

Springfield Bicycle Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes – October 11, 2021

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 4:40pm.

Roll Call

Members Present: Tom Clark, Mike Klemens, Loren Easter, Taylor Sutton, Ben Long, Michael Higgins

Public Comment. None

Approval of Agenda. Approved

Approval of Meeting Minutes. Approved

Bicycle Park (BMX track, cross-country trail, rodeo skills course).

Loren reported that he will be attending the October 26 Springfield Park District (SPD) public meeting for input towards development of a pump track at Comer Cox Park. The track is being funded through a generous donation which specified a pump track as well as programming. SPD will also hold a cyclocross race on October 23 at Centennial Park. Both SPD events/activities are great steppingstones toward diversifying bicycling activities around Springfield. Lastly, Loren reported on ongoing Eagle Scout projects at Lewis Park and Trails. A new bridge was recently completed. Work crew members were also part of the BMX community. There is also an Eagle Scout signage project in development.

Bike Facility Enhancements.

Ben led discussion about ongoing collaboration with TJ at Public Works and the status of wayfinding signage and road projects. He reiterated prior discussions on a road diet for N. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive and noted that the Walnut Street Road diet project is progressing. He will have input with TJ on the next routes to sign. Michael noted that he has talked to TJ about lanes and routes, including a bike lane addition to Holmes Ave. and the old trolley line.

Bike Tourism.

Tom made note of IDNR's Walk Bike Hike History Tours with Troy Gilmore. There was discussion of the potential to do something similar with the Park Service at Lincoln Home. Michael Higgins noted a need to promote multiday tourism by recommending itineraries that included bicycling and other types of recreation, and visits to local tourist sites as well as restaurants, hotels, and other businesses. Taylor shared an opportunity to participate in the monthly Bikes and Brews bicycling event on Third Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m., with riders meeting at the Lincoln statue in front of the Capital.

Bike Walk/Safety Education.

Youth Education: Mike has reached out to Jason Wind, Director of School Support with District 186 but has not received response. Another potential contact is PTO leadership. Mike will gather contact information for the current PTO leader, 3rd grade teacher Kathy Flanagan at Ridgely, and Jackie Peters a retired teacher at Ridgely who previously ran the PTO. Owen Marsh Elementary was suggested by Taylor as another possible school site. She discussed the idea of conducting surveys within District 186 schools during winter months: who is walking and biking, barriers to 'travel' to school, volunteerism to encourage walking and biking to school, infrastructure supporting biking at school, etc. Loren will work to determine youth programming associated with improvements at Comer Cox.

Adult Education: The Council discussed the continued effort between the City and Council to incorporate bicycle rules of the road/safety into public information efforts via the public library and other city departments and City websites.

Springfield Bicycle Club involvement in bicycle friendly community activities: The Capital City Century was held on September 11 and was highly successful.

Committee Reports.

Bike Counts: September bike counts were completed. Some new sites were included in the survey. Initial review saw an overall increase in numbers since May. Reports from surveyors indicated that many riders were observed off network. Looking at things like Strava Heatmaps and reconsidering the UIS count location were discussed. The Committee & Council will continue to look at ways to integrate bike counts into regional planning

Old Business.

Secure bicycle storage at transportation center: Mike sent specific email to Hanson developer representatives Jimmy Austin and Sara Wojcicki. There is a need to send them with specific examples, such as multimodal facilities with bike racks in parking garages with security cameras.

Interurban Trail routing associated with Legacy Point development: A representative of the Regional Planning Commission's Subdivision Committee intends to attend the next SBAC(?) meeting. TJ in Public Works is on the Committee and has been providing updates.

New Business. None

Announcements. None

Confirm Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m. The next meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, November 8th at Municipal Center West – 7th and Monroe, City Council Conference Room – Third Floor.