

Pedestrian Bicycle Advisory Committee
Minutes from the June 13, 2023, Meeting – 7:00 a.m.
Woods Park Place – 3131 'O' Street, LPR Conference Room

Members Present: Barb Fraser, Jordan Messerer, Mauricio Lang, Nate Lowry, B Paul Tunakan, Susan Larson Rodenburg, Dale Arp, Connor Herbert, Conan Schafer

Members via Zoom: Gary Bentrup

Guests: Jessie Poore

Guests via Zoom: Logan Spackman, Parks Coble

Staff Present: Allison Speicher, Jamie Granquist, Sara Hartzell, Roberto Partida

Staff via Zoom: JJ Yost, Stephanie Rouse, Kylie Gokie, Dan Carpenter

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 behind the tree. Roll call was made.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Herbert and seconded by Larson Rodenburg to approve the minutes from the April meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Staff Reports: Speicher introduced herself as the new trails and greenways coordinator for Lincoln Parks and Recreation. Trail closures include trip hazard removals at select sites throughout the summer. There is a pavement repair planned for the connection of the 84th St Trail to the Murdock Trail in Mahoney Park. The Beal Slough Trail is beginning ROW acquisition. Fletcher is in the midst of ROW Acquisition. The Waterford Trail project is going through the program agreement process. The Rock Island Bridge over Salt Creek will begin next spring after the NRD's stream stability project in the same area is complete. The culvert crossing of the Cardwell Branch has received their 404 and floodplain permits and now waits for access to be finalized. The bridge relocation to Hwy 77 and Rokebly Road is in final design and may be constructed yet this year. There was a question about what a program agreement is. Hartzell explained that after the Metropolitan Planning Commission selects a project, the project is forwarded to NDOT for development of a Program Agreement which commits both the City and the State to the funding. Partida updated everyone on the Vision Zero process. An agreement has been reached with the state office of FHWA and that is now moving forward to the federal level. LTU has been in contact with some other agencies to see how they have crafted their Requests for Proposals to get an idea of the best way to move forward. The PBAC will play a large roll in that process. LTU has also been working on Safe Routes to Schools, focusing on Hartley Elementary. They have gathered some community input through surveys and collected traffic data. LTU has been working with Kylie Gokie at Health to get information out to the public. Granquist shared that Trail Trek is on the 25th and will include 4 routes, including one with a natural surface option. Hub and Soul begins on June 30 and will be held the last Friday of the month throughout summer, and Uncle Same Jam is on July 3. The Lincoln Mile will be on July 9 downtown. Rouse shared that the Spring round of trail counts has been completed and they will be preparing for the fall counts. She also shared that staff has begun the update of the Bike Friendly Community application.

Old Business: Partida introduced Jesse Poore with FHU who have been hired to support the development of the P&Q Street bike lanes. Partida explained that the project came out of the Lincoln Bike Plan. As the neighborhood has been engaged in discussions the project extents have been set from 17th St to N 25th St. Parking was determined to be important along this stretch and effort were made to preserve this. The turn movements in the area were analyzed and the bike lane was determined to be safest along the north side of P Street and along the south side on Q Street. This will be constructed as a buffered bike line which means there is a pavement marking space between the bike lane and the parked cars or vehicle lanes. There will be some candle stick type barricades, but this is difficult if parking is to be maintained and allowing for the turn lanes. There will be signage, including safety and wayfinding, although it is not yet developed. Fraser reminded LTU that having before and after bike counts for this project can be helpful in seeking funding for future projects. Lowry pointed out that bollard placement will be critical. Tunakan pointed out that the apartment dwellers in the complex being constructed will view this project as having always been there. Herbert asked if the bike lane location being proposed with this project will be adopted throughout downtown. Carpenter remarked that this will probably be determined on a case-by-case basis depending upon observed turn movements. The P & Q Street lanes will hopefully be completed this fall.

Speicher reviewed the Rock Island/Boosalis trailhead plan associated with he Bishop Heights redevelopment project. This project would be completed in two phases. First would be the concrete worked and the relocation of the existing bench, fixit station, kiosk and trash can. This would be done by the developer of Bishop Heights. Timing of this work has not yet been determined and will depend upon the reconstruction project. The shade structure, landscaping and additional improvements would be added later with TIFF funding. The trail would be replaced at 10 feet wide. Larson Rodenburg commented that the T intersection is a concern for Bike movement. Yost replied that the T intersection is intentionally meant to slow bike traffic as it approaches the intersection. There will be signage included to slow traffic. There was some discussion about the effort to orient the development to be more open to the trail. The redevelopment plan is available on the City website

New Business: Speicher turned the groups attention to the notecards on the tables and asked members to share their comments on the role of the PBAC. Lowry commented that his thought in asking this question was to try and think about what the PBAC can do to move the conversation forward that maybe the general public would not be able to. Larson Rodenburg asked if there were bylaws. Hartzell answered that there is enabling legislation that sets the purpose and allows the PBAC to develop bylaws if they wish. Larson Rodenburg said she has wondered just how much of the PBAC's purpose is really to advocate and how much is just to react to things that are brought to them. Hartzell commented that the PBAC is very valuable as a connection to the many groups, as a sounding board for various potential changes, and as reviewers of different development plans, issues and incidents. Messerer reminded the group that PBAC has in the past been very powerful in reviewing and advising on projects in the past. The group decided to continue the conversation at the July meeting.

Adjourn: Lowry closed the meeting at 8:06 am