
Newport Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

MINUTES

DATE: April 13, 2010

ATTENDANCE:

Members- Ken Dennis (Chair), Bob Hein, Chuck Forinash, Chip Norman, Dave Teem (Newport Police Dept.), and Jeff Bertuleit (City Council)

Staff- Meredith Savage

Guests- Ed Simon- Volunteer with the Newport Police Department

Meeting start: 5:35 p.m.

1. Call to Order

a. Introductions- Ed Simon was introduced to Committee members.

b. Approval of Minutes-

- A few spelling errors were noted and the minutes from March 9, 2010, were approved as amended.

2. Report by City Staff and City Councilor

a. City staff-Meredith Savage

- i. Concrete sidewalk stamp- Jeri Kern wrote a check for \$100 to the City of Newport towards purchase of a cement stamp for the new sidewalks along Bay Blvd. Meredith spoke with Melissa Roman in Public Works who said she would look into getting a concrete stamp, possibly having it made locally.
- ii. Oceanview Drive- Mike Eastman and Meredith drove Oceanview Drive for the purpose of coming up with locations for safety signs alerting motorists to the presence of bicycles on the road. Two locations were chosen for "Share the Road" signs: one on the northbound lane just north of NW 12th Street and one on the southbound lane at NW 19th Street. Cost of manufacture and installation will be taken from the same fund used for the local bike route signs.
- iii. Naterlin Drive- Nothing new to report.
 - The Committee is still concerned about the timeline for this project- specifically, whether it will be completed by August 2010 in time to meet the terms of the ODOT grant that provides funds for the project.

b. City Councilor-Jeff Bertuleit – No report at this time.

3. Old Business

Minutes of the Newport Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

- a. Newport Bike Route Map- Meredith will be soliciting quotes from additional printing companies in town; the company providing the original quote that was presented to the City Council later increased the quote to almost double, exceeding the approved budgeted amount. The Committee discussed getting the bike routes onto Google Maps and Ken said that he would contact Google about this.
- b. Oceanview Drive- item covered in staff report above.
- c. Oregon Coast Bike Route Signs- All OCBR signs have been placed; project is closed.
- d. Local Bike Route Signs- the Committee asked Meredith to check with Mike Eastman on status of local bike route sign placement.
- e. Jetty Trail- The Committee asked Meredith to check again with the US Coast Guard on the status of getting formal access to the Jetty Trail.
- f. Pedestrian Crossings on Hwy. 101- Meredith brought up the latest incident (April 12th) of a pedestrian getting hit by a vehicle while crossing Hwy. 101 and asked if the Committee wanted to tackle the pedestrian crossings issue and whether it was possible the police could give increased attention to crosswalk violations. Dave said that it was primarily an engineering issue- that the painted crosswalks virtually disappear at night, especially if it is raining; that the combination of rain, darkness, and dark clothing make it extremely difficult to see pedestrians at night.

Bob brought up lighted crosswalks as something the Committee could pursue. The Committee discussed various lighting types, including lights on the sidewalk at the crossing points, overhead lighting, and lights imbedded in the road surface, and agreed that imbedded lights that flashed along the length of the crosswalk were the most effective. Ken suggested that if we had a Traffic Safety Committee (perhaps as a sub-committee to the Bicycle-Pedestrian Committee) that we could qualify for more funding opportunities. It was pointed out that it is already in the Committee's by-laws that the Committee is charged with pedestrian safety issues, so we should be able to qualify for Traffic Safety grants. Bob agreed to find out who is the ODOT Transportation Safety contact.

Dave said that the most dangerous pedestrian crossings over Hwy 101 are at south Bayley Street, north 3rd Street, and north 10th Street. It was suggested that the Committee request the Council ask that the Newport Police pursue writing a grant for pedestrian crosswalk enforcement.

Chuck suggested bringing to the budget committee a Bicycle-Pedestrian wish list that includes providing grant match funds for a crosswalk flashing

light system, a greater emphasis on police patrol of crosswalks, money for more bike racks and for purchase and installation of bike lockers, and consideration of constructing 'bulb-outs' at crosswalks as a way of slowing down traffic and increasing visibility of pedestrians at crosswalks.

4. New Business

- a. Ken gave a report on the 10th National Bike summit that was held in March in Washington, D.C. One of the programs he talked about was the 'Complete Streets Program' which promotes the practice of designing new roads with all types of access in mind, not just vehicular travel. Ken drafted a "Complete Streets" resolution that he would like to have go before the City Council; the resolution would ask for a commitment from the City of Newport that all new road design and construction addresses/incorporates bicycle and pedestrian travel needs. The Complete Streets Program is in keeping with the 2008 Newport Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan. Ken said that the ultimate goal is to get Newport designated as a Bicycle Friendly City.
- b. Chuck suggested promoting the idea of using 'Urban Paths' in areas where there are gaps in sidewalk coverage or where there are no sidewalks at all. Urban Paths are simply graveled pathways.
- c. For Committee members who could not attend the March meeting Ed Simon gave a re-cap of the Bike Patrol program starting up.
- d. Next Meeting: May 11, 2010

Meeting adjourned: 7:15 p.m.