

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
City Hall & Zoom Meeting
4:00 PM January 4th, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 4:06 pm, by Denise Jeska.

1. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Denise Jeska-Chair Disabled Community
Mike Fuller-Vice Chair General Public.
John Bruning-NICTF
Mike Light-Landscape Architect
Mike Wood-North Idaho College
David Passaro-Bicycling Community
Henry DePew-Student Representative
Amy Evans, City Council Liaison

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Tom Morgan-Bicycling Community

STAFF PRESENT:

Monte McCully, Staff Liaison
Mike Kempton, Parks and Recreation

PUBLIC ATTENDING:

Bill Irving
Brandt Souvenir, Committee Applicant
Bill Buley, Coeur d'Alene Press

Five members present resulting in a quorum.

2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

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

Mike Light made a motion to approve the December 7th, 2022, minutes, John Brunning seconded the motion, there being no further discussion and all being in favor, motion passed.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Grant Souvenir spoke briefly about his background and his interest in joining the Pedestrian/Bicycling Committee. Bill Irving spoke about his interest in environmental awareness and the importance of alternative transportation.

5. STAFF REPORT

Monte McCully updated the committee about the revised proposal of the Rivers Edge Development. He explained the background and history of this project and reported that the new proposal would increase residential density on the site in exchange for extensive public access to the Spokane River. The proposal would create a shoreline trail with land-scaped buffers for approximately twelve hundred feet and connect to the existing landscaped trail in the Atlas Park project. This revised project was recently approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission and is scheduled to go to City Council for final approval on either February 21st or March 7th. Monte also updated the committee on the grant being sought by the city to replace the mooring docks at McEuen Park. He requested interested parties to forward letters of support for this request.

6. ACTION ITEMS

- New Member Application

Grant Souvenir was introduced to the Committee. Committee members asked him about his goals and objectives related to joining the committee. Grant explained that he is an avid cyclist, bicycle commutes and would like to help create safer routes for bicycling commuting, particularly by improving connectivity across US Highway 95. Denise explained how the sidewalk mapping project the committee has been working on relates to identifying connectivity issues. David asked if Grant was interested in assisting with the planned Bike to Work Week event. Grant replied that would like to assist. Grant was dismissed briefly while the committee voted on whether to recommend his appointment to the committee. A motion was made by Mike Fuller to recommend the appointment of Grant Souvenir to the Pedestrian/Bicycling Committee and seconded by John Brunning. All voted in favor.

- Lake Coeur d'Alene Drive Crossing Treatments

Monte reviewed previous discussions regarding the importance of creating a safe way to cross Lake Coeur d'Alene Drive at Mullan Street. He explained that this crossing is a safety concern and that improvements at this location have already been supported by several local business owners. David related specific traffic conflicts at this location regarding bicyclist using and continuing on the Centennial Trail from the newly created bike lane and how a more formal crossing is needed at Mullan Street. Amy asked about the effectiveness of rapid flashing beacons (RFB's) on multilane roadways. A discussion followed about the practicality and necessity of including a pedestrian refuge island in the center lane of this roadway and the wording of a recommendation to council. Monte committed to working with the City's engineering staff to create a specific design for a safer crossing. Mike Fuller made a motion that "the Pedestrian/Bicycle Committee recommends that City Council support city staff efforts to design a safer crossing at Lake Coeur d'Alene Drive and Mullan Street and to then seek funding for the installation of that crossing." Mike Wood seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- City Council Workshop

Monte reported that four council members and the mayor have committed to attending the workshop scheduled for Wednesday, February 1st at 4:00 P.M. He then shared the agenda for this meeting and reminded the committee that the bylaws include having a regular annual meeting with, or report to, City Council. He explained that since the last workshop, the committee has shifted much of it's focus to pedestrian and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) issues. A brief discussion followed on which committee member would volunteer to lead the meeting. David spoke about the importance addressing safety issues related to pedestrian and bicycling verses automobile accidents. Mike Fuller expressed that the workshop was an opportunity to interact more with the city council and that it is our mission to promote public safety and enjoyment.

8. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS – Information Items

- Awareness/Advocacy/Education:
No update
- Infrastructure:
No update
- Bike and Walk Week:
David Passaro explained that they have not had another formal meeting, but that the sub-committee has been corresponding with the Spokane Bicycle Club about working together on events. A consensus was reached that since this will be the first Bike to Work Week celebration in Coeur d'Alene in five years that the committee should focus on a limited number of larger events. He suggested the committee consider rebranding the event as “Roll Everywhere Week” so as to include other forms of motorless transportation.

9. ROUND TABLE – Information Items:

Mike Wood asked if staff could work on improving the reliability of the crosswalk actuators at Hubbard Street and Northwest Boulevard. Mike Kempton said he would pass on the request to the traffic signal technicians.

John Brunning reminded the committee about the upcoming annual North Idaho Centennial Trail Foundation meeting at Vantage Brewing.

Mike Light related that he had previously volunteered to create a calendar for the committee and that he has been working on it.

10. NEXT MEETING:

Workshop with City Council on Wednesday, February 1st, 4:00 PM, City Hall Conference Room 6.

John Brunning made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mike Light seconded the motion, there being no further discussion and all being in favor, the meeting adjourned at 5:28 pm.