

MINUTES
Manhattan Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee
City Commission Room
1101 Poyntz Ave, Manhattan, KS 66502
July 15, 2016

Members Present: Paul Benne, Dave Colburn, Joe Edmunds, Jessica Fiscus, Brian Hardeman, Jeff Koenig, Seth Scobee, Stephanie Watts

Members Absent: Brent Chamberlain, Adam Inman

Staff Present: Ben Chmiel, Long Range Planner; Jay Guarneri, GIS Technician; Tim Kellams, Intern Park Planner; Emma Rearick, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator; Wyatt Thompson, Senior Park Planner

Public Attendance: 1

B. Hardeman called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Approval of Minutes:

J. Edmunds moved to approve the June 2016 minutes, S. Scobee seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Wayfinding Update

E. Rearick reported that the bike boulevard wayfinding signs have been printed and are ready to be installed. The City's traffic shop will install the signs once they are finished with their summer road striping projects. She acknowledged and thanked the Flint Hills Wellness Coalition for their financial support of the project. J. Fiscus asked if City staff had any plans to educate the public about the signs. E. Rearick replied that there were no plans at the moment. S. Watts suggested that City staff could make an educational video like they made for Bike Month. J. Fiscus added that the Flint Hills Wellness Coalition would like the press to report on the signs, especially because grant givers appreciate media attention for projects completed with their funds. J. Guarneri mentioned that going forward, signs will be installed as bike boulevards are added, and that this large batch was catch-up for past years. S. Watts asked if there was a budget for the signs. E. Rearick responded that the cost of wayfinding signs was budgeted into future bike boulevard estimates.

Staff Reports

E. Rearick announced that Jared Tremblay had left his position at the City to begin work at the Flint Hills MPO. Going forward, he will be the MPO representative at BPAC meetings. J. Guarneri will be the staff liaison to the committee. She also announced that Mike Wesch had resigned from the committee, citing work commitments that made it difficult to attend regularly.

J. Guarneri reported on the following projects:

-Bids have been solicited to install an ADA ramp at 3rd St and Vattier St, as well as sharrow markings on the 2016 bike boulevards.

-Transportation Alternatives grants: it will be at least 6 months before KDOT sends out contracts for the City's awarded projects.

-Knox Lane Trail: property acquisition continues to move forward, but it has not yet been finalized.

E. Rearick added:

-The Parks and Recreation Department was awarded a grant from the Sunflower Foundation to build the Old Blue River Trail from McCall Road to Hayes Drive.

-The West Anderson project was approved by City Commission, including the trail along Anderson Ave and the trail along Scenic Drive over Wildcat Creek. City staff received feedback from the Army Corps of Engineers that a trail under the bridge to the west side of Scenic Drive may be feasible with a minor permit. If so, that trail could be added to the West Anderson project.

Public Comments

No one spoke.

Aggieville Vision Draft Review

B. Chmiel explained that a lot of recent changes in and near Aggieville prompted City planning staff to update the Aggieville plan. He asked the committee for feedback on the bicycle and pedestrian section of the draft background report.

B. Hardeman stated that proper use of the contraflow lane, people riding the wrong way on Moro Street, or on sidewalks in the district were all known issues, and that it needs to be obvious where bikes should go. J. Koenig suggested dedicated bike lanes, and added that any infrastructure would need to be connected to a larger network.

S. Watts recalled Jared Tremblay's idea for a two-way cycle track along the west side of Manhattan Avenue. B. Hardeman pointed out that the number of people biking seems to be increasing, and there are people biking that never did in the past. Committee members then took a few minutes to discuss the need to educate GAB users and the challenges of the Essential Bikes program.

B. Hardeman asked if there were any other questions about the Aggieville report. J. Edmonds mentioned that abandoned bikes should be addressed.

Green Apple Bikes Public Rack Locations

J. Guarneri shared that GAB wants permission to place bike share stations on public property. He asked the committee to assess whether the proposed locations were appropriate. He also noted that on public land, City staff was asking for inverted U racks instead of the of the existing schoolyard-style GAB racks.

J. Guarneri asked the committee for their thoughts on bike racks near the City Park pool. B. Hardeman asked if people will drop their bikes at the designated racks, and expect their bike to be there when they return. W. Thompson stated that Parks staff had seen a lot of GAB bikes left along the new trail in City Park. S. Watts asked if GAB could place bikes anywhere. D. Colburn answered that GAB puts bikes in their own racks because sponsors pay to have racks and bikes. J. Fiscus asked if there would be signage at the proposed racks. J. Guarneri replied that yes, there should be. B. Hardeman stated that he was more in favor of adding new racks over making existing racks exclusive to GAB. J. Guarneri replied that any new racks would be installed on a case-by-case basis.

J. Guarneri asked the committee for their thoughts on locations at the Flint Hills Breadbasket and the Douglass Center. S. Watts suggested that one station could serve both locations, and ideally should be near a proposed new transit stop. J. Koenig pointed out that we needed to accept that no matter what color the racks are painted, GAB bikes will be left anywhere. J. Guarneri explained that the green rack color was a compromise to maintain the GAB branding. B. Hardeman asked whether it was the City's job to maintain the green branding. W. Thompson replied that from the Parks' perspective, people can put their bikes anywhere, but right now GAB doesn't distribute to non-GAB racks. D. Colburn pointed out that there was some morphing of the program going on, and the role of the GAB racks has changed over time. S. Watts noted that this bike share model is filling gaps for people, and it is less expensive for the City to cooperate by installing racks.

J. Guarneri asked the committee about Long's Park. J. Edmunds asked if there would be a bus stop here, too. S. Watts answered that there will be one on 17th Street. B. Hardeman proposed a transit right of way where any approved transit amenities could be installed. S. Scobee asked if it made sense to have a rack at Long's Park when there already was one at the Parkwood Inn. Committee members then discussed what the goal is of putting GAB racks on public property. B. Hardeman stated that he was in favor of GAB signs and bikes, but no special infrastructure – no green racks. S. Watts, J. Fiscus, and D. Colburn concurred.

J. Guarneri asked the committee about locations downtown. B. Hardeman stated that he was not in favor of installing green U's downtown.

J. Guarneri asked the committee about the Linear Trail trailhead at South Manhattan Ave. B. Hardeman said he was not sure about the use case on Linear Trail. J. Fiscus agreed that GAB users would ride home from the Linear Trail and not leave a bike at the trailhead.

J. Guarneri asked about the proposed location near the Strasser Village apartments, at the pocket park on 3rd Street. B. Hardeman suggested that the apartment complex should dedicate a stall in their parking lot to GAB racks.

J. Guarneri asked about the proposed location on the north side of City Park. B. Hardeman pointed out that this would be a transit connection again, and noted that it was hard to gauge how many bikes would need to be accommodated at each stop. He stated that he would not have a problem with putting GAB's existing racks on public land. D. Colburn brought up that perhaps the City should maintain certain bike rack standards. B. Hardeman said that he would not want to park his private bike at a rack tagged for dual use. S. Watts added that the overall goal is to create one transportation system, where all users should be able to use all systems.

S. Watts announced that volunteers will be needed for the annual Bike and Ped count scheduled for the second week in September.

B. Hardeman adjourned the meeting at 10:53 a.m.

Next Meeting: August 19, 2016