

Pedestrian Bicycle Advisory Committee

Minutes from the Nov. 8, 2022, Meeting – 7:00 a.m.
Woods Park Place – 3131 'O' Street, LPR Conference Room

Members Present: Barb Fraser, Delrae Hirschman, Jordan Messerer, Mauricio Lang, Sarah Knight, Susan Larson Rodenburg (Paul Tunakan joined via Zoom)

Guests: Parks Coble, Logan Spackman, Kyle McLaughlin, Tyson (?), Brian Beherens

Staff Present: Bobby Bartja, J.J. Yost, Jamie Granquist, Maggie Stuckey-Ross, Stephanie Rouse, Kylie Gokie, Sara Hartzell, Roberto Partida, Dan Carpenter, Denise Pearce

Call to Order: Hirschman 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 Knight and seconded by Fraser to approve the minutes from the October meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Staff Reports: Bartja started with a report on the work on Boosalis near the Alamo Center which has been completed. Precision Concrete is working through their areas for the year to address some of the panel shifts in the trail surface. They are about halfway through. Trail centerline painting continues. The Annual Bridge Inspections will begin this month. The Mountain Bike Master Plan Working Group met for the first time on October 20th and that meeting was well attended and productive. Nate Lowry is representing PBAC on that Working Committee. The next meeting will be on November 17. Trail closure in Haymarket Park during the drive through Christmas Light event. This will be closed until early March.

Gokie updated the group on Safe Kids Lincoln which is a bike and ped, safety focused effort. They received a mini-grant that is helping focus on kids 15 and under and school zone safety. Working with LTU on the Safe Schools work. Using GIS to look for hot spots in school zones and then work with the school and neighborhood to identify appropriate improvements. Clinton Elementary School is a potential concentration. Question was asked whether we were being proactive in this effort rather than reactive? Carpenter responded that they are constantly evaluating. As new schools come on line they are looking for any safety issues. This can be difficult when a neighborhood is still in the process of being constructed. Partida commented that just having a plan is really a proactive step. We can take information learned in reacting to older sites and apply the lessons learned to new sites.

Yost commented that the Rock Island Bridge over Salt Creek in Wilderness Park has received notice to proceed and is working on an engineering contract.

Granquist shared upcoming events in parks: November 11 Veterans' Day at 11 am in Auld Pavilion, Nov 12 Bike Lincoln is holding a Bike For All event in Tierra Park, Dec. 4 is the Holiday Run at Pioneers Park 10 – 11:30, Dec. 11 is the Hurts Donut Run afternoon.

Spackman shared more information about the Bikeshare For All event at Tierra Park on November 12 from 11 am to 2 pm. This is associated with a community grant received from the AARP this year. BikeLNK will have mobile dock and bicycles available and will be helping people get signed up and try out peddle and ebikes.

Partida shared that the scooter program has been up and running for about a month with Lime scooters on the streets and have had about 10,000 rides this first month. The scooters are not operable during home football games and are not yet at full capacity. Scooters have a wider area

they are able to travel than the original pilot program. Byrd is planned to be operable soon. Question was asked about how the sidewalk and trail issue is being handled? At this point the City is responding to complaints. It is up to the contractor to manage the bikes and make certain users are following their rules. PBAC members were encouraged to contact Partida or use the upLNK app to report issues.

Rouse shared that the mobile trail counter program has completed its first year of data gathering and reports are being compiled. From here out reports will be constantly updating. A second batch of sites will be counted in spring. Rouse participated in a webinar with the League of American Bicyclists to present the program.

Old Business: The revised letter to the Mayor in support of the Safety Stop legislation was reviewed. Larson Rodenburg moved and Lang seconded a motion to send the revised letter to the Mayor. Unanimous support.

New Business: Facilities manager for Clocktower Animal Clinic, Tyson Schlunkard, presented proposed designs for a revision of the old Finke Gardens property between N 66th and N 70th Streets north of East Park Plaza Mall. The business has been growing and a move to a larger space was needed. The plan is to use some of the existing buildings and build new to form a kind of animal care campus. Along with the larger area abutting N 66th Street, there is a long linear piece of land that runs southeast to N 70th Street. This is zoned residential but is very narrow. The plan is to develop townhouse or rowhouse style residential structures in this area, along with a private roadway. The townhouses would be between the existing trail and the roadway. There are clusters of buildings with spaces in between where some visitor parking is provided. The owner has met with the Meadow Lane Area Neighborhood Association. There was some misunderstanding that the old business, Finke Nursery, was a park rather than the garden sales business that it actually was, but that was the only issue that arose. There will be changes to the N 70th Street intersection to make the two-lane section begin at that point. This should reduce any attempts to pass in the area of the trail crossing. These homes would be single-family, owner-occupied homes. This would not technically be affordable housing, in the federal definition of the word. Price range is planned between \$290,000 - \$350,000. The trail was a limitation to the flexibility of the site, however it also provides an opportunity and amenity. There was discussion about the property line location near the trail. The property line will be 5 feet from the edge of the trail, which should give opportunity to widen the trail in the future if needed. The back of the property should be fairly uniform, with some opportunity for color on the buildings and for landscaping inside the property lines. AC units are planned for rooftops, electrical pedestals in the spaces between clusters of dwellings. Fences would be opaque with possibly some transparency on the upper part and inward opening gates. The parking spaces are not meant for trailhead use but do provide opportunities for trail access from garage doors. The green space near the trail at 66th Street is intended as stormwater treatment area. Trail drainage should be positive as the trail in this section is on the high side and drains well today. Timeline involves building the clinic building first, mostly next spring and summer. They will then be working with partners to develop the housing. Committee in general was very supportive of the plan and appreciated the attention to the trail interface.

Denise Pearce shared plans for the parking expansion associated with the Lincoln Children's Zoo in Antelope Park. The Zoo underwent a major expansion starting in 2016 north of A Street and also purchased property south of A Street for parking. Zoo attendance has increased greatly and they would like to expand parking south of A Street. The area identified is in Antelope Park east of the trail between the apartments and the Public Gardens yard. This was in 2019 right before COVID hit

– this stopped plans until recently when the Zoo approached the City again. Yost walked the group through the plan drawings. 160 parking stalls, some of which will serve the Public Gardens staff. Access to that yard would be taken through the parking lot rather than the current steep, rock drive. This parking lot would also provide additional parking for Antelope Park. The Zoo will build an 8 foot wide sidewalk parallel to the trail and separated with a green buffer. There is a space for an assembly area where the sidewalk meets the parking lot. There would also be a connecting walk through the parking lot, a traffic calmed crossing of Memorial Drive and then sidewalk connection to the active areas of Antelope Park. The intersection of Veterans’ Drive and Memorial Drive would also be reconfigured to slow traffic cutting through from the neighborhood to A Street. The intersection improvements would be a shared cost while the parking and sidewalk costs would be the Zoo’s expense. This area used to be the location of a reservoir that was removed four or five years ago. Brian Behrens, representing the apartments, asked some questions about traffic. The Waterworks apartments experienced a lot of trespass issues during the recent Boo at the Zoo event. Would like to see fencing to keep Zoo visitors out of the apartment parking lot. Tunakan suggested that some sort of barrier, landscaping would work, to stop cross traffic would be helpful. There would still be room for widening the trail to 10 or even 12 feet. There has not been any public meeting associated with this. Will check with the Zoo to see if one is planned.

Hirschman asked for volunteers for a nominating committee to identify chair and vice chair nominees for election next month. Larson Rodenburg, Messerer and Fraser volunteered. Appointments are for one year although a second year is allowed and has been the practice.

Messerer reminded that we should keep the access to Highway 2 (Nebraska Parkway) for bicycles on the list of topics. Also should find out more about the extension of 16th Street bikeways to the Big X. Messerer also announced the No Man’s Land film festival on Friday (11/11) at the Ross Theater. Larson Rodenburg asked about the Old Cheney undercrossing of Rock Island. Carpenter responded that the consultant is still gathering information to make a decision. Previous letter to Mayor has provided the support needed and Parks and LTU directors have been in conversation. There was some conversation about what might be done to recognize Elaine Hammer.

Adjourn: Hirschman adjourned the meeting at 8:23 a.m.