

**EAU CLAIRE
BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Meeting of March 21, 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, Marian Ritland, Scott Kmetz, Eric Nelson

Members Absent: Catherine Lee, Kirk Jansen

(There are currently two vacant positions on the Committee. Keith Daniels recently notified the Committee that he no longer lived in the City.)

Staff Present: Leah Ness, Pat Ivory

Visitors Present: Jeremy Gragert, Andrew Becker

Minutes. The minutes from the February 21, 2017 meeting were approved as written.

New Committee Member: Eric Nelson was welcomed to the Committee.

1. Discussion of BPAC Work Plan. The Committee was informed that the City Council had approved the Committee's work plan. Pat Ivory noted that one of the Council members suggested that the Committee and staff work on ways to improve communication between the Committee and Council. Pat noted that he and Leah Ness had discussed the issue and planned to recommend to the City Manager that staff prepare a short summary of each BPAC meeting that could be included in the Council updates that are distributed each Friday. The Committee indicated their support for this idea.

Leah Ness and Pat Ivory then reviewed the items contained in the work plan. The Committee had the following comments regarding the discussion:

- Staff plans to schedule a special meeting of the Committee to discuss the update of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan;
- Leah anticipates scheduling a meeting of the crosswalk taskforce this spring. Kirk Jansen is the Committee's representative on the taskforce;
- Leah and Pat will meet with the City's acquisition staff person to discuss the timeframe for obtaining the easement from Markquart Car Wash for the extension of the Valmont Avenue bicycle boulevard;
- Staff will contact Lisa Aspenson from the Water Street BID to obtain property owner consent for the placement of the bicycle corral along Water Street;
- Aaron Salmon will continue to work with Volume One regarding the preparation of an application for the Bicycle Friendly Business Peer Network Program;

- Pat Ivory will contact UWEC to discuss their interest in the bicycle share program and need for additional community meetings; (Aaron will provide Pat with the contact information and it was suggested that a representative from the University attend next month's meeting.)
- The Committee discussed Bike to Work Week which is scheduled for the first week of June. Jeremy Gragert indicated that he would be scheduling an organizational meeting to discuss activities for the week. The Committee asked to have a discussion item on the agenda for the next meeting. (For other educational-related items, see the discussion regarding pedestrian rights education later in the meeting.)
- The Complete Streets work item was discussed. The Committee felt that some initial discussion (possibly at the April meeting) should be initiated prior to having any formal discussions with City officials;
- The Safe Routes to School Program update will start in April with walk audits for each of the schools scheduled for late-April and May. Assistance from the Committee members will be discussed at the April meeting.

2. Discussion of update of Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Pat Ivory informed the Committee that he would like to schedule a special meeting to discuss the update of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and specifically the bicycle routes. The Committee discussed possible dates and Pat indicated that he would send an email to determine what day would work best.

3. Discussion of Pedestrian Rights Education. The Committee continued their discussion regarding a program or campaign to promote pedestrian safety and motorist awareness of pedestrian rights when crossing streets. At the February meeting of the Committee, the group indicated an interest in collaborating with groups such as DECI, the Police Department, City/County Health Department, and UWEC to develop some type of educational/media program to address the issue. It was noted that the issue is not only related to the Downtown area, but is also a city-wide concern.

The Committee viewed the City of Madison's BPAC website regarding pedestrian awareness and questioned whether some of Madison's information could be used by Eau Claire. Aaron Salmon indicated that use of some of the web-based information and written materials is beneficial, but it is important to physically visit the problem locations to better address the issues. It was noted that involvement by the Police Department is very important using various techniques including enhanced surveillance programs, police bicycle patrols, etc. Leah indicated that she would contact Todd Heinz from the Police Department to see if he can attend the Committee's next meeting.

It was also suggested that the City could initiate an educational campaign for City workers to help promote pedestrian awareness. In addition, the School District could be involved as part of the updates to the Safe Routes to School program.

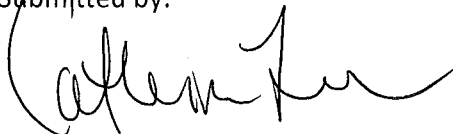
Jeremy Gragert discussed the "Share and Be Aware" Program through the Wisconsin Bicycle Federation, but noted that the area Bike Fed staff position had not been filled yet. The Committee concluded by indicating that they should work with the other groups to implement some type of program in the fall; possibly with a program similar to Bike to Work Week.

4. Other items.

- a) **Commission vacancy.** The Commission discussed the two current vacancies on the Commission.
- b) **Update on 2017 street projects.** Leah provided an update of several of the street projects planned for 2017.
- c) **Reports to staff on safety issues or concerns.** Leah Ness informed the Committee that she had contacted the contractor regarding the faded green paint for the Keith Street bicycle box and that the contractor informed her that they will repaint it in the spring. Safety concerns noted included: uncontrolled intersections along Putnam Drive in the vicinity of Demmler Park, brick paving areas along South Barstow Street in the vicinity of Lake Street that have sunken, and that some of the planting areas along the South Barstow sidewalk are a potential tripping hazard as these areas are several inches below the grade of the sidewalk.
- d) **Future agenda items.** No additional items other than those noted in the above discussions.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Catherine Lee", written in a cursive style.

Catherine Lee, Secretary