

MINUTES
Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee
City Commission Room
1101 Poyntz Ave, Manhattan, KS 66502
November 18, 2016

Members Present: Paul Benne, Brent Chamberlain, Dave Colburn, Jessica Fiscus, Adam Inman, Jeff Koenig

Members Absent: Jonathan Eden, Joe Edmunds, Brian Hardeman, Seth Scobee, Jared Tremblay

Staff Present: Brett Bolf, Intern Park Planner; Rial Carver, Intern Park Planner; Ben Chmiel, Long-Range Planner; Jay Guarneri, Infrastructure Analyst and Staff Liaison; Brian Johnson, City Engineer; Doug May, Current Planner; Emma Rearick, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator; Wyatt Thompson, Senior Park Planner

Public Attendance: 1

D. Colburn called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

J. Koenig moved to approve the October 2016 minutes, J. Fiscus seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Annual Report

D. Colburn complimented City Staff on the latest annual report draft. P. Benne asked that the report include the word “pedestrian” more often. B. Chamberlain motioned to approve the annual report, A. Inman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

J. Guarneri reported on the following:

- The Knox Lane multi-use trail project went to bid on Wednesday. B. Johnson added that construction should start in January or February 2017.
- The new sidewalk along 3rd Street between Bluemont Ave and Vattier St has been completed.
- The Community Development department is soliciting the public for Community Development Block Grant project proposals. B. Chmiel clarified that CDBG funds can pay for a wide variety of projects; the main requirement is they benefit Low and Moderate Income neighborhoods.

E. Rearick reported on the following:

- The League of American Bicyclists has renewed Manhattan’s bronze-level bicycle friendly community designation for an additional four years, until 2020. She noted that Lawrence also renewed at bronze and Wichita received an

honorable mention. To work towards a silver designation, Manhattan needs to improve general bicycle education for the public and in schools.

W. Thompson reported on the following:

- The trail use study has been completed and presented to the Commission. Nearly 2,000 people completed the online survey, 252 intercept surveys were completed, and 52 people participated in 9 focus groups. Generally, people want more information about the trails—including locations—and group activities on the trails. There should be a final report to share next month.

-B. Bolf has been working on new trailhead sign and wayfinding concepts, informed by B. Chamberlain's past work.

-R. Carver is applying for an Everybody Walk microgrant to fund broader distribution of the City's trail guide.

Denison and Marlatt Multi-Use Trail Update

J. Guarneri and B. Johnson shared slides of the current design for the planned improvements to Denison Ave and Marlatt Ave. The design includes a 10' paved path along the north side of Marlatt Ave and the west side of Denison Ave that will connect to the existing underpass at Tuttle Creek Blvd. B. Johnson noted that Riley County is leading the project but the cost will be shared with the City. Committee members asked about maintenance and road-widening policies. W. Thompson noted that a connection along Denison is laid out in the Linear Trail Phase 2 Plan.

B. Chamberlain expressed a preference for more bicycle infrastructure within the city and not on the outskirts. D.

Colburn and J. Koenig shared that they were pleased to see cyclists and pedestrians accommodated along this stretch and the continuation of the Linear Trail loop.

Trail Closure Notification Policies

P. Benne proposed that the City should have a notification policy for trail closures. In particular, when a trail is closed a sign should be posted that shares the beginning and end dates of the project, and state the reason for closing the trail. E. Rearick added that trail closure signs could be inexpensively printed on weather-resistant paper and asked for feedback from the committee about criteria for posting such signs, including duration and size of projects. D. Colburn stated that he likes the idea of adding signs with dates, especially if they include why the trail is closed. A. Inman noted that such information might help with compliance and reduce the number of people who just go around barricades. B. Johnson shared that lately the City has used signs that include links to more detailed information on the City website. W. Thompson explained that an inexpensive paper sign could be produced in bulk, include a link to the City website, and be modified on site to include the contractor's contact information. P. Benne asked that projects lasting one month or longer be signed to include start and end dates. A. Inman noted that adding a sign wouldn't take much extra effort. J. Fiscus proposed that temporary signs be used for short-term projects lasting less than one month. J. Koenig proposed using a standard sign for all projects that always directed people to a project

page on the website. He also noted that a lot of trail use is spontaneous, and suggested adding an internal policy that clarified legitimate reasons for closing a trail. D. Colburn concluded that there was a general consensus that signs with project dates and information would be helpful.

Linear Trail Mosquito Control Funding

P. Benne explained that Congress had passed funding for Zika Prevention grants. He is concerned about water pooling on the Linear Trail near the pecan grove and wants to pursue funding to improve drainage in the area. He noted that funding would have to be pursued through the Riley County Health Department. J. Fiscus volunteered to coordinate with P. Benne and find out more about the opportunity.

Annual Election of Officers

D. Colburn stated that B. Hardeman is willing to continue as chair, and he is willing to continue as vice-chair. A. Inman moved to elect D. Colburn and B. Hardeman as a slate. B. Chamberlain seconded. There were no comments. The committee voted unanimously to reelect B. Hardeman as chair and D. Colburn as vice-chair.

Public Comments

No one spoke.

D. Colburn adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting: December 16, 2016