

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
City Hall & Zoom Meeting
4 p.m., September 8, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 4:02 pm, by Tessa Jilot.

1. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tessa Jilot, Chair-Walking Community
Denise Jeska-Physically Challenged
Kim Golden-General Public
Mike Fuller-General Public
John Bruning-NICTF
Max Bazler-Student Rep
Cory English-General Public
Amy Evans, City Council Liaison
Tom Morgan, Vice Chair-Bicycling Committee

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Owen Hughes-Alt Student Rep

Guests:

Tabitha Kraack-Centennial Trail Foundation
Cliff Rufenach-e-bike user
Chris Jamtaas-e-bike user
Joan Jamtaas-e-bike user

STAFF PRESENT:

Monte McCully, Staff Liaison
Mike Kempton Parks and Recreation

Ten members present resulting in a quorum.

2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

3. APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES – Action Item

John made a motion to approve the July 7, 2021, minutes, Tom seconded the motion, there being no further discussion and all being in favor, motion passed.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mike Fuller introduced Cliff Rufenach, Chris Janaas and Joan Jantaas, three local residents who wanted to share their views on E-bikes and E-bike use on trails. Cliff spoke about the different modes of E-bike operation. He added that he believed e-bikes are here to stay and that due to demographics the use of these will continue to increase in the future and that agencies managing trails and bike ways should make allowances for their use. Chris and Joan explained that they use exclusively e-bikes for local travel and that the use of these bikes allow them to take longer rides and enjoy more flexibility in their trips. They also added that a factor in choosing to live here was the ability to travel safely on local bike trails. Joan informed the committee that throttle only devices which do not use pedal assist, are considered motor bikes by most insurance agencies and are much more expensive to insure. Joan added that she feels that there is room on the trails for everyone if people use common sense and practice basic etiquette. Tabitha let the committee know that the fund-raising event, The Ales for the Trail was going to be held this Saturday, September 11th at City Park between 2:00 PM and 8:00 PM and encouraged the members to attend.

5. STAFF REPORT

Monte reported to the committee that the trailhead for the Prairie Trail at Huetter Road has been nearing completed and would soon open to the public. He let the members know that

moving the regularly scheduled monthly meeting to the first Wednesday of the month was approved by the director and that pending conformation with administration regarding the calendar, this will take effect starting in October. Monte added that some trail maintenance is behind schedule due to staffing issues and that graffiti and its timely removal has remained a significant drain on the departments limited resources. He let the members know that moving the regularly scheduled monthly meeting to the first Wednesday of the month was approved by the director and that pending conformation with administration regarding the calendar, this will take effect starting in October.

6. ACTION ITEM

- E-Bikes/Speed Limits/Ordinances
The committee discussed the recommendation that the City of Coeur d'Alene adopt an ordinance creating a speed limit of 15 (fifteen) miles per hour for all city bike trails. The current 15 mile per hour speed limit is not supported by a legal ordinance. Tabitha Kraack with the Centennial Trail Foundation let the committee know that they would support an ordinance. Cory emphasized that it was important to have a uniform speed limit for all types of bikes. Kim asked if gas powered are prohibited by the current trail ordinance and Monte confirmed that they are. Tom spoke about the difference between congested areas and open areas as it relates to speed limits. Monte explained that the city's legal department may want to add verbiage o the ordinance allowing more flexibility such as "unless otherwise posted". John made a motion requesting the city adopt an ordinance setting a fifteen mile per hour speed limit on all bicycle trails in the city. Mike seconded the motion. The motion passed with all voting yes.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Downtown Stencils
Monte let the committee know that he would work with the city's engineering department to have the stencils painted in the downtown business district and that a temporary shortage of paint may delay the project.
- Bike Friendly Report Card
Tessa reported that they have not had a meeting in the past month.

8. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS – Information Items

- Awareness/Advocacy/Education:
This subcommittee did not meet last month.
- Infrastructure:
No Update
- Bikeways Master Plan / Walk Friendly-Ad Hoc:
No update

9. ROUND TABLE – Information Items:

Tessa asked about maintenance of stop signs along the trails, specifically the one at Academic Way near the Harbor Center. Monte let her know that it would be taken care of promptly. Cory spoke about trail etiquette and people riding while using earbuds. She suggested that our trails should have center lines at intersections to remind bicyclist to ride on the right side of the trail. Monte added that he felt this was a good

idea and would complement the new signage recently installed along the trail. Tabitha let the committee know that the Centennial Trail Foundation is working on this as an improvement project. John let the committee know that the traffic counter would soon be moved from McEuen Park to Riverstone Park and would forward the numbers as they become finalized. Tom spoke about the importance of safe bicycling and recommend the committee promote a philosophy of ride like you drive. He let the committee know that his bike shop had turned over 500 bikes last year and are even busier this year. He mentioned that he recently collaborated with the Department of Corrections to trade bicycles to those without driving privileges in exchange for hour of service. He also added that even though he has been extremely busy, that he wanted to remain an active member of the committee but that he was interested in turning over the co-chair position to someone else. The committee agreed to discuss this at the next meeting. Mike asked Max, the student representative to promote volunteerism and let students in need know that bicycles are available in exchange for community service. Tabitha offered to use the Centennial Trail Foundation's newsletter and emails to disseminate information relating to Ped-Bike Committee issues.

10. NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

Wednesday, September 6, 2021, 4 p.m., City Hall Conference Room 6.

Tom made a motion to adjourn the meeting and John seconded the motion, there being no further discussion and all being in favor, the meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm.