Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2026
Springfield, IL

I. Order/Establish Quorum (Quorum: 4/7; two vacancies currently on the committee – Ben Long, Peter Blythe Kieffer)
Meeting called to order by Loren Easter at 4:45pm.

II. Roll Call. Members present: Cynthia Thompson; Ted Sunder, Loren Easter, Taylor Sutton, Mike Klemens, Nancy Thompson; Guests: TJ Heavisides, Chris Scheufele.

III. Public Comment
Chris stated that he brought Joel and his group (Friends of the Interurban Trail) under the Springfield Bicycle Club in December. Joel has been adding flowers and landscaping to improve the Interurban Trail. Joel has also been trying to add a cement pad and picnic table that he would pay for, but he is running into some snags. The SBC has been helping to support that project. TJ asked Chris to keep him in the loop and that he would help wherever possible.

Chris asked about the Pump Track and what the status was on that.

Loren stated that the Park District was responsible for supervision of it. TJ recommended contacting Jason Green from the Park District for more information about it.

IV. Approval of Agenda.
Approved.

V. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes.
Approved.

VI. Discussion Items – Council Projects and Priorities:

- Bicycle Park (BMX track, cross-country trail, rodeo skills course).
  Loren asked TJ if he know anything about the mountain bike/hiking trails around Piper Glen area and some logs that have been placed across a creek. Loren asked TJ if he hears anything about them, to let him know and he would intercede to help get them removed.

- Bicycle Facility Enhancements (bike racks, parking corral, lanes, signage).
  Mike asked TJ if Westchester Road was going to be an entry point to Scheel's Park.

TJ stated that that decision would be the responsibility of the developers, so he didn't have any information.

Mike asked if there was going to be a bike path from the trail to the Scheel's dome.

Mike shared a document that was developed by the Chicago Department of Transportation. The document defined and described advisory bike lanes and contraflow bike lanes as they are done in Chicago. It also included information about the Grace Street Neighborhood Greenway. Mike presented this idea and encouraged the committee to consider whether this model could be followed in Springfield.

Mike also recommended that we add an agenda item entitled "Connectivity" and that we allocate 10 minutes of every meeting toward discussing it.

- Bicycle Tourism (apps, routes, signage)
  No report

- Bike/Walk Safety Education.
  Mike stated that Earth Fair is scheduled for April 25th at Union Station. He stated that a couple of years ago we had a bike valet there. However, last year we only had a table. He asked the committee if they wanted to participate in it again.

  Mike stated that a survey was done last year and the top areas were:
  - Connected routes
  - More bike lanes on city streets
  - Add to existing trails for biking and walking.

  Taylor suggested that we focus on asking about interest in bike boulevards, multimodal areas (for walking/biking/running, etc.). She added:
  "Here are the elements of a Greenway. Which of them do you like best?"

  Nancy suggested using the term bikeways.

  Ted asked if the Springfield Bicycle Club would be willing to staff a table along with the SBAC.

Cynthia suggested that the committee offer tangible information and benefits of biking to help get people excited about biking.

Nancy suggested that we have a community bike ride scheduled so that participants could sign up for at the Earth Fair.

Loren suggested having a display of how far we've come in biking improvements in Springfield.

- Adult Education
  No report

- Springfield Bicycle Club Involvement
  There is a grant available through the city for promoting Route 66 and the Bicycle Club is discussing the possibility of applying for it.

Committee Reports
None

Old Business
None

New Business
None

Confirm Next Meeting Date and Adjournment.
Motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:57pm. The next meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, February 8 at Municipal Center West – 7th and Monroe, Public Works Conference Room – Second Floor.