

Call to Order/Establish Quorum. Chair Loren Easter called meeting to order at 4:36pm.

Roll Call. Members Present: Cynthia Thompson, Mike Klemens, Loren Easter, Taylor Sutton, Ben Long; Ted Sunder; Michael Higgins; Guests: TJ Heavisides (City Engineer)

Public Comment. None

Approval of Agenda. Approved.

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes. Approved.

Discussion Items – Council Projects and Priorities:

Bicycle Park (BMX track, cross-country trail, rodeo skills course). None.

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

TJ stated that he didn't have any new news. Big push to put signage on the trails Multijurisdictional Trails Committee just met. The purpose of this committee is to communicate what everyone is doing and to follow the same model. State legislature has put forward a new bill with new regulations that there needs to be signage at all road crossings.

TJ stated that he had received Mike's email about tour busses parking on 2nd Street and blocking bike paths. He checked with Secretary of State Office, but he didn't think they were aware of it. He stated that is a problem because of Monroe being down. His office has been directing busses to park in the visitors center parking lot.

Mike reported on the meeting that he and Cynthia had had with the committee. He stated that the downside was that the work would fall on Adena (programming) and TJ. (facility enhancements)

He said that Nate would be open to agreements with various city entities to get this done.

Mike stated that Adena is trying to get the various bike groups together at the Earth Fair event.

The Regional Planning Commission was there and we suggested that they modify their plans for the Curb Your Car event. Mike offered to help in the planning but has not been contacted yet.

We discussed what would be marks of success – increased miles of trails, more

Loren asked if there might be some possibility of creating a collaborative structure whereby UIS and the Innovation Hub could help with this process by helping to develop a grant or provide other resources.

Taylor asked if this was something that the city wants or were just listening to us to be nice? Mike and Cynthia stated that yes, they were interested in helping.

Taylor stated that the city could possibly help by encouraging and supporting all forms of arrival to city meetings. For example, they could include information about bike racks (and directions to bike racks), bus directions, etc, to all meeting attendees to encourage all forms of transportation.

TJ stated that they have received two RFPs for Bike Share.

One of the applications was for scooters.

TJ stated that scooters might work in Champaign, but it wouldn't work here.

There won't be an Open Streets event this year. DSI is instead proposing a different kind of event possibly on June 17th at the YBlock between Capitol and 9th Street. The event would be a protected bike lane demo.

Taylor asked where bike racks could be rented for use at the DSI event.

Ted stated that the Springfield Bicycle Club owns bike racks and offered to contact them about having them available as a resource for future events.

Taylor stated that she always wanted to see bike racks with a bike valet at the Illinois State Fair.

Cynthia stated that she loved the idea and that having such a program would really promote bicycle ridership in Springfield.

Bicycle Tourism (apps, routes, signage).

Loren stated that he had recently attended a Springfield Park District meeting and that they had published their strategic plan. He stated that the plan was a corporate document but not strong on concrete activities and he felt that it didn't represent the greatest concerns raised by the biking community. He stated that he planned to meet Alderman Gregory about park development on the east side at Bergan Golf Course and turning it into a bike park. (check with Loren about details).

Ted stated that we still have a lot of bike maps in case anyone had any ideas for distributing them.

Loren suggested that Ted bring a supply of them to next meeting for the members to distribute. Taylor suggested that we could bake easy holders out of cardboard and distribute them to locations within the community.

Mike reiterated that TJ may get overworked with trying to help us with everything until we are able to secure a bike coordinator. He suggested that we provided a final copy of what we would like on the website to TJ

Youth Bike/walk Safety Education.

Mike stated that Owen Marsh will be doing a Bike Walk event on Thursday, May 4th. It will include a table of temporary tattoos, a relay race and other games for kids before school.

Taylor stated that there wasn't really an event there; it was basically about just encouraging students to bike or walk to school that day.

Mike, Cynthia, Loren & Taylor offered to help with the event.

Michael stated that Franklin, Butler, Black Hawk and Blessed Sacrament schools would be interested in Safe Routes to schools.

Taylor recommended that elementary schools would be more likely to be interested in such a program, as middle school students are often too cool for such a program. She also stated that Black Hawk has a strong PTO.

Michael stated that he would check with all schools.

Adult Education

Earth Awareness Fair will take place on April 22nd.

Taylor stated that she didn't quite know why she was there.

The committee discussed what they could do to really portray the benefits of biking to the Springfield community.

Ted stated that he had had a big board map that could be used to show people who stopped at the table what routes they could take.

Springfield Bicycle Club Involvement in bicycle friendly community activities.

Committee Reports

BFC Award – Loren asked if the committee wanted to focus on submitting for the Silver Award.

Bike Count Committee. Taylor asked if it would be valuable to hold a bike count again this spring.

The committee discussed the pros and cons.

Taylor provided a tentative commitment to try and implement bike counts again this spring.

Old Business

New Business.

Confirm Next Meeting Date and Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 6pm. The next meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, April 10 at Municipal Center West – 7th and Monroe, City Council Conference Room – Third Floor.