

MINUTES
Manhattan Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Harmon Room
1101 Poyntz Ave, Manhattan, KS 66502
April 15, 2016

Members Present: Brent Chamberlain, Dave Colburn, Joe Edmunds, Jessica Fiscus, Jeff Koenig, Stephanie Watts

Members Absent: Brian Hardeman, Adam Inman, Seth Scobee, Michael Wesch

Staff Present: Lance Evans, Long Range Planner; Jay Guarneri, GIS Technician; Tim Kellams, Intern Park Planner; Rob Ott, Director of Public Works; Emma Rearick, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator; Wyatt Thompson, Park Planner; Jared Tremblay, Infrastructure Analyst & Staff Liaison to BPAC

Public Attendance: 6

J. Koenig called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

Green Infrastructure Meeting with Public Works

B. Chamberlain reviewed the meeting that he and M. Wesch had with Public Works staff members to discuss incorporating green infrastructure into future projects. He stated that while they did not agree on any solid steps to approach future projects, it was good to have the conversation.

City Park Passing Etiquette Campaign

E. Rearick reported that the Parks and Recreation Department was receptive to a sign campaign in City Park to educate the public about trail etiquette. Design is moving forward and the signs should be in use in the near future.

Miller Parkway Sidewalk/Trail

Rod Harms, member of the public, brought a proposal to the BPAC to install a trail of asphalt millings along one side of Miller Parkway in place of a concrete sidewalk. He gave some background on the landowners and developments in the area and existing and potential trail connections. He stated that there is a lot of support from local running groups, including the Kansas State University cross country team, for more trails with soft surfaces. Ben Siegel, Manhattan Running Company, stated that Linear Trail is well-used but becomes muddy and unusable in wet weather. J. Koenig asked what asphalt millings are, and R. Harms clarified that they are like limestone screenings, but asphalt. J. Edmunds mentioned that asphalt millings tend to harden and become uneven over time. R. Harms explained that you can use a landscape rake to maintain an even surface. J. Edmunds went on to say that asphalt millings tend to wash out when used on a grade. J. Tremblay pointed out that Miller Parkway is currently designed to include bike lanes and sidewalks on both sides of the street.

R. Ott noted that any changes to the project would require legal and legislative action at this point in the process. He expressed concern with the maintenance of a trail constructed of asphalt millings, and said that concrete sidewalks would be the responsibility of the property owners. He went on to say that sidewalks are built on both sides of the street for safety, and he wouldn't want to start a precedent of eliminating or replacing sidewalks in any way.

J. Koenig said that we can combine recreation and transportation, but on residential streets we need safety and accessibility. He suggested that runners just want somewhere to run, not a particular neighborhood. B. Siegel agreed, and said that facilities for cross country runners need length. Most casual runners just want a connected sidewalk. *Having* them is the main thing. J. Koenig noted that introducing something odd in a neighborhood might not be helpful. He asked what can the BPAC do has a committee. R. Harms answered that he wanted dialogue and an opportunity to test in an as-yet undeveloped area. B. Chamberlain noted that it is worth considering a recreational trail network in residential areas. Networks that would be in addition to sidewalks, because we need longer trail systems in the area. J. Edmunds suggested asphalt shoulders along the road.

W. Thompson brought up the park at Lee Mill Heights, and said the Parks and Recreation department would be open to discussions about trail surfaces. The community has expressed a desire for natural areas, which would likely include natural trail surfaces. They are open to evaluating what an asphalt surface looks like, and the opportunities in the short term for soft trail surfaces are much better in park areas than along a right of way. He said they are currently evaluating their existing trails and their condition, and working towards a better understanding of the current network. He would appreciate any feedback from the BPAC. J. Koenig requested that a) the issue be added to the next agenda and b) a summary of the issues be provided to inform any decisions. B. Chamberlain requested that the committee see any existing data on trail network and surface type.

Approval of Minutes:

J. Edmunds moved to approve the March 2016 minutes, B. Chamberlain seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

BPAC Recommendation for Old Blue River Trail

J. Tremblay summarized the background of the Old Blue River Trail and its role as a vital bike/ped connection to the Northview Neighborhood. He asked for a letter of support from the BPAC to include with a grant application to the Sunflower Foundation. J. Fiscus moved to write a letter of support, J. Edmunds seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

S. Watts interjected to share that KDOT had just announced the Transportation Alternatives Grant awardees. Manhattan received funding for three projects: Safe Routes to School infrastructure, Juliette Ave brick rehabilitation, and the Old Big Blue River stormwater management and pedestrian crossing. The pedestrian crossing at McCall will tie in closely with the Old Blue River Trail project.

Staff Reports

J. Tremblay noted that B. Chamberlain would replace Cydney Alexis as the new Kansas State University representative. Dr. Paul Benne will officially join the committee at the next meeting as an at-large representative.

Election of Officers

B. Chamberlain asked whether members must have a year of service before being elected as an officer. E. Rearick consulted the bylaws and clarified that no, they did not, but officers serve for one year terms. S. Watts questioned whether M. Wesch could be re-elected as chair, and E. Rearick clarified that he has reached his term limit. J. Koenig nominated B. Hardeman to serve as committee chair. B. Chamberlain seconded. J. Koenig nominated D. Colburn to serve as committee vice-chair. B. Chamberlain seconded. No other nominations were made. The committee voted for the officers as a slate, and unanimously elected B. Hardeman as committee chair and D. Colburn as vice-chair.

Staff Reports, continued.

-J. Tremblay reported that yesterday he and S. Watts attended the Active Transportation & Safety Summit in Wichita hosted by Health ICT. E. Rearick had attended earlier in the week. Peter Lagerwey from Toole Design Group presented on pedestrian planning on Monday and public advocacy strategies on Thursday.

-J. Tremblay noted that the lighting fixtures at the new City Park trail have been installed.

-E. Rearick noted that the official Bike Month proclamation is scheduled for the City Commission meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday April 19, and encouraged BPAC members to attend. She asked if any BPAC members would be willing to help host short bike safety videos to air on social media during Bike Month. B. Chamberlain volunteered to help and D. Colburn confirmed his involvement.

-L. Evans announced that the Community Development Department has begun an Aggieville Community Vision planning process. A survey will be launched on Monday, and an open house is scheduled for Thursday April 28 from 5 to 7 p.m. at City Hall. He reported that the process would run through the end of the year, with the goal of forming a high-level vision of what the community wants to see in Aggieville. People can also provide input through www.cityofmhk.com/aggievilleplan .

-J. Koenig announced that he sits on the City/University Special Project Fund Committee and they have approved adding lighting to the Jardine Trail. J. Tremblay added that they also approved the pedestrian crossing improvements on Sunset Ave.

Public Comments

Brian Carter spoke. He noted that he follows the actions of the BPAC, and complimented the committee on its work. He is a resident of Northview and bikes with his child along Knox Lane to Northeast Community Park. He looks

forward to using the planned Knox Lane Trail because he feels it will be safer, and asked about its status. J. Tremblay responded that the City is still working with property owners to acquire right of way to build the trail. ROW acquisition can be a long process, but once it is complete, construction can begin.

J. Koenig suspended the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Next Meeting: May 20, 2016