



MINUTES  
MANHATTAN BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
City Commission Room, City Hall  
1101 Poyntz Ave. Manhattan, KS 66502  
September 9, 2009

**Members Present:** Brian Hardeman, Ben Champion, Julie Gibbs, Brian Johnson, Joe Edmunds, Diane Novak, Dan Scott, Dave Colburn, Rich Markle

**Members Absent:**

**Staff Present:** Dan Oldehoeft, Bicycle Coordinator; Rob Ott, City Engineer

**Public Attendance:** 2

Hardeman called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

A motion was made to approve the August meeting minutes. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Novak mentioned that the bike racks in front of Hy-Vee were in a bad location and suggested they might be moved to a better location. Oldehoeft said that he would look into the issue and contact Hy-Vee management if necessary.

Champion presented information pertaining to a grant opportunity focused on youth service-learning. Champion will provide more information via email.

### **New Business**

#### **1. Annual Review**

Hardeman solicited the opinions of BAC members as to what should be included in the BAC's Annual Report. Oldehoeft said that a point should be made of the consultants that have been in attendance with presentations at BAC meetings. Colburn asked if City Staff realize we exist. Oldehoeft answered that, yes, staff and the City Commission are well aware of the BAC and the purpose for its existence. Novak mentioned the Bike Manhattan website. Champion asked whether this document would be a City or a Committee report. Oldehoeft answered that it would be a Committee report. Markle wondered whether the BAC should be consulted each time a new project was proposed. Ott said that he had been arranging the consultant presentations that had taken place at BAC meetings so far.

Champion nicely outlined the charge of the BAC by stating that we should focus on a bicycle system for the City, make recommendations on standards, make ourselves available to groups in town, and make plans for Bike Week.

## 2. Goals

As part of an effort to better focus efforts of the BAC for the next year, a goal-setting session commenced.

Hardeman stated that an important goal that he'd like to see met within a year's time would be the completion of application for Bicycle Friendly Community designation through the League of American Bicyclists. Hardeman also recommended that we make a concerted effort to plan events for next year's National Bike Month and Bike to Work Week. He went onto to say that he'd like to see us make stronger near-term recommendations to the City Commission. Hardeman concluded his remarks for saying the BAC needs initiate informational and educational programs. Colburn agreed that education should be a priority and that a strong effort could increase our status with those who hold the purse strings. Colburn pointed to N. Manhattan Avenue, calling it the City's crown jewel in the way of bicycle transportation design.

Ott asked about the absence of bike racks at Manhattan High School. Colburn said that he will be a representative of the BAC at school board meetings and he could inquire about it.

### **Staff Report**

Ott:

- Riley County meeting for projects sent to government representatives will recommend bike lanes [needs clarification]
- Stone Pointe pedestrian bridge is complete.

Novak asked whether the bike rack map on Bike Manhattan website could be made interactive. Oldehoeft answered, "No".

Concerning bicycle traffic through the downtown area, Hardeman pointed out the importance of a connection to Linear Trail on the south end. Johnson said that we don't necessarily want more bike lanes stripped. Hardeman agreed with Johnson and added that we just want to solve transportation problems and not just create bike lanes and confine bike traffic to those. Hardeman also stated that there are many ways to slow automobile traffic. Champion asked whether the City had rigorous standards in place for speed limits. Ott said that we follow State standards.

Champion suggested we include bicycles in the City's traffic counting effort and asked if that was possible.

Johnson stated the the bridge over Wildcat Creek west of Westwood on Fort Riley Boulevard was very bad for bike and pedestrian traffic.

Markle stated that downtown is the easiest place to ride because of the relatively flat terrain and street configuration. Ott asked how people felt about streets with parking on both sides. Hardeman suggested that speeds are slower on those streets.

Hardeman would like the BAC to make a recommendation for the N. Manhattan/Aggieville connection and for the S. Downtown/Linear Trail connection. A discussion of possible connection schemes for N. Manhattan/Aggieville ensued. It was agreed that this subject should be revisited.

Champion suggested making Poyntz Avenue a bicycle traffic corridor, per his students' project. Ott stated that Poyntz Avenue is scheduled to be resurfaced in 2 years. Hardeman said he would like the faux striped traffic bulbs converted to real bulbs and have bike racks added. Edmunds suggested adding a bike lane and crossing at 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Ott thinks that might be a good idea.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.