighborhood – Margaret Street.** Leah Ness stated that the Engineering Department was continuing to review the requests from the Eastside Hill Neighborhood relating to Margaret Street. Requests include: a speed limit of 25 mph, stop signs at Highland Avenue to make a 4-way stop intersection, painted crosswalks at several locations, narrowed travel lanes, installation of sharrows, and assistance in boulevard plantings. Leah indicated that the reduction in the travel lanes was not possible due to the widths necessary for the City buses. The other items are being studied with recommendations coming from the Engineering Department this spring.

The Commission discussed the requested items and felt that the 4-way stop at Highland Avenue and setting the speed limit at 25 mph were the most important items to consider for the neighborhood. They noted that they would not encourage bicyclists to use the street as a bicycle route, therefore, would not recommend sharrows. The Commission decided to wait to make a formal recommendation until the studies of the Engineering Department have been completed.

- b) **Commission vacancy.** The Commission discussed the current vacancies on the Commission. There are currently three vacancies on the Commission with the recent resignation of Nathan Ruland, but the City Council is proposing to decrease the Commission membership to nine members. Once the Council makes this change, there

would be two vacancies on the Commission. Pat Ivory noted that the Appointments Committee would like to select at least one person that has a pedestrian or special needs focus.

- c) **Update on 2017 street projects.** Leah provided an update of other street projects planned for 2017. Most of the projects (other than West Hamilton Avenue, Craig Road, and Golf Road/Prill Road which were discussed last month) are local streets. The one exception is State Street from Hamilton Avenue south to Westover Road, which is a joint City/town project. The Commission discussed this project and Leah indicated that she would bring more information back to the Commission at the February meeting. Leah also discussed the Short Street improvements, which was a 2016 project and the construction of the recreational trail within the Cannery District.
- d) **Update on Bicycle Share Program.** Aaron Salmon indicated that the University appears to be interested in a bicycle share program and he would continue to be in contact with interested organizations. The Commission discussed their role in such a program and noted that it most likely would be to assist in coordinating interested groups, but this could change as the program becomes more defined.
- e) **Update on BPAC ordinance revisions.** The Commission reviewed the proposed changes to the Commission's enabling ordinance that will be considered by the City Council on January 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. The changes would require a work program approved by the Council, change the name to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, and reduce the membership to nine persons. The amendment would also eliminate the existing provisions outlining the Commission's purpose and intent and duties and responsibilities and replacing the provisions with references to accountability to the City Council, and preparation of the work program in conjunction with the City Council's Strategic Plan, Comprehensive Plan, or City Manager's work plan.

The Commission expressed concern about the elimination of existing wording in the "Purpose and Intent" section and "Duties and Responsibilities" section noting that the changes seemed to make the role of the Commission less clear and more ambiguous. The Commission also discussed their role in providing input to staff on street projects as being incredibly valuable in providing added insight to staff about issues that they may not be aware of.

Jeremy Gragert, expressed concern about the changes.

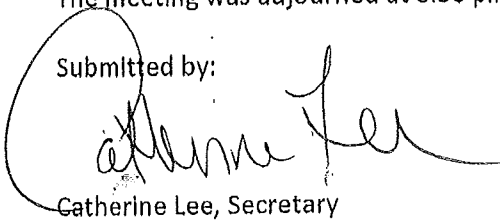
Martha Heidt, noted concern about the changes, indicating that the changes appeared to lessen the Commission's role as advocates for bicycle and pedestrian issues.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Kirk Jansen moved to direct the Commission's Chairperson to attend the public hearing on the proposed changes to express the concerns discussed by the Commission. Dick Johnston seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

- f) **Reports to staff on safety issues or concerns.** Several Commission members discussed the poor sidewalk shoveling after the recent snow storm, particularly at the intersections. It was noted that these locations should be reported to the City Street Division. Leah Ness also stated that WEAU was asking people to list problem intersections within the metro area and the Commission suggested that the locations mentioned be reviewed.
- g) **Future agenda items.** None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Catherine Lee", is written over a circular stamp. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Catherine Lee, Secretary