

**EAU CLAIRE
BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Meeting of June 16, 2020

The meeting was chaired by Aaron Salmon and called to order at 6:00 p.m. and held virtual online via Webex.

Members Present: Aaron Salmon, Ann Francis, Scott Kmetz, Kyle Brouillard, Scott Larson, Bill Berg, Catherine Lee, JJ Henricksen, Matt Boelter

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Trevor Wittwer, Pat Ivory

Visitors Present: Eric Anderson

Minutes. The minutes from the February 18, 2020 meeting were approved as written.

1. Recommendation on Safe Routes to Parks Plan. Pat Ivory provided an overview of the draft Safe Routes to Parks Plan. The plan was prepared by West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission at the request of the City. Preparation of the plan is included in the work plan for the Committee.

The purpose of the plan is to promote improved pedestrian and bicycle accessibility to the City's parks. In addition, another objective is to increase the use of the City's parks and promote a healthier and more active lifestyle. The plan is similar to the City's Safe Routes to Schools Plan that was prepared in 2018.

Eric Anderson, Senior Planner from West Central discussed the background in the preparation of the plan and key recommendations.

ACTION TAKEN: Bill Berg moved to support the adoption of the plan. Catherine Lee seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

2. Discussion of Mobility Trends. Aaron Salmon discussed some of the recent trends in urban areas to temporarily close certain streets in response to COVID-19 in order to provide additional areas for people to walk and bicycle. Pat Ivory noted that City officials are discussing the concept of some limited street closures as a trial. He added that for the July 4th celebration that Riverfront Terrace will be closed and some of the loop roads in Carson Park. The loop road near Fairfax Pool is also under consideration. He noted that generally, the City has not

experienced overcrowding within the City's parks or along the recreational trail like some other urban communities have experienced.

3. Discussion of Outreach to Organizations Representing Disabled Populations. The Committee continued their discussion regarding the need to reach out to organizations that represent persons with disabilities in order to try to get their input on pedestrian and bicycle related issues within the community. Ann Francis indicated that she had discussed the issue with Jason Audrys who had indicated an interest in improving communications with individuals and organizations representing disabled populations. Pat Ivory noted that if contact information for such organizations could be provided to City staff, that the City could include such organizations in appropriate media notices and updates.

4. Discussion of Safety Issues. The Committee discussed several pedestrian and bicycle safety concerns that had been forwarded to the City in recent weeks. Several related to pedestrian safety concerns along the trail pertaining to interactions with bicyclists. Pat noted that several trail etiquette signs are posted along the trail, but possibly more could be done. He indicated that he would contact the Police Department to inquire as to whether they could prepare a social media post about the need for bicyclists to pass pedestrians on the left, slow down, and warn the pedestrians of their approach.

The second concern pertains to the Morningside Drive – Birch Street area and the concern about crossing Birch Street near the intersection of Morningside Drive. It was noted that in response to the concern, that the City would be adding crosswalks at the intersection.

The third item pertains to pedestrian and bicyclists safety concerns along McKinley Road between Birch Street and Highway 312. It was noted that this area is identified in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan as an area that should be studied. Safety concerns were also noted at the time that McKinley Charter School was renovated. The City will be conducting a speed study in the area and looking at signage related to the school and traffic speeds. The road is within both the Town of Seymour and City of Eau Claire.

5. Discussion of Bicycle/Pedestrian Award Program. Scott Larson discussed the meeting that the awards subcommittee had in February. He noted that the subcommittee is considering having four possible categories of awards: leadership, education, planning, and safety. The awards would be patterned after the program sponsored by the Eau Claire Sustainability Advisory Committee and provide recognition to individuals or organizations that are involved in some program or activity that benefits the pedestrian or bicycling environment within the community. Due to COVID-19, the subcommittee has been unable to meet since February. The Committee discussed the subcommittee's recommendations and discussed the possibility of selecting award recipients for one or more of the four categories for a simplified award program yet this fall.

6. Discussion of 2020 CIP Projects. Trevor Wittwer updated the Committee on the status of the 2020 street construction projects. Trevor noted that the Oxford Avenue project had been delayed until 2021 and the Jeffers Road project was now planned for 2022. Several Committee members complimented the City on the State Street project including the addition of the trees along the street. There was mention of the two benches on the hill near Putnam Park as to whether they should be facing the park rather than the street.

7. Other items.

- a) **Future agenda items.** Agenda items for future meetings will include: the awards program, continued discussion on mobility trends, discussion on provisions for parklets and sidewalk cafés, and update on the revised Chippewa Valley bicycle map.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Submitted by:

Catherine Lee by PJA

Catherine Lee, Secretary