

Springfield Bicycle Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2021

Call to Order/Establish Quorum. Tom Clark called to order at 4:40 p.m. Tom is acting as interim Chair. Loren Easter is interim Secretary.

Roll Call. Ted Sunder, Michael Higgins, Ben Long, Loren Easter, Mike Klemens, Tom Clark, Taylor Sutton, Cynthia Thompson. Guests: T. J. Heavisides.

Public Comment. None

Approval of Agenda, Agenda Approved.

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

Bicycle Park (BMX track, cross-country trail, rodeo skills course). Loren Easter has initiated an effort to submit a proposal for an International Mountain Bicycling Association - Trail Accelerator Grant. This would result in a planning document outlining the potential for natural surface trail system and associated costs for follow-up decision making. Loren facilitated a site visit by **[City and County?]** officials to Lewis Park and Trails to explore options for connecting the Sangamon Valley Trail to Koke Mill Road as part of Koke Mill upgrades/improvements between Old Jacksonville Road and Washington Avenue.

Bicycle Facility Enhancements (bike racks, parking corral, lanes, signage). Tom advised that HB270 had been passed and signed by the Governor. This newly enacted state code will eliminate the 20% local cost share for walking and biking infrastructure improvements. Michael shared that a Downtown Springfield committee would like to see the 3rd street corridor, whose future use is undecided, converted to a bike-ped path as soon as the track is abandoned.

Bicycle Tourism (apps, routes, signage). Tom advised that an image file download is desired for the bike map, in addition to the PDF download posted by Ride Illinois, as this would make the map easier to view on a cell phone.

Adult Education (speaker's bureau, presentation materials). SBAC members participated in the Earth Day Fair at Henson Robinson Zoo, where many families were in attendance. SBAC members in attendance discussed the event, noting that SBAC and SBC, which in the past have shared a table, were split up. Co-location would better compliment and support each organization and will be requested for future events. Interactive and educational activities were suggested that would encourage participants to spend more time at our tables.

Youth Bike/Walk Safety Education (school curriculum and educator). Mike Klemens advised that Youth Education had restarted on a limited basis, with 55 ride Illinois safety material packets sent home with students at Ridgely Elementary. Efforts will be made with the District to start in-school activities at Ridgely this fall and next spring. Taylor brought up the need for a bike fleet for youth education; Tom recounted prior discussions about obtaining a small bike fleet and trailer. Michael shared news of the long overdue reconstruction at Franklin Middle School of a paved path often used by bicyclists between Iles and Outer Park.

Springfield Bicycle Club Involvement (BFC activities, meetings, workshops, open houses). Ted Sunder reported that additional interest and support for Springfield bicycling initiatives had resulted from SBC's Sangamon Cycling Series, which has had many sign-ups to date. SBAC will seek to increase collaboration by working with SBC's Board on marketing initiatives, volunteer recruiting, and dissemination of information about new volunteer efforts (bike counts, etc.).

Bike Share (progress update). No report.

Other Committee Reports. No report.

Old Business

Bill Donels memorial (Ted Sunder) – The County has received and assembled the bench and the bike rack has been ordered. An installation site on Sangamon Valley Trail is being finalized where a Bill Donels remembrance event and dedication will be held on August 28.

Bike Counts (Taylor Sutton) – The bike count went well, with 80% coverage of proposed sites and great excitement among volunteers. A variety of trail/route users were counted. The highest count occurred at Stuart Park trailhead of SVT with 100+ counted on a Sunday. Taylor will share a Google map link of sites and will share the overall results with Public Works and other entities.

BFC renewal (Tom Clark) – Tom made a motion to form a committee for submission of a renewal of the City's Bronze Level BFC Award designation by LAB in February 2022 to ensure we retain this Award. The motion was seconded and passed. A gap analysis would be conducted by this committee to inform a future application for a Silver Level designation.

Transportation Center (Mike Klemens) – Mike will contact the POC at Hanson Engineering about the need for secured bike storage in the planned construction of site, which currently is missing from the plans despite support from SMTD, SBAC and others.

New Business Item. No new business.

Confirm Next Meeting Date and Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at [time?]. The next meeting will be held on July 12, 2021 at Municipal Center West.