City of Aurora

44 East Downer Place
Aurora, Illinois 60505
www.aurora-il.org

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 21, 2019
6:15 PM

2nd Floor Clerk's Conference Room of City Hall

Bicycle, Pedestrian and Transit Advisory Board
CALL TO ORDER

The Bicycle, Pedestrian and Transit Advisory Board Meeting for Thursday, March 21, 2019 was called to order at 6:27 pm.

This was called to Order

ROLL CALL

The following members were present:
• Rene Craig, member
• Josh Harris, member
• Doug Johnson, member
• Charlie Zine, member

The following members were excused:
• Ed Barsotti, Chair
• Antonio Cerda, member
• Mary Jane Cross, member

OTHERS PRESENT

For City Staff representation:
- Bob Greene, City Traffic Engineer, City of Aurora
- Roopa Anjanappa, Project Engineer, City of Aurora
- Alex Minnella, Planner, City of Aurora

In the audience:
- Jeff Palmquist, Sr. Director of Planning, Research and Grants, Fox Valley Park District
- Ryan Peterson, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, Kane County Division of Transportation

AGENDA

Bike Week Updates

Bike Week will be May 13-19, 2019. Josh Harris updated the group on discussions with potential artist for temporary chalk artwork. The group discussed the absence of any budget and brainstormed potential funding sources, such as donations from local restaurants in exchange for a sponsorship listing in marketing materials. Staff maintained that the artwork can probably be created on the sidewalk but not on the facade of buildings. Staff also noted that safety precautions will be taken to barricade working area. Discussion highlighted that Waubonsee Community College still needs to be contacted about the temporary bike lane on River Street, as Bike Week coincides with finals, and that students should be directed to park in lot W. Robert Greene reported that traffic cones and signage exist and can be used. Ryan Peterson encouraged a Bike to Work element in which participants would tally how much biking they do and indicated he would be drafting a Bike Week Guide. The group discussed how the event would be publicized, noting that the City of Aurora will help publish information.
Staff Updates

Alex Minnella reminded the group of protocol regarding communication among members of any publicly appointed group in Illinois, as outlined in the Open Meetings Act training.

Fox River Trail Access
Robert Greene reported that the light sensitivity at West Park and Lake was adjusted.

Bike Share
The group was updated that Zagster bikes will be out April 1st and that the company is adding electric scooters. The group discussed electric bikes and scooters, how the potential availability of these vehicles applies to Aurora, sidewalk laws, size and speed criteria.

- Edgelawn bikeway

Roopa Anjanappa indicated that additional funding was being sought and a response was expected April 11th. She outlined phase two of the process and the bikeway route.

- Montgomery road

Roopa Anjanappa and Robert Greene updated the group that they received official notification for the grant.

2020 Bicycle Friendly Community Building Block

This agenda item was tabled until the April meeting.

Member initiatives

Ryan Peterson reported on development of a county-wide bike share program to reduce cost, put as little burden on municipalities as possible, and simplify things for the bike share company. The group noted that bikes could be available in May of next year and that because the RFP still needs to go out, it is unknown if the vendor will be Zagster or another company. Ryan Peterson indicated that the Council of Mayors will be discussing bikes/scooters/on demand transit/electric skateboard at its next meeting on May 9th. The group discussed infrastructure for these vehicles, where they might be ridden, the importance of “more butts on seats” in terms of overall safety, and the relative speed of these vehicles. Ryan Peterson also announced a partnership with Velocia, which runs a program that offers rewards for using public transit and is set to launch sometime in the next year.

Rene Craig discussed with the group whether specific member projects like the BMX park, access to the River Trail, Safe Routes to School grant, and the Edgelawn Path were public information and appropriate to summarize on the City of Aurora website. The group traded ideas about how to designate a contact on its City of Aurora website. Craig also polled the group for local charities that would fund a helmet program for all
first graders in Aurora, for information on members’ individual experience with schools or administrators, and for names of local bike groups.

Charlie Zine led a discussion about designating a location on the river for a BMX park, noting that the targeted land parcel is already designated as a green spot, which could be very strong support for the park. The group discussed subsurface cleanup, paving, creating something suitable for national championships, and the feasibility of an EPA grant for cleaning up brownfields.

PENDING

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Bicycle, Pedestrian and Transit Advisory Board meeting will be on April 18, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion has been moved by Member Zine and seconded by Member Harris. Motion carries the meeting is adjourned at 7:30 pm.

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