

## **Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Council Agenda**

Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2021

Call to Order/Establish Quorum. Tom Clark called to order at 4:41. Tom is acting as interim Chair. Loren will serve as interim Secretary.

Roll Call. Peter Blythe Kiefer, Mike Klemens, Tom Clark; Taylor Sutton, Cynthia Thompson. Visitors: TJ Heavisides

Public Comment. None

Approval of Agenda, Agenda Approved

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes. The March minutes were approved.

Bicycle park (BMX track, cross-country trails, rodeo skills course). Loren Easter led discussion of a recent Illinois Times article on Reimagining Downtown that included strategic concepts for bike infrastructure. He noted that Council should be a stakeholder in this effort, which has implications for Silver Level BFC.

Bicycle facility enhancements (bike racks, parking corral, lanes, signage). Traffic Engineer TJ Heavisides reported no significant road project updates beyond those he previously presented. He briefly reflected on possible ways to improve bike wayfinding routes to UIS. TJ discussed how existing city infrastructure such as building frontage impacts space availability for pedestrians and creates challenges for bicyclists/scooters/etc. He noted that the Regional Planning Commission was updating the Envisioned Bicycle and Pedestrian Network plans, and advised that IDOT will be upgrading Stevenson accommodations, subject to underpass/overpass limitations. Tom Clark asked about the implications of micromobility for TJ's planning considerations. Taylor Sutton brought 'last mile' connections into the discussion. Cynthia Thomas added that a connection to UIS via Stevenson should be considered. She and Peter Kieffer also noted a possible 11<sup>th</sup> St. connection. Tom noted that a new eastern Bike Route 66 route via UIS, East and West Lake Shore, and Old Rt. 66 should be considered.

Bicycle tourism (apps, routes, signage). Tom advised that maps were available at bike shops and is being distributed at public outreach events. Visit Springfield is not giving out paper maps due to Covid considerations. A sign with a QR code for downloading the map is being placed at locations where maps are distributed.

Adult education (speaker's bureau, presentation materials). Mike Klemens reported on public outreach efforts. Taylor, Ted, and Cynthia will staff a table at the April 17 Earth Awareness Fair to help get word out about the Council, the map, and upcoming bike counts. This is a joint effort with Springfield Bicycle Club. Peter Kieffer noted that his church will also have a table with a couple of bikes that will complement Council efforts.

Mike has started issuing a monthly newsletter about SBAC and related cycling happenings, which will be distributed via the City and local news outlets. Tom noted that social media might be added. The Curb Your Car Commute Challenge will be held May 12-18 by the Regional Planning Commission after a one year hiatus.

Youth bike/walk safety education (school curriculum and educator). Mike noted that the recent push to bring bicycle education into the schools had slowed due to COVID challenges within District 186. It was determined that providing safety information for families would be a better focus than a 'bike to school' effort in spring 2021. He will work with Ridgely Elementary on this. Tom noted that Ride Illinois school/youth education handouts were available. Tom will get maps to Cynthia and Taylor for Earth Fair and possibly other handouts. Taylor has additional handouts for Earth Fair. TJ confirmed that paper were handouts OK.

Springfield Bicycle Club involvement (BFC activities, meetings, workshops, open houses). See above.

Bike Share (progress update). No report.

#### Other Committee Reports

Bicycle Counts. Taylor Sutton reported about preparations underway for making bike counts. She reflected on the results of a survey of SBAC members about the count and work in identifying times and locations for counts. To date, 31 sites have been identified. She is developing online sign up/registration forms and training materials, and ways to encourage people to get signed up to participate. The first training will be held soon. It will also be recorded for later viewing. Information will be shared via several social media outlets and clubs and organizations, such as the bike club, Downtown Springfield, local bike shops, and the Road Runners Club. SBAC members are strongly encouraged to participate. Cynthia will do outreach to the UIS office that offers volunteer service hours to students. Tom suggested also approaching Honor Society and other clubs at local high schools. Loren will develop a social media to post to additional cycling venues. He also volunteered to forward bike count information and training/sign up links through area cycling social media outlets. Mike Klemens gave major kudos, echoed by all, for the committee's great work on bike counts.

#### Old Business

Bill Donels Memorial (Ted Sunder). Peter Kieffer continues to communicate with the Donels family about an Aug./Sept. ceremony to commemorate the installation of the bench memorial.

Bike Counts (Taylor Sutton). See report above.

BFC renewal (Tom Clark). Tom suggests that we defend Bronze and work toward Silver. He recounted a list of Silver recommendations from LAB – bike share, bike education in schools, etc. – which we have not yet achieved, in part due to COVID. A committee will be formed to facilitate BFC Bronze renewal submission for February 2022. We must submit for renewal to maintain Bronze and not slip into 'Honorable Mention'.

New Business Item. No new business.

#### Confirm Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 10 at 4:30 PM by Zoom, unless members agree to an in-person meeting.