

December 10, 2013
5:30 P.M.
Newport, Oregon

The City of Newport Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee met on the above date in Conference Room A of the Newport City Hall. In attendance were Bob Hein, Alisha Kern, Maryann Bozza, and Chuck Forinash. Also in attendance was Mark Saelens, City Council liaison, and Peggy Hawker, City Recorder/Special Projects Director. Others in attendance were Ken Dennis, and applicants to fill Committee vacancies: Susan Hogg, Marsha Eckelman, Amanda Capri, and Skip Floraday.

ROLL CALL

Everyone present introduced themselves.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

It was requested that a discussion of the draft letter to ODOT regarding the bridge sharrows occur before the Big Creek Road discussion.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - NOVEMBER 12, 2013

There were several corrections to the minutes. MOTION was made by Hein, seconded by Forinash to approve the minutes as amended. The motion carried unanimously in a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ken Dennis stated that the Transportation System Plan specifies a multi-use path on Big Creek Road. He added that he has copies of e-mails between ODOT and Public Works Director, Tim Gross, regarding the bridge.

Susan Hogg suggested working with the city to clean the area of Highway 101 between the fog line and where the brush starts. She noted that there is a lot of gravel in this area. Saelens stated that this would need to be coordinated between the city and ODOT. Dennis noted that the city street sweeper works on Nye Street at least twice monthly, and suggested that Highway 101 might be a better priority.

It was suggested that a running list of grant opportunities be developed with e-mail calendaring.

INTERVIEW APPLICANT FOR COMMITTEE VACANCIES

The Committee interviewed: Marsha Eckelman, Amanda Capri, Susan Hogg, and Skip Floraday for the three vacancies that exist on the Committee. The Committee opted to

wait to make a decision, on which applicants to recommend to the Mayor for appointment, until the end of the meeting.

DEVELOP PRESENTATION FOR CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION ON DECEMBER 16, 2013

Saelens noted that this presentation will be an opportunity for compromise from both the Committee and City Council. He suggested developing a priority list, and noted that he is willing to promote funding for more specific projects. Discussion ensued regarding what projects are needed and how to get those projects into the city's queue. It was suggested that as paving happens; sharrows should automatically be included.

It was agreed that Bozza would make the presentation; discussing what is needed; and ask for direction on the best method to accomplish the needs. Forinash noted that he hoped that Saelens would make a motion for funding. Dennis stated that transient room tax money is a good fit for potential bicycle and pedestrian projects.

The Committee prioritized projects, for its presentation to the City Council, as follows: 1. Sharrows on city streets; 2. Trail - NW Nye Street to Oceanview Drive; 3. Trail connecting Agate Beach Wayside Trail to sidewalk on Highway 101 west; and 4. Sidewalks from the Bayfront to the hospital. It was suggested that the presentation include a discussion of the value of these projects.

LETTER TO ODOT REGARDING SHARROWS ON THE YAQUINA BAY BRIDGE

It was noted that the next step is to draft a letter to ODOT. A discussion ensued regarding who should write the letter, and there was no final determination.

BIG CREEK ROAD - DISCUSSION

Saelens reported that the City Council has been receiving many e-mails and letters regarding Big Creek Road. He noted that efforts are underway to work toward a compromise. He added that the road may continue to be a one-way road. Hein asked about a lower speed limit on the road. Bozza noted that Committee members can weigh in on this issue as private citizens. Kern recommended sending a message to the City Council that the Committee is opposed to Big Creek Road opening to two-way traffic. It was agreed that Kern would draft a statement, from the Committee, that would be vetted by the Committee individually, before it was presented to Council.

SELECT APPLICANTS FOR COMMITTEE VACANCIES TO RECOMMEND TO THE MAYOR FOR APPOINTMENT

Bozza noted that the Committee had interviewed four excellent applicants for three vacancies on the Committee. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee to recommend the following applicants to the Mayor for appointment: Amanda Capri; Susan Hogg; and Marsha Eckelman.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Hogg noted that there is no place to lock bicycles in the community. Saelens suggested developing an “adopt-a-bike rack program.”

A discussion ensued regarding the Highway 101 crosswalk project. It was noted the four Committee members attended the last open house. Issues important to the Committee included curbs, bullnoses, beach grass landscaping, and a flashing light on Third Street.

Bozza asked about the large maps that the Committee had previously requested. Saelens reported that there is no master GIS layered map. Forinash reported that there are three maps needed; one each for the northern, central, and southern parts of the city. It was noted that the GIS layers could be created by borrowing the city’s GIS system and walking the city.

Bozza thanked the applicants for the Committee vacancies, and urged Floraday to attend the Committee meetings as an interested citizen.

It was noted that Tarah Campi will make a presentation at the January 2014 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:39 P.M.