

**EAU CLAIRE  
BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Meeting of January 16, 2018**

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, Scott Kmetz, Andy Becker, Kirk Jansen, Brian Jenquine, Catherine Lee, Ann Francis

**Members Absent:** Eric Nelson

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

**Visitors Present:** Jeremy Gragert

**Welcome:** Ann Francis was welcomed to the Commission. Ann fills three year term ending on December 31, 2020.

**Minutes.** The minutes from the December 18, 2017 meeting were approved as written.

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

**A. Chairperson.** Kirk Jansen moved to nominate Aaron Salmon as Chairperson. Scott Kmetz seconded the motion. The motion carried with Aaron Salmon abstaining.

**B. Vice-Chairperson.** Catherine Lee moved to nominate Kirk Jansen as Vice-Chairperson. Scott Kmetz seconded the motion. The motion carried with Kirk Jansen abstaining.

**C. Secretary.** Kirk Jansen moved to nominate Catherine Lee as Secretary. Brian Jenquine seconded the motion. The motion carried with Catherine Lee abstaining.

**1. Police Department Update.** Postponed until the February meeting.

**2. Discussion of Complete Streets Program.** The Committee discussed the complete streets work plan item. Letters of support had been received from the Healthy Communities Taskforce and Chippewa Valley Transit Alliance. West Central Regional Plan Commission will also be contacted to see if they would be interested in submitting a letter. The Committee reviewed the draft letter to Dave Solberg, inviting him to the Commission's February meeting.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Catherine Lee moved to have the Committee chairperson send the letter to Mr. Solberg. Kirk Jansen seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

**3. Discussion of 2018 CIP Projects.** The Committee continued their review of the 2018 CIP street projects. The Committee discussed all the 2018 CIP street projects in November and discussed Harding Avenue, Washington Street, Graham Avenue, Lake Street, West Grand Avenue, Fenwick

Avenue, and Hendrickson Drive in greater detail at their December meeting. Leah Ness noted the following

- Lake Street from the Chippewa River to Farwell Street. The City will soon be finishing traffic counts along Lake Street and will start reviewing possible designs. The concept discussed by the Committee at their December meeting regarding the reduction of the number of lanes, increasing sidewalk width, additional landscaping, and possible bicycle lanes will be considered.
- West Grand Avenue from the Chippewa River pedestrian bridge to Oxford Avenue. Staff will be working with the West Grand Avenue BID to try to incorporate the extension of the park area to the west of the bridge and include bumpouts, sharrows, and the stop signs at First Avenue.
- Bids came in over budget for the construction of the new bridge deck for the Grand Avenue Bridge. Other street projects may have to be delayed to complete the work on the bridge. The completion date will also have to be extended into August. The Committee discussed the decorative lighting proposed for the bridge and questioned whether additional fund raising could be undertaken for the lighting.
- Airport Road was discussed and the Committee questioned whether the pathway was still being considered as part of the project.
- Clairemont Avenue Frontage Road. Leah noted that trail/pathway would be included on the north side of the frontage road extending from Stein Boulevard to Hendrickson Drive as discussed at the December meeting. Mid-block crosswalks would also be included. The Committee asked whether it would be possible to install a crosswalk across Hendrickson Drive to the west on the south side of the intersection. Leah indicated that she would still need to discuss this with the State DOT which controls this intersection.
- The Cannery District riverfront trail will be extended under Madison Street, south past Lazy Monk Brew Pub to First Avenue.
- Regarding Harding Avenue, as noted at a previous meeting, the project will primarily involve a mill and overlay and is not a complete reconstruction. The lane width would be reduced to 10.5 feet to provide a 2-foot buffer along the northeast side along the sidewalk, but without a separation barrier. Access to Jefferson Street will remain open, but the decision on keeping Lee Street open is still being discussed. The extension of the Valmont Avenue bicycle boulevard connection will be included. Leah also noted that enhanced pedestrian signage in the vicinity of Jefferson Street will be added. It was noted that when the street is reconstructed in the future, additional pedestrian and bicycle-related accommodations would be considered.

The Committee discussed the project and questioned whether a portion of the sidewalk could be widened 2 additional feet. This along with the 2-foot buffer along the curb would provide some additional space for bicyclists and pedestrians. They also felt that the closing of the Lee Street connection onto Harding Avenue should continue to be considered.

- The reconstruction of Keith Street and Taft Avenue was discussed. It was noted that both streets as being gaps in the sidewalk system in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. It was also noted that the Safe Routes to School Plan identifies Keith Street as a safe routes street, with the tunnel connection to the north to Memorial High School.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Andy Becker moved that the Committee recommend that sidewalks be included for the Keith Street project as the street is listed as a safe routes street, connects with the pedestrian tunnel under Clairemont Avenue, and is listed in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan that sidewalks should be installed to eliminate a gap in the pedestrian circulation system in the area. This would improve pedestrian safety particularly with the proximity to Memorial High School and Manz Elementary School. Ann Francis seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Kirk Jansen moved that the Committee support the construction of sidewalks for the Taft Avenue project in accordance with the policies of the Comprehensive Plan and compliance with the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan identifying the need for sidewalk along this street to eliminate a gap in the pedestrian system. Catherine Lee seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

**4. Other items.**

- a) **Walkability Action Institute Grant.** Leah Ness noted that a grant application submitted by the City/County Health Department to the Walkability Action Institute had been approved. A team from Eau Claire will attend a workshop in April to discuss strategies to improve walkability in Eau Claire. BPAC will be involved in assisting in implementing these strategies.
- b) **UWEC Bike Share.** Pat Ivory noted that he was waiting to hear back from Kristina Heideman from UWEC to organize a meeting to discuss the status of implementing a bicycle share program.
- c) **Committee Vacancies.** Pat Ivory noted that the Committee still had one vacancy to fill. The Committee reviewed the Citizen Resource Bank listing of possible candidates.
- d) **Work Plan.** Pat Ivory noted that the Committee's work plan would be presented to the City Council on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- e) **Reports to staff on safety issues or concerns.** Concerns noted included:
  - It was noted that there is a traffic congestion issue in the vicinity of Lana Lane and Mitscher Avenue related to dropping children off at South Middle School.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by:



Catherine Lee, Secretary