

October 14, 2014
5:30 P.M.
Newport, Oregon

The City of Newport Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee met on the above date in Conference Room A of the Newport City Hall. In attendance were Marsha Eckelman, Maryann Bozza, Amanda Capri, and Bob Hein. Also in attendance was Council Liaison Mark Saelens, and Peggy Hawker, City Recorder/Special Projects Director.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - AUGUST 12, 2014

MOTION was made by Eckelman, seconded by Capri, to approve the minutes of August 12, 2014, as presented. The motion carried unanimously in a voice vote.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

A brief discussion ensued regarding the order of the agenda.

A discussion ensued regarding pedestrian traffic near the surf shop. It was noted that a public workshop would be held in November regarding the Agate Beach Wayside Improvement Project. It was suggested that enhancing the Wayside could possibly create an attractive nuisance in the area. Saelens agreed to bring this issue and its potential liability to the City Council.

REVIEW CURRENT STAFF REPORTS FROM THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENTS

It was asked whether there would be an opportunity for this Committee to provide input into the design of the Bay Boulevard intersection project. Hein noted that it would be great if the bike lane went to the stop sign on Bay Boulevard. It was asked whether the bike lane could be installed back to Englund Marine. It was also asked whether a bike lane is already incorporated in this project, and when the Committee could provide public comment relative to the project.

It was agreed that the Committee does not need to worry about the Abalone/Brant project.

Bozza reported that she would e-mail Gross regarding the installation of a bench at the top of Naterlin Drive.

A discussion ensued regarding the speed limit change, from 25 miles per hour to 35 miles per hour, on Oceanview Drive, and whether the change might be reconsidered. Capri requested the guidelines used for adjusting traffic speeds.

It was noted that the crosswalk striping, on Oceanview Drive, near the Best Western, had not been repainted.

It was reported that a tsunami drill would be held in South Beach on Friday, with an informational event to be held on Thursday. It was noted that Tokos would be talking about the Safe Haven Hill project at the Thursday event. It was stated that the tsunami evacuation signs do not connect to the existing trail system, and that there are no paths to the top of Safe Haven Hill.

REVIEW OLD AND BEGIN SETTING NEW PROJECT PRIORITIES

It was reported that the Oceanview sharrow project was completed, and asked that staff check to see whether the sharrow installation is completed for the year.

It was noted that preliminary planning for the following projects is scheduled to be completed by February 2015: Trail - NW Nye Street to Oceanview Drive; Trail connecting Agate Beach Wayside trail to the sidewalk on Highway 101 on the west side; and Sidewalks from the Bayfront to the hospital.

It was noted that the sharrows will not be completed until approximately the end of October due to staffing.

It was suggested that if Oceanview Drive is going to be entirely repaved, that it be made three or four feet wider to better accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians.

DISCUSSION REGARDING THE COMMITTEE'S REVISED MISSION STATEMENT

A discussion ensued regarding the Committee's mission statement and the Committee's possible inclusion of alternate transportation in the mission statement. Saelens stated that the City Council favors the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee review alternate transportation as a part of its mission.

Bozza noted that one the Committee would want direction with more specificity before including alternate transportation. Hein added that he prefers the focus of the Committee to be on pedestrians and bicyclists safety and routing. Capri stated that she would not advocate the Committee dealing with the scheduling of alternate, and public, transportation. She added that there are similarities between the bike and public transportation user groups, but asked how this affects public transportation. Saelens reported that the original thought was in the context of starting from the beginning and designing streets for various user groups - he asked what that would look like. Eckelman noted that she leans toward focusing on bicyclists and pedestrians, noting that if the Committee takes on buses, it could be a can of worms. Capri added that if you wait until it's necessary to have more bus routes; it is too late. Eckelman noted that skateboarding needs to be considered also. Bozza suggested considering a response to the City Council direction based on this discussion. It was reiterated that there needs to be visioning for public transportation, and that perhaps this could best be accomplished by a new committee or task force.

Following this discussion, MOTION was made by Eckelman, seconded by Hein, to approve the following mission statement: "The Committee advises the City Council regarding issues relating to bicycle and pedestrian transportation, safety, recreation, and education. The Committee acts as a resource to provide additional information related to the unique problems associated with non-motorized transportation." The motion carried unanimously in a voice vote.

REVIEW OF PROJECTS LISTED IN THE PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE PLAN

It was agreed to begin this review at the next meeting, starting with 3-33 - Shared Roads/Bike Boulevards, and identify the projects that have been completed. It was further agreed that a maximum of 20 minutes should be devoted to this effort at each meeting, and that the Committee focus on the projects that are identified in the plan.

REVIEW LIST OF QUESTIONS FOR CITY STAFF

The Committee reviewed the list of questions for city staff, and the following questions remain:

1. There is a disconnect on the 40th Street trail to OCCC - can sharrows be considered for enhanced connectivity?
2. Can the bike lane, previously on Bay Boulevard, be restored?
3. Would the city consider installing dog waste containers on the Big Creek Trail?
4. Is there a plan to include signage at both ends of the Big Creek Trail?
5. Would the city consider installation of a bike rack at the Nye Beach turnaround?

REPORT ON BICYCLE AND/OR PEDESTRIAN ACCIDENTS DURING AUGUST

Hawker reported that this information was unavailable at this time, but that there was at least one accident involving a bicycle striking a parked vehicle.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

A discussion ensued regarding the Big Creek trail and the possibility of lighting at both ends of the tunnel. It was also reported that the tunnel is prone to flooding.

It was asked that a bike rack be installed at the Nye Beach Turnaround.

Saelens gave an update on the proposed bicycle pump track at Coast Park. A discussion ensued regarding whether the Committee should write a letter to the City Council in support of the project. Hein agreed to draft the letter and send it to Bozza.

ESTABLISH NEXT MEETING DATE

Due to the Veteran's Day holiday, the next meeting was scheduled for Monday, November 10, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:53 P.M.