

Springfield Bicycle Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes - August 9, 2021

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 4:47 PM

Roll Call

Members Present: Tom Clark, Mike Klemens, Loren Easter, Michael Higgins, Peter Blythe Kiefer

Public Comment. None

Approval of Agenda. Approved

Approval of Meeting Minutes. Approved

Bicycle Park (BMX track, cross-country trail, rodeo skills course). Loren is meeting with Maxwell Jedlicka, a Boy Scout who attended the July SBAC meeting, to discuss trail advocacy planning and possible youth education. An Eagle Scout project for improvements at Lewis Park has been approved. A Girl Scout bridge project at Lick Creek trail system will be facilitated.

Bike Facility Enhancements. TJ sent an email summarizing SVT to Koke Mill connection planning, the Hedley Road public meeting, and Walnut Street road diet planning. The Council discussed ideas and intent to have better visibility on cycling/pedestrian related issues (within public works).

Bike Tourism. No report from Tom. Tom will ask IDNR for more information about the marketing campaign to walk, ride, hike in the Springfield area.

Adult Education. Tom recommended and Mike committed to support development of a media release regarding Bike Counts. Jim Leach interviewed Mike regarding bike counts on WMAY. Mike sent count results to the City Office of Communications and is awaiting any response for additional action. Springfield Bicycle Club also posted the count results as a resource. Mike reiterated the need to establish subject matter experts within the Council to disseminate information on respective bicycling initiatives – such as Loren for bike park or natural surface trail initiatives. Mike will send an email to the Council about this.

Bicycle Youth Education. Mike, Taylor, and Cynthia met to formulate an email to Jeremy Goss at Ridgely. Jeremy replied by email that he has taken position as an administrative intern at Franklin School. The council is therefore seeking a new primary contact at Ridgely. Jason Wind is still District 186 contact as Director of School Support. Mike discussed will continue to promote a bike and walk to school day at Ridgely. Tom noted that Cynthia Hoyle has offered youth instructor training for PE/health instructors in the past. Discussion on Taylor's idea of a 'bike/safety/traffic town' like the ones in Normal and Peoria, for unsupervised utilization, possibly in conjunction with 3rd St Corridor development.

Bike Club Involvement. No report as Ted was not present. Mike noted that Ann Baker, SBC Marketing Director, had published Bike Count data on the SBC website. The Council discussed what other information might disseminated through SBC.

Old Business

Bill Donels Memorial: Peter reiterated event times on August 28 for the Remembrance event at the church and dedication of bench and bike rack on the Sangamon Valley Trail.

Committee Reports

Bicycle Friendly Community – Application to Retain Bronze Level BFC status. The Committee will meet for initial planning on August 23 at Corner Pub and Grill. Will also discuss inclusion of gap analysis. Priority of effort is Bronze renewal. Gap analysis will help to identify priority opportunities toward Silver.

Bike Counts. No report from Taylor on bike counts. Mike sent press release on bike counts and conducted interview. The Council discussed Public Works and Regional Planning Commission involvement in the BFC submission, perhaps via bike counts, for which it might facilitate conduct of recurring counts. The RPC Bike/Ped plan already conducts sidewalk analyses as part of its long range transportation planning. Tom advised that RPC Executive Director Molly Berns had expressed interest in meeting about bike-ped planning.

New Business

Interurban Trail routing associated with Legacy Point development:

Tom and Taylor attended the August 5 RPC Land Subdivision Committee where the Legacy Point sports complex impact on the Interurban Trail would be among the issues discussed. Traffic Engineer TJ Heavisides, a member of this RPC Committee, made comments highly supportive of not relocating a segment of the trail and suggested an alternative. He also asked that the bicycle and pedestrian friendliness of the overall development be ensured. TJ's comments noted concerns shared by the SBAC and other parties about potential trail relocation. The engineering firm's representative advised during the meeting that they were withdrawing their site plan and would be rewriting it with an alternative that would not require Interurban Trail relocation.

Bicycle storage at Transportation Center. The Hanson Engineering POC will be directly asked to ensure bicycle storage is adequately included in development plans.

Confirm Next Meeting Date and Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, September 13, 2021 at Municipal Center West – 7th and Monroe, City Council Conference Room – Third Floor.