



Mequon/Thiensville Bike Pedestrian Commission
Friday June 5th, 2015 at 9:15 a.m.
Mequon City Hall, Administrative Conference Room

MINUTES

Current Member Listing –

City of Mequon:

Terence Mooney, Kristin Wade, Carol Leonard (**Chairperson**), Robert Lengh
Guests: John Pienkos, resident; George Coulter, Thiensville Business Renaissance Group

Village of Thiensville:

Daniel Waschow, John Treffert, John Liegeois

1. Bikeway Commission Chairman

Discussion: T. Mooney asked if anyone was interested in the position of Chairman. C. Leonard replied that she would be interested. T. Mooney asked if there was anyone else. J. Treffert stated hearing no other nominations he moved that we name Carol Leonard as Chairperson of the M-T Bike Pedestrian Commission. Dan Waschow second. T. Mooney asked for a hand count and the vote carried 5-0 with 2 absent. T. Mooney was asked to Chair for the remainder of today's meeting.

2. Call to Order, Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 9:21 a.m. by Interim Chairperson T. Mooney. Those present were T. Mooney, C. Leonard, D. Waschow, J. Treffert, J. Liegeois. Absent were R. Lengh and K. Wade.

3. Review Minutes of April 10th, 2015.

Discussion: T. Mooney asked if there were any comments on the minutes of April 10th. J. Treffert moved to approve. C. Leonard second. A voice vote was called and the motion passed 5-0 with 2 absent.

RESIDENT CORRESPONDENCE / PERSONS WISHING TO BE HEARD

4. Resident Concerns

1. John Pienkos

2. George Coulter, Thiensville Business Renaissance Group

1. Discussion: T. Mooney introduced resident John Pienkos of 10019 N Miller Ct who would like to see an additional bike path in the southeastern corner of Mequon at I-43 just north of Zedler. Mr. Pienkos and other neighbors have approached the commission before and at that time it was more of a brain storm and now they have a lot of support and presented a signed petition in support of a path. The idea is to have a connection between the southeast corner of Mequon, east of I-43 and east of Port Road and Bayside, Fox Point area. The current existing route is currently only Port Washington Rd and as you can see it is a poor cycling through fare. High volume of traffic at 10,000 vehicles a day, high speeds, poorly designed cycling area and too far left for many of the residents in the area, and hazardous for children as well as experienced cyclists. Mr. Pienkos has over 100 signatures from Mequon, 20 from Bayside. They are looking at something along the railroad line similar to the OIT and Fairy Chasm. C. Leonard asked J. Pienkos if he had spoken to Bayside or Fox Point as most of this trail is located in those municipalities. J. Pienkos replied that they hadn't at this time yet. J. Keegan stated that this is an active railroad corridor and would be part of the challenge. You would need an agreement from the railroad and those agreements are very challenging to get especially from the UP Railroad. The OIT is not an active railroad corridor any more and was easier to get. When Port Washington is redone the state will be subject to putting in bike lanes/accommodations, but at this time we don't know. J. Treffert asked if there was any other link that could be built to accomplish the same thing other than on the rail. J. Keegan said it's a straight shot and would be easier and not on

private property. J. Pienkos, we looked at other routes and the ravine does pose a problem, and easements would make it tougher. I did try contacting the Railroad, but didn't receive any serious response. C. Leonard asked "what are you asking the committee to do for you today". Do you need us to make a recommendation to go to Common Council to say we would like you to consider doing this? If we were to make a recommendation to Council, Council is going to want to know what Bayside and Fox Point have to say. You should put this on their agenda to do. J. Pienkos said that he will have to come up with a plan of action to pursue this. C. Leonard said that as an advisory committee our obligation is to advise plans of action. We support the idea and to make it easier for us to be advisory, it would be helpful to know that Fox Point and Bayside were on our side to bring it to Common Council. They will want to know what the other Committees have to say. J. Treffert stated that credibility wise we have to make sure what we advocate for. We need to make sure that we get the best possible pedestrian accommodation on the I-43 rebuild; because the state will pay for those and then see if there's still a need for an eastern connection. T. Mooney said we did do research on this several years ago and our solution was to put bike paths on Port Washington Road. That is not what this group is asking for and does not appear to be the safest arrangement. It appears that there is some difficulty in working with the UP Railroad. Someone should be commissioned to investigate possible route other than the railroad that would create a safe route for bicycles and pedestrians over the route being talked about. J. Pienkos pointed out a few other routes but the most direct would be along the railroad route. T. Mooney asked if we should appoint a subcommittee to take a look at alternatives before bringing this to the Common Council. J. Liegeois feels that we should see what response we can get from Union Pacific Railroad and the cost, if none then we should look at other ideas.

Leonard motioned to take the article and the petition as written (copies to be obtained from J. Pienkos) so far and will take a look at them to see if it is something that the Commission can recommend to Council to look into it further. Second, by J. Treffert. A voice vote was called and the motion passed 5-0, with 2 absent.

2. George Coulter- Thiensville Business Renaissance Group

Discussion: George Coulter, from the Thiensville Business Renaissance Group, wanted to report what their thinking as it interacts with the Ozaukee Interurban Trail. For the past year and a half this economic development group is aimed at improving businesses and bringing in new business. The ideas brought across include drawing in business from the OIT Trail to interact with the community. 2-3 three months ago they held a business forum and had businesses and developers suggest what they would like to see happen. There was a hearty discussion regarding the bike trail on several different fronts and wants to share those. These suggestions will be made in the next couple of meetings to the Thiensville Trustees driven by the businesses themselves. They wanted to know how to get people off the bike trail. They start at Division Street and go north. From the backside of the buildings, it is pretty ugly. One of the comments was to put up some murals. There is a group called Wall Dogs and they put up murals, and they recently put some up in Plymouth. There is another group called the Walls of Wittenburg from northern Wisconsin with 31 murals and buildings. We're just looking at the back of the buildings that back up to the bike trail. The idea there would be, possible historical, or relative to the businesses such as Harley Davidson, Ford, bikes, all different kinds of things, just something to draw them off the trail. We would to try and convince the bike store to open up the back door and maybe make repairs or try and sell them a new bike. Another thing that came up was weigh stations along the way or kiosks. We Energies said they would entertain permanent buildings, no trees of any kind. There is a kiosk at Freistadt Road, maybe we could put up some benches. Right at Division Street where you cross by the Church; there's Buntrock again where we have some parking for Thiensville and where we have some public land we could build on, we haven't approached them yet but the owner of Suburban owns the Thiensville Lumber Yard and in the back on the west side of the tracks is an old awning building, shed where they used to store things would be a great weigh station. So we are looking at putting in some weigh stations along the line. What can we put up along the way in the form of signage to encourage people to exit the trail and enjoy the communities'?

These are just some of the things that we are working on. T. Mooney said that I'm sure that you are aware of the restriction put out by WE-Energies about what you can put on the land. J. Treffert felt the groups ideas were excellent and can be the catalyst for getting signage or enhancements. C. Leonard said that one of the things was bike racks. You might want to think about that. What kinds of bike rack facilities are available from the trail? T. Mooney asked Mr. Coulter to come back to the next meeting and give a further report on what is happening.

REGULAR BUSINESS

5. Priority Information List – T. Mooney

Discussion: There is nothing further at this time.

6. OIT Improvement –

a. Bonniwell Substation Revision - James Keegan

Discussion: J. Keegan stated that it was under construction now with a completion date of June 26th. Grading to be completed June 5th or 6th. The current plan has the paving coming on Tuesday (June 9th). The trail will be closed for the paving and the bikers will be diverted around the trail. There are signs on the trail for the detour already. The detour will take the riders out to Cedarburg Road. C. Leonard asked if there was a ribbon cutting planned when the trail was done. J. Keegan said it wasn't planned. T. Mooney asked if anyone on the commission wanted to pursue a ribbon cutting ceremony. J. Treffert said the feasible thing would be to make sure it gets done and then at our next meeting plan a ribbon cutting with the News Graphic even if it is just us. This is a major accomplishment and we should have our Committee there.

7. Signs

Branding Committee – J. Treffert

Discussion: Nothing further at this time.

8. Interconnecting Trails – J. Treffert

a. Signage

b. Trail marking

Discussion/Approval: T. Mooney said the number of signs required indicated that the cost would be about \$2,000.00 and that the motion was made at the last meeting to raise dollars for this privately. The question is if we are going to raise dollars privately, how are we going about that. Are there any suggestions? H. Ward said that she will talk to someone and talk to K. Wade about it again.

9. Bike Racks – T. Mooney

Discussion/Approval: C. Leonard said that she needs a list of where they are currently located. H. Ward stated she is seeing more and more bike racks that have been put up privately. Businesses are getting on board without our push. John Liegeois said he also noticed more bike racks are really creative. He asked the Commissioners to take a picture about cool and clever bike racks and bring them in.

10. Education – K. Wade & J. Krueger

a. Share and Be Aware

Discussion/Approval: Nothing further at this time.

11. Park Board & Bike Commission Joint Meeting-T. Mooney

Discussion/Approval: C. Leonard stated that she and Orlando went last fall and will check to see where that was left. I think the idea was that we would meet occasionally with them and see where could partner. J. Liegeois went a few months ago with Orlando and found it interesting in how they organize their meeting and are proactive. J. Liegeois said we should definitely partner with them as

biking and pedestrian issues are a part of the parks, or at least so we are in sync with each other. J. Treffert said they have a budget and anyone with a budget should be our friend. Example would be the signage and things with the trails. His vision is that we almost become a subcommittee of the Park Board and that they consider us a partner, so that when we have an idea like these connecting trails we could go talk to them. T. Mooney asked C. Leonard to let everyone know when the next Park Board meeting is.

12. Other Business

a. Website: mtoutdoors.org – K. Wade

1. Update

Discussion/Approval: J. Treffert said that he received an e-mail from Andy LaFond where two things don't connect properly and what he suggests is that for August that we meet in our regular room (Administrative Conference Room) he could have Andy come over and demonstrate what he found. There are some disconnects. He also asked that Mark Harris be in attendance along Kristen Wade.

John Liegeois stated that he won't be available for the next meeting scheduled for July 10th. J. Treffert noted that would not be available for the July meeting. J. Treffert motion to the move the July 10th meeting to our next regular scheduled meeting in August. J. Liegeois seconded. A voice vote was called and the motion carried 5-0 with 2 absent.

Next meeting: August 28th, 2015.

13. Adjourn

J. Treffert moved to adjourn

C. Leonard Second

A voice vote was called the motion passed 5-0 with 2 absent.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Dated: July 20, 2015

/s/ Carol Leonard, Chairperson

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Notice is hereby given that a majority of other governmental bodies may be in attendance at this meeting to gather information about a subject over which they have decision making responsibility, although they will not take any formal action relative thereto at this meeting. Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations for attendance at this meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at 262-236-2914 twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the meeting. Any questions regarding this agenda may be directed to the Engineering Office at 262-236-2934, Monday through Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm.