

Pedestrian Bicycle Advisory Committee
Minutes from May 14, 2013
Lincoln Parks and Recreation – 2740 “A” Street

Members Present: Gary Bentrup, Parks Coble, Julie Diegel, Rick Dockhorn, Barb Fraser, Marynelle Green, Elaine Hammer, Delrae Hirschman, Dalcyce Ronnau, Bill Spielman, Beth Thacker, Bill Wehrbein, Michael Wylie.

Staff Present: Terry Genrich, Mike Heyl, David Pesnichak.

Others Present:

This meeting was called to order at 7:03 a.m. followed by recognition of the Open Meeting Act.

Approval of March 12, 2013 minutes: There were two corrections to the minutes. Minutes as amended were approved unanimously.

Staff Reports:

Bison Bridge – The trail is expected to be open in the next couple of days. All that is left is the seeding and then we can close the project out. The bridge will be dedicated on Sunday, June 30, 2:00 PM.

Pioneers Park Trails are undergoing final review with the city waiting to receive the notice to proceed to bid. We are looking at completing this project in the fall.

Jamaica North Trail. We have received approval to proceed to acquisition of ROW and now have to deal with the railroad to complete.

Cavett Connector – We received notice to proceed to the 90% design phase.

Wilderness Park North Bridge – The agreement between the City and Game and Parks Commission was approved at yesterday’s Council meeting. This will allow the project to proceed to the design phase.

There was discussion on the need for Keep Right signs at various locations, wayfinding signs, sections of cracked concrete, and striping the outside part of the trail under 27th and Capital Pkwy. and the possibility of a skylight, more lights in the underpass, and questions about the railroad crossing at 56th and Old Cheney.

David Pesnichak reminded members of the future NDOR meeting on the South Beltway. June 25th is the scheduled date.

Planning and Public Works are working on Complete Streets that was identified in the LPlan 2040. There seems to be some momentum going with advancing that program.

Old Business

There was a meeting regarding the cycletrack and being able to also ride in the street. The Law Dept. stated according to state statute, you can leave the cycletrack to go in to the road to turn or use the alley across the street, but if you go down the street for several blocks, you are breaking the law. It states that if there is a useable sidepath/trail/cycletrack, you are legally not supposed to be in the street. The exception is along Hwy. 77 adjacent to Jamaica North. Since there is a shoulder, you can use that.

There are several state statutes that need to be updated. Omaha is facing similar situations and there is a possibility to coordinate efforts to make some changes. There is a procedure that needs to be followed including involving the Mayor.

There was a question about the signal at 33rd and Mopac. Public Works is addressing that.

“N” Street is moving forward. The contractor was in town and met with Public Works, Planning, Parks and Urban Development to coordinate how Lincoln does various things with signage, signaling, and how green we want the corridor to be. There has also been a meeting to discuss maintenance with the various departments. The contractor is expected to be back in June. There will be more public meetings and we will send out a notice once those have been set.

Planning has been doing some baseline counts along “N” Street so we have something to compare the use to. Billy Wolff and 14th and “N” were the busiest. Generally the counts going down “N” Street were fairly low and a fair amount of traffic on 21st Street. David has that data and can contact him with that information.

Parks, Public Works, Planning and the Law Dept. and Barb had a meeting to discuss electric bicycles on trails. Rick did show up at the meeting but was on eastern time. It was determined that until state law changes regulating electric bicycles, it is not going to be possible to allow them. The state identifies electric bicycles as mopeds and they need to be licensed. It is illegal to ride the electric bicycle on sidewalks according to state law.

There was discussion regarding putting together the different pieces of legislation that need to be updated. Need to be looking at that this summer. A list of the issues is being compiled so it can be discussed at the next meeting. We need to have a legislative study on this. PBAC is willing to help on advancing this cause.

Mike H. gave an update on the bike education program. There have been several bike rodeos with more scheduled for this fall. He recently finished up a Bike Ed. Program at Eastridge Elementary and has been getting requests for more programs this summer. Videos continue to run. There was discussion about Sheridan as well as education available to the public on how to ride a bicycle safely.

Sheridan Bike to School was a huge success

Bicycle Challenge continues to be fairly successful this year. Lincoln is sitting a little lower than last year. About 170 work places and 63 teams have signed up so far. Bike to Work was kicked off last Friday with an Ice Cream Social this Friday 4:30-6:00 at JSTC.

New Business

Dave Pesnichak is developing a Bicycling website for the city. Working with GIS folks to develop some type of mapping that will be available on the site. Real goal is to have something out there for folks coming to town and to have some educational material available. Hopefully have something out by the end of the summer.

Meeting adjourned.