

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
City Hall
4:00 PM February 1st, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 4:01 pm, by Denise Jeska.

1. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Denise Jeska-Chair Disabled Community
Mike Fuller-Vice Chair General Public.
John Bruning-NICT
Grant Souvenir-General Public
David Passaro-Bicycling Community
Mike Light-Landscape Architect
Greyson Storey-Alternate Student Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Amy Evans, City Council Liaison
Tom Morgan-Bicycling Community
Mike Wood-North Idaho College
Henry DePew-Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Monte McCully, Staff Liaison
Mike Kempton, Parks and Recreation

PUBLIC ATTENDING:

Six members present resulting in a quorum.

2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

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

John Brunning made a motion to approve the January 4th, 2022, minutes, Mike Fuller seconded the motion, there being no further discussion and all being in favor, motion passed.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

5. STAFF REPORT

Monte McCully let the committee know that he had submitted the application for a WIF (Water Improvement Fund) grant to replace the mooring docks at McEuen Park. David asked Monte to elaborate on the process for applying for grants. Monte shared the steps involved in submitting a grant request and the process of being awarded one. He let the committee know that the decision on whether or not the city is awarded this grant should be made public by this April or May. Mike Light asked if the committee could pursue grant opportunities. Monte replied that grant applications have been submitted by various non-profit groups in the past.

6. ACTION ITEMS

- None

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- City Council Presentation

Monte explained that the planned workshop with city council has been cancelled and replaced by an opportunity by the committee to give a detailed presentation at an upcoming regular city council meeting. He gave a step-by-step explanation of the points and issues the committee wants highlighted during the committee's proposed presentation to city council. These will include the committee's sidewalk mapping project, an explanation of the critical corridors identified by the committee and a suggestion to create a priority replacement and improvement plan utilizing funding from grants and potential city matching funds. He added that the council should be informed about the importance of trail counters as they are related to documenting trail usage, the importance of ADA accessible ramps at every intersection and a comprehensive safe street crossings program with a specific recommendation to install at RFB (rapid flashing beacon at Mullan Street and Coeur d'Alene Lake Drive. Monte also explained that the presentation would include an update on the committee's efforts to re-establish Bike Everywhere (to Work) Week and to improve the city's bike and walk friendly status as well as making suggestions to implement the city's bikeways plan. A discussion followed during which Monte shared a list of possible critical corridors identified by staff. David asked if these corresponded with accident locations involving bicyclist or pedestrians. Monte replied that we didn't have that data but would ask the Police Department for it. Denise spoke about the importance of not only providing sidewalks for pedestrians, but making them accessible for all of the public to use by installing ADA ramps at intersections. David shared that the City of Sandpoint has done an excellent job at making all of their intersections ADA compliant by installing ramps. John reminded the committee that there was a ten-year plan to install ramps at every intersection, but that this project apparently was deprioritized at some point and was not implemented. Mike Fuller reminded the committee that recent improvements in accessibility related to public sidewalks in the neighboring state of Washington have reportedly been primarily the result of litigation and that Coeur d'Alene should be more proactive in making these improvements to avoid costly legal expenses. John let the committee know that the economic impact study for the Centennial Trail should be completed soon and would serve to support efforts to improve community walkability and connectivity.

8. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS – Information Items

- Awareness/Advocacy/Education:
No update
- Infrastructure:
Mike Fuller shared that the sub-committee had not met, but has been in contact with business owners who support the installation of an RFB at Mullan and CDA Lake Drive as well as other improvements to make that roadway safer to cross.

- **Bike and Walk Week:**
David shared that the sub-committee has met and also attended a meeting with the Spokane Bike Club. They have determined that the committee should focus on a one day event on May 19th which is the actual Bike to Work Day and engage with businesses that would want to sponsor additional rides for that week.
- **Bikeways:**
Mike Light reported that the sub-committee has been working on a list of steps needed to improve the city's Bike Friendly ranking from silver to gold and will soon have a target date on submitting the application for the rating change.

9. ROUND TABLE – Information Items:

Mike Fuller shared that he had contacted the City of Spokane to inquire as to how they handle complaints regarding the lack of snow removal on privately maintained sidewalks and that they use the 311 system, which citizens call a that number and the complaint is forwarded to the appropriate employee to resolve. Mike Light added that this is how Calgary Canada also handles citizen concerns and that it is a relatively effective method. Mike Fuller added that he had also recently attended a Friends of Tubbs Hill meeting and shared that they are promoting an Earth Day event on April 22nd to promote awareness of Tubbs Hill. David Passaro related his experience with attempting to navigate Kootenai County's website and the excessive amount of broken and non-existent links and how they cause frustration for the public. He also related his recent attempts to report non-compliant snow removal from privately maintained sidewalks in the city and the lack of a website link to code enforcement. John Brunning reported on the annual North Idaho Centennial Foundation meeting held last month at Vantage Brewing Company, let the committee know that the state line bridge will be lighted any day now and that plans to rebuild the first mile of the trail are on hold until the Idaho Transportation Department makes a decision on relocating the I-90 weigh station which make impact the trails alignment. Grant Souvenir shared that he had receive his letter confirming his appointment to the committee. Denise Jeska spoke about her disappointment with facilities that are advertised as handicapped or ADA accessible, but are not specifically the trail built and maintained by Kootenai Health around the perimeter of their campus and asked about the official status of the East Tubbs Hill Trail. Staff clarified that this trail was built to meet national parks standards for accessibility which is a lower standard that ADA compliance and is not advertised as an ADA facility.

10. NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, March 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 5:27 pm.