

# **Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Council**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **January 10, 2022**

Call to Order/Establish Quorum. Chair Tom Clark called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m.

Roll Call. Members Present: Tom Clark, Ben Long, Loren Easter, Taylor Sutton, Cynthia Thompson, Mike Klemens, Michael Higgins. Visitor: TJ Heavisides.

Public Comment. None.

Approval of Agenda. The Agenda was approved.

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes. December meeting minutes were not produced due to the lack of a quorum to conduct the meeting.

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

Mike, Loren, and Taylor are coordinating for a meeting with the Springfield Park District Board President and full-time staff. They look forward to discussion on programming, bicycle education, and cycling in general, but also specific opportunities with the Comer Cox Park pump track, which is in development.

Loren shared discussion among the off-road bicycling community about a possible offroad/natural surface trail initiative along the eastern boundary of UIS. The Mayor has approved use of this area for additional cross country running trail development. Lewis Park and Trails will host another Eagle Scout Project that will focus on trailhead signage to compliment improved wayfinding signage. The park is also improving signage at the parking lots. This will improve the overall bicycle friendliness of the park and should set a great example for inclusion of bicycles on area natural surface trails as well as future development in other areas of the city.

#### Bicycle Facility Enhancements (bike racks, parking corral, lanes, signage)

Traffic Engineer TJ provided updates on MLK, MacArthur, Hedley/White Oaks, Walnut, Koke Mill improvements to improve bicycle trafficability/ability to travel on the road. The Board reviewed Ben Long's draft lane marking/signage plan that was recently submitted to Public Works. The Council discussed development of the citywide bicycling network to support more cycling in general, not just destinations such as downtown. The Board revisited southerly travel beyond the end of 9<sup>th</sup> street into Iles Park. The Council supports a potential pass-through path. It was noted that the Park District has concerns about after-hours use/passthrough, although driving through this portion of the park after hours appears to be allowed. Consideration of additional safety measures to make such a path safe for all park users was suggested.

#### Bicycle Tourism (apps, routes, signage)

Discussion focused on considering how, in addition to bike network connectivity, future planning for citywide wayfinding signage should reflect tourism in its focus/purpose, so that more purposeful tourism routes can be identified, designed, and implemented.

#### Youth Bike/walk Safety Education

Mike Clemens approached a PTO contact at Owen-Marsh who expressed interest in initial commitment to a spring event, pending COVID issues. There was additional discussion on ways to reduce parent drop-off congestion by encouraging bicycling. As LAB's BFC program sees programs in schools as more impactful than after school programs, we need to continue to seek in-school education opportunities.

Adult Education. No report.

Springfield Bicycle Club Involvement in bicycle friendly community activities. No report.

#### Committee Reports

##### **BFC (Bronze) Renewal Committee:**

The Springfield Park District is aware of our BFC Renewal efforts and looking forward to further collaboration. The renewal application will be submitted in the fall. The deadline will be announced when the application portal re-opens sometime this spring. We have signed up to be notified when it opens. Data will be collected through early fall on increased bike-ped accommodations (wayfinding signage, road projects, etc.

Other BFC Renewal Application areas for consideration include:

- Review in consultation with Public Works of the City's updated BikeShare RFP in relation to our BFC shortfalls and opportunities.
- Further discussion of methods for communication on bicycling issues within the community, impacts to date of being a BFC, and evolution to a Silver BFC.
- The need for a citywide bicycle coordinator position to provide dedicated support, as recommended in the BFC assessment, was reiterated.

**Bike Count Committee.** No report.

#### Old Business

**Secure bicycle storage at transportation center.** No report.

**Legacy Pointe Sports Complex:** - Latest submitted design has reduced interference with existing trail, but still affects a small portion; incorporates bike-ped planning.

#### New Business

The Council is still looking forward to meeting with representative of Springfield Sangamon Valley Regional Planning Commission, to discuss updating the 2012 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, and the city bike plan within county-wide planning.

Announcements. None.

#### Confirm Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m. The next meeting will be held on February 14, 2022, in-person at 4:30 p.m. at Municipal Center West, in the City Council Conference Room on the Third Floor.