

Pedestrian Bicycle Advisory Committee

Minutes from the February 14, 2023, Meeting – 7:00 a.m.
Woods Park Place – 3131 'O' Street, LPR Conference Room

Members Present: Barb Fraser (via Zoom), Delrae Hirschman, Gary Bentrup, Jordan Messerer, Mauricio Lang, Nate Lowry (Chair), Sarah Knight, Paul Tunaken, Susan Larson Rodenburg, Allison Speicher, Dale Arp, Connor Herbert, Conan Schafer

Guests: Morgan Hartman, Parks Coble (via Zoom)

Staff Present: Bobby Bartja, J.J. Yost, Jamie Granquist, Maggie Stuckey-Ross, Stephanie Rouse (via Zoom), Kylie Gokie, Sara Hartzell, Roberto Partida (via Zoom), Jocelyn Golden

Call to Order: Lowry called the meeting to order at 7:02 a.m. and noted the meeting follows the Open Meetings Act, posted in the room. Roll call was made.

The PBAC Members introduced themselves to the four new members. Welcome to Dale, Connor, Conan and Allison!

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Lowry and seconded by Tunaken to approve the minutes from the December meeting with an amendment to add Lowry's name to the roll. Motion passed unanimously.

Staff Reports: Bartja reported that the Beal Slough trail (S. 56th and Old Cheney to S. 70th and Yankee Hill Rd) just received NTP for appraisals which is the first step in the right-of way process. The Fletcher Landmark trail (Fletcher Street from N. 14th to N. 27th Streets) just received notice to proceed for acquisition. The Waterford trail (N. 84th and College Park Rd through SCC Campus and Waterford development to 104th and Holdrege) is working its way through the program agreement with NDOT. The Rock Island Bridge over Salt Creek in Wilderness Park had its kick-off meeting last month. Plan to have final plans submitted in May, advertise in June and tentatively begin in June 2024. Gana will begin resurfacing of limestone on the Salt Creek Levee Trail from Calvert to Van Dorn Street. The Rock Island undercrossing at Old Cheney Rd has had funding identified through the carbon reduction program, part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The letter from this body supporting the crossing, as well as the other public comments received, played a major part in getting that included in the project. The 20% match will be an LTU expense. Tunaken asked about the groundwork along Antelope Creek around 40th St. This appears to be a stormwater project, but it is unclear if this was the NRD or private.

Hartzell reported the Mountain Bike Facilities Master Plan draft is complete and the Working Group will be discussing this Thursday. The next step is to release for public review through March with April 13th hearing at PRAB (Correction: May 11 will be the date of the public meeting at Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.) The Highway 77 and Rokeby Rd bridge in Wilderness Park study is complete and moving forward with final engineering with plans to complete this construction season. The culvert crossing at the Cardwell Branch in Wilderness Park, just south of the bridge Bartja discussed earlier, is also progressing with tentative approval of floodplain permits. Hope to have this constructed this year as well.

Yost reported that the Van Dorn Park Master Plan is in progress. There is currently a website and opportunity for comment (www.lincoln.ne.gov Search: Van Dorn). Arp shared that Van Dorn Park is part of Trail Trek planning this year. Yost also shared the South of Downtown Park Master Plan is

also underway and planned to be revealed this spring. This includes the Chris Beutler Trail. There will be a major fundraising campaign associated. Benstrup inquired if the cost of the trail was still on track? Yost said it was. He commented that the Block 5 developer was selected and there will be a great need for coordination during construction. Schafer asked if there had been any concerns from landowners? Yost said contact of owners has really been the more difficult part. Stuckey-Ross also commented that once contact is made, landowners start seeing dollar signs as well. Herbert commented he saw a sign at Ivanna Cone regarding a petition against the park. LPR committed to checking it out.

Granquist said the Polar Plunge is this weekend to benefit Special Olympics. Run for the Bridges is planned on the 11th of March and can be signed up on Get Me Registered.

Partida shared that the City received a Safe Streets for All Grant and received an award for planning for \$400,000. This will help the City to create a Vision Zero Action Plan. LTU has also received the National Vision Zero for Youth (Safe Routes to School) award for the work completed at Saratoga Elementary. Hirschman was instrumental in that work.

Old Business: None

New Business: Golden delivered the annual Board Training to the PBAC members. This is something she tries to provide each year around the time that new board members come on. She shared a one-page sheet with some helpful information. She shared the need to post an agenda and operate under it to make sure the public has an opportunity to know what is going to be discussed. If a vote is taken it must be by roll call vote. Minutes are also kept to share discussion with public.

Participation via Zoom is not allowed for City boards. Members are welcome to watch via Zoom but cannot take part in discussions and votes or be counted as part of a quorum. Golden advised that all discussion between members could be subject to a public record request. She advised that if there was any business to be discussed that a staff member be included. In general, all discussion should take place at an open meeting to avoid any issues. Subcommittees are not subject to the Open Meetings Act. Executive sessions are not open to the public either. Golden advised conflict of interest is personal choice – cannot be forced to vote, however should consider whether there is a financial interest or significant role in a project in some way.

Hartman introduced herself as the sustainability director for UNL. UNL is currently hiring a campus planner so there has not been a lot of movement on some of the projects at UNL. The bike lanes on 16th Street north of X Street have been completed and now connect to the trail at the Big X. As sustainability director she is looking at implementation of the UNL sustainability master plan. UNL participates in the STARS program (Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System) which is a framework used by higher education institutions to benchmark sustainability progress. One of the goals is to increase the number of faculty and students that are commuting to campus sustainably. Herbert asked if she was involved in the end of the balloon release at football games? Hartman shared that this was primarily a student led effort. Lowry asked how PBAC could help with sustainability. Hartman shared that getting information to students about opportunities for commuting via trail and transit are always a big help.

Messerer shared that GPTN's annual meeting is on Saturday at the Cornhusker Bank on 84th and O St.

Hartzell shared the Prairie to Prairie event is being planned for May 21 this year and registration will open soon.

Adjourn: Lowry closed the meeting at 7:45 am.