

Pedestrian Bicycle Advisory Committee
Minutes from June 14, 2016
Lincoln Parks and Recreation – 2740 “A” Street

Members Present: Gary Bentrup, Parks Coble, Barb Fraser, Elaine Hammer, Damon Hershey, Delrae Hirschman, Jordan Messerer, Dalyce Ronnau, Bill Spielman, Roy Rivera and Michael Wylie, Susan Larson-Rodenberg

Staff Present: Kellee Van Bruggen, JJ Yost, Sara Hartzell, Mike Heyl, Shane Dostal, Lynn Johnson

Guests Present: Marty Shukert, Cary Thomsen, Kyle Anderson, Scott Wieskamp, Nick Cusick, Evan Killeen, Dan Spiry, neighborhood residents

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 a.m., followed by announcement recognizing regulations of the Open Meetings Act as posted by the door.

Minutes:

Approval of May 10, 2016 minutes: Moved by Coble, seconded by Hammer.

Staff Reports:

Hartzell gave updates on trails projects.

Billy Wolff – Lower Platte South NRD is doing a project near the ramp down from the Zoo plaza. Will close the trail for several weeks.

Rock Island – PW&U is working with Hawkins Construction to address the pavement quality issues under Penny Bridges.

Helen Boosalis – LES will be doing a project for about a week near 20th

Old Business:

14th/Warlick/Old Cheney Intersection: Kyle Anderson gave a project description and schedule. The plan is to have a round-about that will be 5 – 6 feet above the existing grade of 14th and Old Cheney. There would also be a T intersection that would be depressed from current grade. There is a public meeting planned for June 30 at Scott Middle School, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. NDOR will be in attendance at that meeting with information about their project in the same area.

Cary Thomsen talked about the trail which would connect the Rock Island to the Jamaica along the alignment of the current Old Cheney Rd. The trail would go underneath the round-about and cross at a surface, signalized crossing. A sidewalk is planned on the east side of 14th Street from about Salt Valley View, through the Kensington Place office park to S 16th Street and then to Old Cheney, where a signalized crossing exists. Design Data (SE corner) has agreed to allow the sidewalk onto the north side of their property so it can meander a bit and has a buffer. Ruskin Place existing trails might also be a possible pedestrian connection.

The trail plan shows a future grade separation of the Rock Island at Old Cheney. This is beyond the scope of the current project. There may be cost efficiencies of doing the crossing at the same time as this project. It is unclear whether this would be an undercrossing or an overpass. There was a question of whether the new intersection at Christ Place church would be signalized? It may be, but may also be a round-about, depending on traffic volumes. There was also a question about access to Hwy 77. The State is doing a project ahead of this one that will repave Warlick and S 14th Streets from Hwy 77 to Hwy 2. This project does not include sidewalks or other ped/bike improvements. Continued access to Hwy 77 will be dependent on what NDOR does at the Warlick/Hwy 77 interchange. There was concern about the NDOR project in general and the lack of inclusion of bike/ped facilities. How does the City coordinate with NDOR on these projects?

Generally, the points of concern for this project include: whether or not pedestrians from neighborhoods north and south of Warlick, on the west side of 14th, will have a safe convenient access across 14th and south to the schools, park, shopping, and YMCA; the lack of any improvement to the trail crossing of the Rock Island Trail and Old Cheney Rd.

New Business:

Children's Zoo expansion plans: Evan Kileen from the Children's Zoo, Nick Cusick representing the Zoo Foundation, Scott Wieskamp from LPS, and Dan Spiry from BVH Architecture presented plans for an expansion of the Children's Zoo. Discussion of expansion has been going on since 2008. The City and LPS have been involved for the past three years. In 2014 public outreach efforts were made. People wanted to see the zoo expand at its current site and to remain interactive and hands-on, not to become the Henry Doorley Zoo. The zoo receives no City funds and needs to keep changing in order to continue attracting people.

Parking is a huge issue for the Zoo. They need about 400 spaces. Currently they have 195 west of the entrance, about 60 in a gravel lot east of the Parks offices, and approximately 80 additional spots across A Street on a gravel lot. They looked at numerous options when analyzing parking, including maximizing current space by removing green areas, building out the full south side of A Street, building on top of the water reservoir north of A, parking on the Neighbors Park (across Capitol Parkway) and building a parking garage. The preferred plan is to build south of A on the current gravel lot, expanding that to the south, and building new parking on the site of the existing abandoned water reservoirs, with a connecting drive over the trail.

The group expressed great concern over the impacts to the trail. There was some discussion about a pedestrian bridge for the zoo patrons and the need for a lot of thought to be put into just how the driveway crossing would work. The presenters shared plans to leave the trail at its existing elevation and to make the vehicles drive up to a sort of table-top crossing which would be marked with signage and have distinctive paving. A possible rerouting of the Rock Island prior to the Garfield Street bridge was also discussed. A subcommittee was formed to look at those options. Bentrup, Ronnau, Rivera, Hammer, and Messerer volunteered to be part of the committee. (Note: Larson-Rodenburg was later added to the group)

Adjourned 8:33