



Mequon/Thiensville Bike Pedestrian Commission
Friday October 2, 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
Ald. Strzelczyk

Village of Thiensville:

Daniel Waschow, John Treffert, John Liegeois

1. Call to Order, Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 9:20 a.m. by Chairperson C. Leonard. Those present were T. Mooney, J. Liegeois, K. Wade, and D. Waschow. Absent were R. Lengh and J. Treffert. Guest John Pienkos 9:25 a.m. The City was represented by Ald. Strzelczyk, J. Keegan and recording secretary B. Vento.

2. Review Minutes of August 28th, 2015.

Discussion: C. Leonard asked if there were any comments on the minutes of August 28th. K. Wade moved to approve. D. Waschow seconded. A voice vote was called and the motion passed 5-0 with 2 absent.

RESIDENT CORRESPONDENCE / PERSONS WISHING TO BE HEARD

3. Resident Concerns

John Pienkos

Discussion: C. Leonard noted that Mr. Pienkos has now joined us and we will return to Item 3. Mr. Pienkos reminded everyone that at our last meet in June he was asked to do some research with Bayside and the Railroad. The July meeting was postponed until August, and Mr. Pienkos sent his findings to K. Lundeen who shared them with J. Keegan. There was a meeting on August 28th, which he was unable to attend and there was some discussion regarding that information and the item was tabled. He wasn't sure if that meant we weren't interested in talking about it anymore or what. C. Leonard stated that we were impressed by the amount of information that he was able to collect. To summarize the discussion, we certainly feel that putting a bike path there would be a great idea. We also realize that there are other options to make bicycling safer in that area. One of which is addressed by the I-43 corridor reconstruction. Although the bike path there does solve a problem for residents, it doesn't solve the safety issues for all bicyclists in that corridor and those individuals that don't use bike paths. There is significant number of them have issues with the Pt Washington Rd. While there are 2 paved lanes, there are no paved shoulders. At the time that we looked at it, and this is what we have chosen to recommend, is that at this time we do not recommend pursuing the off road bike path along the railroad track corridor. There is the I-43 construction option for both the lanes and an off road path next to it, so it does solve two problems. It's not the best solution, but it is a better solution than currently exists. We do have a list of significant other items that are on our prioritization list that we were looking at fulfilling. We try to do those things in the best way possible. Since we are an advisory committee you have the option of taking your request directly to Council. Ald. Strzelczyk injected that this would need to go to Public Works first because it's a roadway project and they would need to recommend to Council. The issue that we are facing is that the 2020 road project shows four-way bike lanes on both sides of the corridor going up and down the I-43 interchange. Now if you can make a legitimate argument to the DOT, now is the time to do it and you might get the DOT to Fund the project. J. Keegan said he would e-mail a copy of the current plans to J. Pienkos. C. Leonard

stated also that it would take several budget cycles to try and fund this project and would mostly start about the same time that the I-43 project would begin, so neither would be done quickly.

REGULAR BUSINESS

4. Priority Information List – C. Leonard

Discussion: J. Keegan stated that Item No. 1 County Line Rd on the Prioritization List was being paved Saturday October 3rd as part of a the City of Milwaukee project. It will be paved with 4 ft. lanes and completion expected in a couple of weeks. He also feels it should be removed from list. J. Liegeois asked if the 4 ft. lanes were ear marked for bikes. J. Keegan said they were not signed as bikes, but there would be a fog line, so there will be a white line along the edge that there will be a shoulder there. To be considered a bike lane, you have to follow the FDM Standard per WisDOT. We don't mark the shoulders everywhere and we have a lot of 4 ft. shoulders now. To add the bike symbols everywhere is a lot and we only have one guy that paints lines and this would add considerable to his work load. Unless they meet the standards for a bike lane which is a 5 ft. minimum we wouldn't be marking it. J. Liegeois said that it doesn't say bike lane and doesn't give the biker a comfortable feeling that it is one. C. Leonard stated that if it's paved for bikes then she feels she can't walk there, which means I need even more space to walk. J. Keegan said that you can walk there and knows of no ordinance that says you can't. Ald. Strzelczyk stated that it's more a sign to the motorists that you can't just cut over and use the shoulder as a turn lane. He asked if maybe volunteers could place and paint the signs. J. Keegan thought we have the stencil or could get it from the County. J. Keegan said he would check with the State to see what they recommend at a minimum.

Ald. Strzelczyk inquired about item No 8 on the priority list, Off Road Path–Rotary Park to Laurel Ln. Are we anywhere with that? James said that he would have to check, he hasn't heard any discussion on that. Ald. Strzelczyk asked the C. Leonard to put this as an action item on next month's agenda as proposed to parks. We need to start there. Ald. Strzelczyk stated that the OWLT recently purchased land at Spirit Lake near Laurel Ln. He had a discussion with OWLT regarding mountain biking, and D. Curran if they would have any interest in having mountain biking and they said they would be look into it. Laurel Lane was supposed to have on off road path just to the east of their road on their subdivision development agreement. It was never put in. With having Spirit Lake right there they are having hunting in the backyard along with a little stub of a road that goes right up against the woods. They are asking the city to vacate that road. While we have crews vacating that we may be able to work something getting that path coordinated.

J. Keegan stated that Item No. 2 4' lanes-from Lake Bluff Rd to Highland Rd is a good candidate for the 2016 road program and to move up to number one on this list. This is in very bad condition. J. Liegeois stated that if you have a bike sign there, people would be less likely to park on it. J. Keegan said he would check on the criteria for the bike symbol on the 4' path for the next meeting. J. Liegeois said if it's a matter of cost perhaps the scouts or someone else could do it.

C. Leonard made a motion to remove item 1 from the priority list as it will be completed this week. K. Wade seconded. A voice vote was called the motion carried 5-0 with 2 absent

5. Interconnecting Trails – J. Treffert

- a. Signage
- b. Trail marking

Discussion/Approval: Nothing further to report at this time.

6. Bike Path Ahead Signs

Discussion and Recommendation for approval of a request for Public Works Committee for funding for signs

Discussion/Approval: J. Keegan said these are the signs that would be located on the no outlet signs. The discussion and recommendation was made that this group needs to request recommendation for approval of a request to the Public Works Committee for funding for signage.

C. Leonard made the motion that we make the recommendation to approve the request for money from Public Works Committee.

J. Keegan said it might be good clarify to everyone that there is a list of 15 locations where the Wards have done there research and found that these signs would help. If you're going to a dead end road it will let you know that there is bikeway connection and you can continue on by bike or walk. We would place signs below the No Outlet Sign that would read "Bike Path Ahead" so you know you can go through. This group would be acting upon getting those signs created and installed. The wording was:

C. Leonard said the motion is to make a request to the Public Works Committee for funding for the signage for the 15 bike signs. K. Wade Second.

Ald. Strzelczyk stated that he had talked to D. Curran and the cost would be about \$2,000.

C. Leonard asked to amend the motion to include an installation date of November. A voice vote was called and the motion passed 5-0 with 2 absent.

7. Bike Racks – C. Leonard

Discussion/Approval: C. Leonard said that there was nothing further at this time

8. Education – K. Wade & J. Krueger

a. Share and Be Aware

Discussion/Approval: K. Wade said she had nothing further at this time.

9. OIT Improvement

a. Accident at Donges Bay & Interurban Trail

Discussion/Approval: C. Leonard stated that this was an item that we had discussed in the spring and was moved off the agenda per O. Frets and it was to be returned to the agenda for the October meeting. There is transformer just south of Donges Bay on the interurban trail. Mirrors have been placed on it to help people navigate the blind curve on the trail at this point. There was a very significant accident by two bicyclists at this point. Do we want to pursue making any changes in this area? J. Liegeois said that no one looks at those mirrors, their really small. You have to kind of go slow there. K. Wade said that trails are going to only grow more and be used. Ald. Strzelczyk said that maybe the corner could be feathered/rounded out. Can we encroach on the property to east? J. Liegeois asked if that was on Libby Montana's Property, their very bike friendly. He wondered if Libby Montana's would be willing to do something and to make it friendlier. J. Keegan stated that he was recently out there and the rail crossing is owned by Wisconsin Central and is in very poor shape. We have no jurisdiction over maintaining their physical crossing and at some point their going to have to get out there and fix it. Railroads don't co-ordinate, they may just come in the middle of the night and do what they need to.

K. Wade made motion to take a look at Donges Bay Rd and the Interurban Trail. C. Leonard seconded. J. Keegan said that he would find some time to look at it.

10. Off Road Bike Path on Donges Bay

Discussion: C. Leonard reminded everyone that this was a resident concern that came up about a year and a half ago maybe longer. Between Lemke Park and Granville Rd. the concern was for wider

shoulders and a bridge, small parking lot for the path and some easement concerns. We weren't sure if we wanted to pursue this. Do we want to put it on the prioritization list for now? K. Wade said that it was a resident request. There are great bike paths all over, but before you get to Lemke Park they end. Then you have to get on the road and cross a bridge that is not very wide. J. Keegan stated that section of road hasn't been paved very long. K. Wade said a resident came from Council Hills area attended an earlier meeting. There is nothing from Wasaukee Rd east to Lemke Park. T. Mooney pointed out that this is all ready on the Priority List as Item 15. C. Leonard stated seeing as this is already on the priority list as Item 15 and if there wasn't any further action we would move on.

11. Park Board & Bike Commission Joint Meeting – C. Leonard
a. Mountain Biking

Discussion: C. Leonard said that she will call Don Curran and talk about mountain biking. Not real sure where we would put it as some parks are somewhat deeded and restricted. Some of the best places you couldn't but it in by the way they are deeded they couldn't have it. The best park is just east of the High School. T. Mooney said that the county has a plan for one at Mee-kwon Park. C. Leonard said this is separate as Mee-kwon Park will not meet the needs of all the mountain bikers.

12. Other Business

- a. Disconnects – J. Treffert (A. LaFond)
b. Wisconsin Bikeway Projects – Toole Design Group/WDNR – J. Keegan

Discussion:

- A. C. Leonard said that this is getting the OIT to connect to a spot just behind the Prime Minister in Thiensville. The easement has been acquired, but it's not moving along. J. Treffert will have more at our next meeting.
B. J. Keegan said that was sent to Mayor Abendroth and asked to have it brought before the Committee. Toole Design Group is working on the Wisconsin Bikeway Projects and they have maps, and routes that they are advocating for various different types of routes two of which go through Mequon. Both are proposed US Bicycle Routes. If you have any input, you can get that to the Mayor so he can get back to them.

C. Leonard made a motion that we should respond back to the Mayor that we are supporting the proposed routes, but that we have some questions about the future signage. K. Wade Seconded. C. Leonard said she would write the letter.

Next meeting: February 5th, 2016.

13. Adjourn

- K. Wade motioned to Adjourn.
T. Mooney seconded.
A voice vote was called and the motion passed 5-0 2 absent

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Dated: October 6th, 2015

/s/ Carol Leonard, Chairperson

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.