



City of Aurora

Bicycle, Pedestrian and Transit Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

Thursday

May 18, 2023

6:00 PM

The Bicycle, Pedestrian and Transit Advisory Board Meeting for Thursday, May 18, 2023 was called to order at 6:07 pm.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present:

- Doug Johnson, Chair
- Josh Harris, Vice Chair
- Rene Craig, Secretary
- Mary Jane Cross, member
- Margaret Stokes, member

The following members were absent:

- Charlie Zine, member
- One vacant seat

OTHERS PRESENT

- Jeff Palmquist, Fox Valley Park District
- Tom Wieser, Wheatland Township Road District

STAFF PRESENT

- Roopa Anjanappa, Civil Engineer, City of Aurora

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

MOTION 1

Cross motioned and Harris seconded the approval of the April 20, 2023 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously. Consideration of the July 19, 2022 was deferred.

The group discussed housekeeping issues, including how to track ideas not yet ready for action from one meeting to the next.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were made by the public.

AGENDA

Green Fest: Lessons Learned

The board evaluated the effectiveness of our Green Fest presence and agreed that we need talking points to use with leaders who visit the table and a sign to identify our group. Especially noted was Representative Barbara Hernandez' visit to the table and how she is a big advocate for underrepresented people. The group agreed upon relatively simple tasks to make our mission more visible and understandable: an updated website and QR code linking to the same, perhaps with a simple URL (that goes to the city website). It was noted that people generally know that a fantastic trail network exists but that they do not know how to make connections.

Bike Week

The group reviewed details for the Bike Week Ride on Sunday, May 21. Route to begin at Wilder, taking the trail north to Illinois then across the bridge, traveling south on the east side of the river, and back across to end at Wilder. Johnson to affix route arrows on trail and pull markers up immediately after the ride. Harris, Stokes, and Johnson attended the ride. Paper fliers handed out to the group.

Bike Plan Update

Anjanappa summarized the status of the City's bike plan update and provided an overview on how Epstein, the vendor helping revise the plan, will move forward. A public, community-wide survey will be conducted to understand what people want to see and what the missing pieces are. The group was encouraged to attend the City's booth at the June 17 Farmer's Market. Epstein will also be attending the next BPT meeting to provide general information. Then, there will be a series of stakeholder meetings with groups like the park district, county, and this board. Johnson requested ongoing meetings with Epstein. Any comments can be submitted directly to the survey or to Anjanappa. Epstein will then provide a draft plan for city staff to review, then this board, then the public via an open house and comment period. The group discussed favorable impressions of Epstein gathered from the county's recent bike plan update process and noted that under-resourced parts of the community were acknowledged. There is a large span of wealth in Aurora, all parts need to be addressed.

Education Subcommittee Update

The group discussed bicycle and pedestrian safety education needs in the broader community, not just in the schools. What rights to people and bikes have/not have on the road? The group noted that Ride Illinois has these materials and ongoing campaign. Harris updated the group about an informal conversation with an SD 204 administrator regarding bicycle safety education in those schools.

County Updates

Wieser (Will County) updated the group on funding approval for a proposed bike/ped path at Wolf's Crossing and estimated implementation at 5 years. The group advocated for a wide, multi-use path. Discussion touched on phases of ITEP funding cycles as well as various other crossings and intersections that need attention. The board and city engineering advised Wieser on sectioning so that the path fits with other paths in the area and discouraged gravel because of difficult maintenance.

Park District Updates

Palmquist updated the group that the Park District's master plan is now online and encouraged everyone to take a look at it. The plan includes a bridge over the Fox River, restrooms, a bike/ped bridge over Route 30 by the Stuart Sports Complex. The board was encouraged to submit comments to the master plan; comments do not have to be strictly bike-related. Palmquist also indicated support for connectivity education, whatever that means. The group discussed ways to educate the public about connectivity, including trail ambassadors and regular rides.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 2

Stokes motioned and Cross seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:30 pm. The motion passed unanimously.