

**EAU CLAIRE
BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Meeting of February 20, 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, Brian Jenquine, Catherine Lee, Ann Francis, Eric Nelson, Carl Mothes

Members Absent: Kirk Jansen

Staff Present: Leah Ness, Dave Solberg, Adam Taylor, Pat Ivory

Visitors Present: Jeremy Gragert, Jason Duba, Dick Johnston, Terry Weld

Welcome: Carl Mothes was welcomed to the Commission. Carl fills a two year term ending on December 31, 2019.

Minutes. The minutes from the January 16, 2018 meeting were approved as written.

1. Police Department Update. Adam Taylor from the Eau Claire Police Department was present at the meeting to provide an overview of recent pedestrian and bicycle traffic-related incidents in the City. Adam indicated that he planned on attending meetings on a quarterly basis to provide updates to the Committee. The Committee thanked Adam for attending the meeting and providing the information. They discussed the types of information that may be helpful for the Committee to review at future meetings. It was suggested that possibly the incidents could be mapped and include a few years back to see if any trends exist. It was also suggested that more detailed information be provided on pedestrian/bicycle incidents that involve a fatality. Adam also noted that the Police Department planned to conduct several pedestrian crosswalk surveillance programs this year.

2. Discussion of Complete Streets Program. Dave Solberg from the City Engineering Department was present at the meeting to discuss the Committee's proposal for the City to consider a Complete Streets policy. Aaron Salmon noted that the discussion about Complete Streets was contained in the Comprehensive Plan and Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and the Committee's approved work plan. Adopting a policy would formalize the City's commitment to give consideration to all users when streets are reconstructed. In addition, it would help ensure consistent and continued application of the philosophy from year to year.

Dave agreed about the importance of considering all modes of travel when streets are being reconstructed and noted that the City's current design process already takes into consideration many of the factors included in most complete street policies. He also noted that other input is considered such as from neighborhoods, business districts, the Comprehensive Plan, Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, etc. He noted that previous experience with complete streets policies with the State of Wisconsin at times were somewhat restrictive and he would be concerned about narratives that would limit the decision making ability of staff or the City Council.

Jeremy Gragert, Jason Duba, and Dick Johnston spoke in support of the City developing a Complete Streets policy. Jason noted that another important factor in considering all users is the issue of equity in that not all users can afford a vehicle and may need to use alternative means of transportation due to economic factors.

The Committee continued their discussion and Dave noted that he could support a policy similar to the Appleton and New Richmond examples that fairly represent Eau Claire's current processes and procedures. Pat Ivory indicated that staff could prepare a draft policy statement to bring back to the Committee for further discussion. Dave added that it would be beneficial for Committee members to discuss the concept or policy with additional groups such as the neighborhood associations and business groups.

3. Discussion of 2018 CIP Projects. The Committee continued their discussion of the 2018 CIP street projects. The following was noted:

- Lake Street from the Chippewa River to Farwell Street. The City will soon be reviewing possible designs. Leah and Dave discussed the configuration of possible bicycle lanes and whether they could be located within the right lane that would include the right turning lane. Committee members indicated that this would be acceptable.
- Airport Road was discussed and Dave noted that most likely, the design would include four-foot shoulders. The installation of a separate pathway may still be considered at a later date, but several issues make it difficult to install a pathway at the present time.
- The public hearing timeframe for Keith Street and Taft Avenue was discussed. Leah will send out a draft schedule of the public discussion dates for the 2018 capital improvement projects.

4. Discussion about Haymarket Plaza. Dave Solberg provided an overview of the site plan for Haymarket Plaza located at the confluence of the Chippewa and Eau Claire Rivers. The site is approved for a park and open space in the Comprehensive Plan. The Committee thanked Dave for his work on the project and noted the following suggestions:

- As noted by the Waterways and Parks Commission, and Plan Commission; the trail extending along the riverfront connecting trail sections to the east and south should be better delineated.
- The bicycle racks should be located in visible locations so that bicyclists use them and not lock their bikes to light posts, etc.

The Committee also discussed potential conflicts between bicyclists and pedestrians. They did not feel that the plaza should be designated as a bicycle "dismount" area, but that bicyclists should be warned about reducing speed. The suggestion of providing signs as bicyclists enter the plaza from the east, south and north from the bridge was suggested.

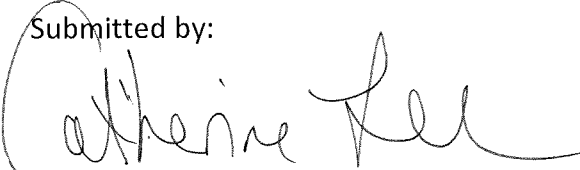
ACTION TAKEN: Scott Kmetz moved to recommend approval noting the need for the trail connection along the river to be better delineated, and that bicycle parking be located in a fashion that is visible to the bicyclists visiting the plaza. Brian Jenquine seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

5. Other items.

- a) **UWEC Bike Share.** Catherine Lee did not have an update regarding the bike share, but that the UWEC BPAC would be meeting soon and she would ask about the status of the bike share concept.
- b) **Tri-County Bicycle Plan.** Pat Ivory noted that a public informational meeting was planned for March 6th to discuss the tri-county bicycle plan. Pat will send out information about the meeting.
- c) **Reports to staff on safety issues or concerns.** Concerns noted included:
 - Brian inquired if any action had been taken to address the issue regarding the traffic congestion issue in the vicinity of Lana Lane and Mitscher Avenue related to dropping children off at South Middle School. Leah indicated that the issue was mentioned to the School District and they hoped to address the problem, but changes would probably not occur until fall.
 - A question regarding snow removal was brought up. Leah will send out a link to the Committee for service requests.
- d) **Future Agenda Items.** Items mentioned included: update of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, review of the Committee work plan and budget, presentation on the Safe Routes to School Plan, and discussing a policy for sidewalk detours.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Submitted by:



Catherine Lee, Secretary