
Newport Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

MINUTES

DATE: May 12, 2009

ATTENDANCE:

Members- Ken Dennis (Chair), Bob Hein, Jerry Kern, Dave Teem (Newport Police Dept.), and Jeff Bertuleit (City Council)

Staff- Meredith Savage

Guests- No guests.

Meeting start: 5:37 p.m.

1. Call to Order

a. Introductions- Ken Dennis called the meeting to order; there were no introductions.

b. Approval of Minutes- There were no corrections, additions, or other changes to the minutes.

- Minutes were approved.

2. Report by City Staff and City Councilor

a. City staff-Meredith Savage reported on the action items from the April 14, 2009 Committee meeting. Additional information reported/discussed:

- *Naterlin Drive*--Staff followed up with USCG contact Linda Kratochvil on Newport's request to have public access from Naterlin Drive to the North Jetty Trail. L. Kratochvil responded that "The package has been sent to Station Yaquina Bay for their review and concurrence, and also to our environmental person for review and preparation of the NEPA documents." L. Kratochvil estimates that the process may take six weeks or more.
- *Oregon Coast Bike Route signs*—Public Works Director Lee Ritzman and Meredith Savage held a conference call with ODOT Pedestrian and Bicycle Program Manager, Sheila Lyons, to discuss the status of Oregon State Bike Route signs for Newport. S Lyons said that although ODOT cannot provide the signs they can provide money for Newport to have them made and installed. S. Lyons said that once ODOT received a cost estimate from L. Ritzman that an Intergovernmental Agreement would be drafted to facilitate the transfer of funds.

- *South Bridge/OSU Drive sidewalk project*- Linking the OSU Drive sidewalk project to the ODOT south end of bridge sidewalk was discussed. L. Ritzman explained that the City of Newport would likely not have enough funds to construct a sidewalk joining OSU Drive to the bridge sidewalk. S. Lyons said that ODOT could contribute up to \$100,000 to the project to get the two sidewalk sections connected.
- *Hazards Reporting Form*- Staff was going to make the bicycle/pedestrian Road Hazards Reporting Form available on the City's new website, but after discussing this with L. Ritzman it was decided not to post the form at this time. (Liability and budget concerns contributed to this decision.) Bob Hein voiced his concerns over current level of street sweeping in Newport, citing that street sweeping is very important to cyclists. Ken Dennis cited concerns that many people wouldn't necessarily know to call City Public Works to report street hazards.
 - **Action item:** Staff will discuss this item again with L. Ritzman and check into posting a "Call Public Works to report street hazards" notice on our website.
- *Lincoln Co./Tillamook Co. ODOT Bicycle Survey*- S. Lyons mentioned that ODOT was going to be re-issuing an earlier survey to assess public sentiments/opinions on bicycle issues and current bike routes within the county. She stated that ODOT estimates that between 4,000 to 6,000 individuals ride the Oregon Coast Highway each year and that ODOT recognized that more attention was needed to the Lincoln and Tillamook counties' bike routes.

b. City Councilor-Jeff Bertuleit had nothing to report from the Council.

3. Old Business

- a. *Bike Route signage*- The Committee discussed local bike route signs again, a continuation from April's Bike/Ped meeting, and NE-NW 6th Street and SW-NW Nye Street were re-affirmed as the two primary local routes to get signs. Staff will find out from Mike Eastman the final number of local signs that can be made and installed this year- once the signs have been manufactured the Committee will work with Mike on the sign locations.

The Committee also discussed the possibility of the City installing an informational sign along Hwy. 101 with directional arrows to The Bike Shop, and whether it would be appropriate for The Bike Shop to make a contribution towards such a project.

- **Action item:** Staff will follow up on this suggestion.

- b. Report on Oregon Bike Summit- Ken Dennis and Jerry Kern attended the OBS in April; Ken reported that there is a keen awareness at the state level of the importance of bike tourism dollars. Funding must come from the federal government and the belief is (on the state level) that the federal government is going to be increasing the budget for bike projects. Ken also reported that there are strong bike advocates on the State Transportation Committee.

Bob H. asked about the status of the Corvallis-to-the-Sea bike-hike-equestrian trail. Ken D. said that all but a final piece of property/property permission on the Newport end of the trail has been gained- that it had been hoped the trail could end in South Beach, but that now it seems likely that it will end near Ona Beach State Park. Ken D. mentioned that there is a national level movement to get a National Bike Ways System in place.

Also from the OR Bike Summit, Ken said that the gas tax [allocated to cities] does not have to be used every year but can accumulate up to 10 years. Ken then discussed a bill before the legislature regarding motorist-bicycle accidents. It has been standard that if a bicyclist is injured or killed from being struck by a motorist, the motorist is not charged to the same extent as they would be had the accident occurred between two motor vehicles. The new bill would eliminate that difference so that the charges for causing injury or fatality would be the same whether car-bicycle or car-car.

As a final note, Ken D. commented that studies /research has shown that for every dollar spent on bike related facilities, \$200 is saved in health care. Jeff B. took that opportunity to let everyone know that a ½ marathon bike-run-or-walk benefit will be staged on September 19th to help raise funds for the Aquatic Center. (Okay, that gives us all 3 ½ months to prepare...no excuses!)

- c. Bike racks- The Committee recommends that any bike racks still available be installed at the Nye Beach Turnaround. The idea of 'designer' bike racks was discussed further ; Bob H. suggested that the 'Bike' [shaped] bike rack is the best all around- it's artsy, functional, and sends the message "ride your bike!" Meredith S. suggested that the bike rack could be the signature rack for Newport. Dave T. added that maybe there could be a variety of bikes- tandem, big wheel, etc. Ken D. brought up the idea of sponsoring a bike rack- a business or individual could sponsor, or gift a rack in their name and a steel nameplate could be placed by the rack when it is installed. Ken suggested that this could be a feature on the City's web page.
 - **Action item:** Staff will contact Rec Center Director Jim Protiva regarding bike racks: installing any available racks at/near the Nye Beach turnaround; the idea of using the current Bike bike rack

design as the signature design for Newport; the idea of designing different styles of bikes (as racks); and the idea of sponsoring or gifting a bike rack.

4. The Committee agreed that the priority projects selected at the March 2009 meeting should be kept in the forefront: 1) acquisition and installation of bike lockers, 2) installation of local bike route signs, and 3) expansion of Oceanview Drive for addition of a bicycle and pedestrian way.
5. New Business
 - a. Ken Dennis is pursuing funding of bicycle and pedestrian trails for Newport.
6. Next Meeting; Proposed Agenda Items
 - a. Next meeting of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee will be Tuesday, June 9, 2009- 5:30 p.m. at the Rec Center.

Meeting adjourned: 7:35 p.m.