

Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2021

Call to Order/Establish Quorum. Loren Easter called the meeting to order at 4:40. Tom Clark is out of town, so Loren is filling in as Chair for this meeting; continues to serve as interim Secretary.

Roll Call. Members Present: Ted Sunder, Ben Long, Peter Blythe Kiefer, Loren Easter, Taylor Sutton, Cynthia Thompson, Michael Higgins. Visitors: TJ Heavisides.

Public Comment. None.

Approval of Agenda. The Agenda was approved.

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes. The October Minutes were approved.

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

Loren attended Springfield Park District's Oct. 26 Pump track meeting. Attendance was low among the road cycling community but off-road user groups – Mountain, BMX, Springfield Bicycle Club MB & gravel riders – had representatives present. Residents adjacent to Comer Cox Park were present to voice concern about (pump track) facility development and how it would be managed to reduce undesirable activities. Parking, access, and security would be initial issues to deal with during development. Loren also attended Springfield Park District's PARCX 2021 cyclocross event on October 23 at Centennial Park, the first ever for SPD. He reported that it was well laid out and conducted, but lightly attended.

Bicycle facility enhancements (bike racks, parking corral, lanes, signage)

Traffic Engineer TJ Heavisides was present and able to elaborate on the MLK Drive and Walnut Street road diets. Changes to MLK will be made to facilitate access to Comer Cox Park. There was discussion about ways that SBAC could continue to discuss and advise on opportunities to help the City and other entities that provide bike enhancements to effectively promote those facilities for greater utilization and draw – regionally and locally.

Bicycle tourism (apps, routes, signage)

Michael transitioned discussion from creation of bicycle routes to provision of tourism and community information towards greater utilization of system assets – agendas for multiday activities/tourism visits as well as informing current, new, and potential area residents. Taylor continued by sharing a Portland Oregon example of how materials were sent to new residents upon completion of a request/survey on types of information the new resident wished to receive. The sense of the group was that messaging for Springfield needs to catch up to available recreation opportunities. Loren asked about completion of the proposed 3rd Street corridor project. TJ estimated potential completion by around 2026. Ted mentioned that 2026 would align with Route 66 Bicentennial (November 11, 2026) and might facilitate integration into the Route 66 Bicycle Route.

Adult education

Ted, maintaining a large stockpile of new Bicycle Maps, asked how to get the abundance of new bicycle maps into the hands of the community.

Youth bike/walk safety education

Discussion occurred regarding how to create better access to bicycle safety/education curriculum through available resources via library or other online (city/public works) outlets. Ted has been contacted by Girl Scout Troops for badge projects. What 'Badges' could be leveraged to facilitate bicycle educations/projects? How do we connect with the BSA/GSA audience to support their badge efforts and scouting projects? Are there other youth groups that have motivation to integrate bicycling knowledge and safety into activities? The group briefly discussed potential to approach private/charter schools as possibly an easier option regarding youth education (curriculum) than public schools.

Springfield Bicycle Club involvement in bicycle friendly community activities

Ted will make a request to conduct a bicycle survey to members who are parents with children in local schools – the survey would ask for insights on limitations and/or how to get greater integration of riding/walking to school as effective means of transportation as well as education curriculum.

Committee Reports

- BFC (Bronze) Renewal Committee: On hold due to submission date being moved to later in 2022.
- Bike Count Committee: No report.

Old Business

- Secure bicycle storage at transportation center: Taylor met with Sara Jimenez and 2 Hanson Engineering representatives. Hanson admittedly did not have (a good) understanding of the need and was very interested in input. Discussion focused on ensuring the basics were met for bicycle parking/storage, including secured and covered bicycle parking/storage. Two spots were identified but it was not clear whether one or both would be used. There was additional discussion regarding programming and promotion to encourage more cycling and relieve parking and traffic congestion. One question asked was whether Amtrak has bicycle transportation statistics to help validate need.
- Legacy Pointe Sports Complex: The Interurban Trail segment will be preserved through redesign.

New Business

None

Announcements

None

Confirm Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

The next meeting will be held on December 13, 2021, in-person at 4:30 p.m. at Municipal Center West, in the City Council Conference Room on the Third Floor. The meeting adjourned at 6:09.