

## **Pedestrian Bicycle Advisory Committee**

Minutes from the May 10, 2022, Meeting – 7:00 a.m.  
Woods Park Place – 3131 'O' Street, Parks Large Conference Room

**Members Present:** Delrae Hirschman, Jeff Altman, Sarah Knight, Barb Fraser, Elaine Hammer, Gary Bentrup, Jordan Messerer, Paul Tunakan, Mauricio Lang, Susan Larson Rodenburg and George Dungan (Zoom)

**Guests:** Mike Heyl, Parks Coble, Richard Piersol, Jayne Raybould, Logan Spackman, Kent Seacrest, Jesse Poore, Kyle McLaughlin

**Staff Present:** Bobby Bartja, J.J. Yost, Lynn Johnson, Sara Hartzell, Roberto Partida, Stephanie Rouse, Maggie Stuckey-Ross

**Call to Order:** Delrae called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m. and noted the meeting follows the Open Meetings Act, posted in the room. Roll call was made.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Tunakan and seconded by Knight to approve the minutes from the March meeting. Motion passed unanimously (Altman abstaining).

**Staff Reports:** Bartja reported that the Waterford trail concept has been received and will be shared at an upcoming meeting. Beal Slough and Fletcher/Landmark trails are moving into ROW acquisition phase. Most of the recent trail closures have opened back up. Hartzell announced an event on May 22 to raise funds for the Prairie Corridor. This is a run bike run event starting at Pioneers Park Nature Center and ending at Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center. Hartzell also recognized Mike Heyl who has recently retired and has a very long history of support for bicycles and pedestrians. Yost announced a short closure near the Zoo on the Rock Island associated with final phases of Cascade Fountain project. Stephanie announced the trail counter program for the year has been started. Two mobile counters are being used to get counts on trails on a rotating basis. Partida announced preparations for Bike to Work Week. This has been an effort coordinated among City departments and Bike Lincoln as well as others. Kick-off at the Mill in the Telegraph District from 7 to 9 on Monday. Tuesday is a safety training at the Asian Cultural Center over lunch. Will also do an exercise to help people way-find. Wednesday is a similar event at Pepe's Bistro from noon to 1 pm. Pepe's is offering a \$1 discount for lunch as well. Thursday is a bike fixit orientation at the intersection of the Boosalis and Rock Island Trails at 4:30 pm to highlight the new fixit station installed there. Friday at the Jayne Snyder from 5:30 to 7:30 pm is a family friendly wrap up event to include a bike parade. Three categories: All Things Safety; Super Hero; Kiddos – there will be judges to select winners and award prizes. Raffle prizes will also be awarded. Website – "Bike To Work" in Search bar on City website. Also held a Safe Kids Day at Saratoga school this past week. Went very well and had a lot of participation with the kids. Update on the P and Q St plans – Open House was held with probably 50 attendees. Got a lot of good input on the provided options: removing parking, maintain two driving lanes and having a buffered bike lane (25% approval) or removing a travel lane, maintaining parking and adding buffered bike lane (75% approval). Hope to work through funding questions and implement next year. Still exploring candlestick bollards for a barrier. It looks like buffers would be about 4 ft and the riding lane would be 5 to 6 feet along one side. Infrastructure Funding through various grant programs within the IJA federal program is still being explored.

Lynn Johnson was recognized for his 22 years of service with a Proclamation declaring him a Trail

Champion issued by the PBAC. Lynn has been instrumental in constructing Lincoln's trail system and has everyone's gratitude and admiration.

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

Presentation of the Bishop Heights Redevelopment Plan by Kent Seacrest, attorney for the developer. Three redevelopers are working together on the redevelopment of the Bishop Heights Shopping Center; RED, EPC, and White. The site is 97% vacant, outdated, and meets the Blight and Substandard Conditions requirements. Wells Fargo Bank and the Arby's are not part of the development. The plan envisions a revitalized, pedestrian oriented development. The demolition of the Shopko and US Bank buildings, Construction of a 5-story high-end multifamily building, addition of commercial space, a connection to the Rock Island Trail and hopefully renovation of the Arby's and Wells Fargo buildings. White is developing the US Bank area into one or two commercial buildings, EPC is developing the apartments, and RED is developing the commercial center. The changes in land use will actually have a reduced daily trip count with trips being distributed more evenly over the day. The development is on the intersection of the Rock Island and the Boosalis Trails. The landscaping planned will buffer the trail and some berming is included in areas where parking is planned to help with noise. There is a pedestrian connection planned on the north end that would extend to S. 27<sup>th</sup> Street to provide a good neighborhood connection for the apartments and others. Existing trees would remain where possible. About midway on the property line is a second planned connection that would bring trail users to the commercial center. The southern connection is proposed to be at the southwest corner of the property near Arby's. There are a combined 335,545 trail trip past this development each year, which is about 4% of the total trips through 27<sup>th</sup> and Highway 2 intersection. In order to take advantage of the trail traffic, bike racks are planned at the commercial entrances, screening of trash and other service areas from the trail, improve trail aesthetics, improve trail safety, reserving 10 parking spaces for use as a trailhead, remove overhead power lines along the trail corridor, improve existing trailhead amenities (drinking fountain, shade structure) encourage tenants to add patios and decks that will attract trail users. Still need to maintain flexibility because there are no tenants secured yet. During the COVID pandemic, retail space has gone through a transition and is still trying to find a solution to new challenges. Altman asked about connecting sidewalks, remarking that Southpoint shopping center has very little connectivity for people who have mobility challenges. He also asked about transit connections. Seacrest responded that they had not yet spoken with StarTran, but there would be a potential route and he will contact StarTran to see what the possibility of connection might be. Sidewalks run along the fronts of all buildings, driveways have been minimized to reduce crossings. The pedestrian standards since Southpointe was developed have been greatly improved and this development will meet those new connectivity standards. Larson Rodenburg asked if they had considered more openings to the trail rather than having all the openings oriented to the parking. The northern end is a bit sloped and that could be challenging, the southern end is flatter and there probably are some opportunities there. Also need to make sure headlights don't shine onto trails. Bentrup echoed Larson Rodenburg's comments. Incorporating the trail into the development on the south could really provide some opportunities. Speaking to tenants about those opportunities could actually be a selling point. The trail offers an opportunities for engagement with public life that aren't available on the roadway in this area. Tunakan also feels that having the restaurants visibly appealing from the trail can really bring in additional customers. Hirschman also pointed out that

pedestrians will likely stomp through vegetation rather than go all the way around to the proposed connection. Fraser asked if there might be an opportunity to do some trail widening? Bartja commented that this would be a good thing to look into. Altman asked that they consider building on a human scale to make it more comfortable for pedestrians and cyclists. Larson Rodenburg asked how much TIF would go into this project. (Answer unintelligible, however Urban Development reported this is still in negotiations.) Larson Rodenburg asked what the recruiting opportunities for tenants are. Seacrest commented that RED has a nationwide reach but would really like to see some local flavor here. The question was asked if there are any changes planned to S. 27th? This has not been part of the plan and has received pushback from the neighborhoods in the past. However, there have been improvements recently to signal timing and the South Beltway project will likely remove a lot of truck traffic.

Tunakan reminded everyone of the Ride of Silence on the 18<sup>th</sup> at the Jayne Snyder Trail Center.

**Adjourn:** Hirschman adjourned the meeting at 8:07 a.m.