

Pedestrian Bicycle Advisory Committee
Minutes from October 9, 2012
Lincoln Parks and Recreation – 2740 “A” Street

Members Present: Parks Coble, Rick Dockhorn, Barb Fraser, Elaine Hammer, Jordan Messerer, Delrae Hirschman, Dalyce Ronnau, Beth Thacker, Bill Wehrbein, Michael Wylie.

Staff Present: Terry Genrich, David Cary, Mike Heyl, J.J. Yost, Lynn Johnson, Barney Blum

Others Present:

This meeting was called to order at 7:00 a.m. followed by recognition of the Open Meeting Act.

Approval of September 11, 2012 minutes: It was moved by Dalyce and not sure who seconded however the minutes were approved unanimously.

Staff Reports:

Bison Trail Bridge bids were opened up. Bids came in relatively close to budget and the project will move forward. Deadline for completion is April 1, 2013. Work should begin in the next 6 weeks.

We are negotiating with Schemmer’s to do Preliminary Design on the Stonebridge Trail Project.

Cavett Connector Trail is still at 90% design. We are still waiting on approval of a 6F letter.

First Street Trail north of Cornhusker and Nance has been completed with the exception of the roundabout area at Adams. Also, the section at Cornhusker to Nance will not be improved with a trail until the First and Cornhusker intersection has been completed. 14th Street Trail has been completed from Fletcher North and the new bridge over I-80 is open.

Survey work has been completed on the Pioneers Park Trail with design the next phase and completion by the end of 2013.

The Wilderness Park Bridge grant application to RTP was submitted. We should have a pretty good idea if we are funded following a Nov. 9 review committee meeting with formal approval after the first of the year.

Jamaica North is still pending railroad approval.

Park staff will begin installing the signs in the very near future.

The RFP for the “N” Street Protected Bikeway went out and hopefully we will get several qualified firms to respond.

There was discussion regarding a connection from Jamaica North Trail to the Arena Rd. at “M” Street. Part of the connection will be funded by the arena project with the portion south of Alter Scrap to “J” Street being funded from other sources.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

David Cary gave a presentation on Lincoln's sidewalk plan. This was the same one that was presented at a pre-council meeting last week. Staff from Planning, Public Works, Health and Parks were there. Background information was provided on what is in the current Comp Plan. Health Dept. provided information on the benefits of sidewalks and how they can help people be more active and make Lincoln a healthier community.

Guidance in the Comp Plan says we want to be multi-modal with our transportation system, we should continue sidewalks on both sides of the street, and that we want to elevate the status of bicycles in the community. There are issues with maintenance and the need to find funding for that as well as to build connections. We want to make sure we have a network so that people can get to where they want to go. Connectivity is important we need to encourage walking, bicycling that improve physical and environmental health and neighborhoods provide those types of facilities.

Sidewalks are important because they encourage health living, provide safety, increase property values and offer a choice of travel. Sidewalks provide options for children to walk to school. Lincoln has had a sidewalk ordinance since 1952 requiring sidewalks on both sides of the street as well as pedestrian connections to neighborhoods when there are long block lengths. There are design standards for commercial and industrial areas as well. Trails system is part of our system and combines wide sidewalks with regular sidewalks to get around. Sidewalks are generally used by bicycles. Waivers for sidewalks are waived periodically but not on a regular basis.

The presentation stated that the maintenance is the responsibility of the city and funds are limited to do that. There is a sidewalk repair program and more funding is needed.

There was a question about strategies to provide more ways to separate bicyclists from streets and vehicles. Protected bikeway is one method with other options done elsewhere. Many options are being looked at.

There is a possibility to get more funding from a possible .5% increase in sales tax, money might be freed up to fund some sidewalk improvements needed in the community. The public has been surveyed to see if they would like to see improved sidewalks but aren't necessarily willing to pay for improved sidewalks.

Other:

GPTN met with Nebraska Trails Foundation with a desire to look at trail projects that could use funds from Jayne Snyder Memorial could be used for some trail projects. One possible project is to make a connection between the Jamaica North Trail from 4th and "J" with the Arena Trail near

“M” Street. Another option is to replace the crushed limestone on the Murdock Trail with concrete with the section west of 84th Street Bridge. Other items that could be funded are neighborhood connectors. NTF would like to spend the money on projects now.

It was decided to bring trail projects to the next PBAC meeting to see if some projects need to be moved up for completion sooner rather than later.

There were discussions also about “N” Street and the possible need for additional funds to pay for that improvement since it appears there is not enough to complete the project right now.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 A.M.