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Newport Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Members Present: Ken Dennis, Chuck Forinash, Bob Hein

Staff: Tim Gross, Lon Brusselback

Guests: Dave Morgan, Dave Teem

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm and the minutes from the March and April meetings were accepted after one minor change to the April minutes.

Correspondence: Discussed the contents of Mike Becker’s letter to the editor that made negative statements concerning the Naterlin Drive project, Lee Ritzman’s response to Jim Voetberg and the City’s desire to put out a positive press release upon completion of the project in June.

Staff Report:

Tim reports that there are still some technical issues that need to be addressed before the US Coast Guard Environmental Checklist can be signed off and submitted for their review. This is holding up the ability to get a contractors estimate for the fence that the USCG is requesting prior to allowing access to a North Jetty Trail.

Tim passed around a copy of Cycling Mobility that the city received. It contained an article that noted that there was a reduction in the number of reported accidents on streets that had Sharrows on them. The Newport street department is getting ready to put thermoplastic sharrows on 6th Street as early as next week in time for the Bike to School w/ the Mayor on May 20th.

Newport is waiting for a memo from ODOT on placement of improved pedestrian crosswalks on Highway 101.

The Naterlin Drive project is on schedule and the lighting that will eventually be installed will be standard street lights instead of the ones that have been installed on the new trails in South Beach. He will also be working on a trail/sidewalk system plan that would connect Naterlin Dr. with the State Park and the stairs on the Yaquina Bay Bridge.

Tim met with Derrick Tokos about getting the new South Beach trails on the Wayfinding Maps and heard from him that the Hatfield Marine Science Center is concerned about allowing bicycles on the existing estuary trail.

Old Business:

Ken reported that the Bike to Work Month events have been planned and Jeremy, the publisher for the NewsTimes, is running ¼ page ads promoting the events and is contributing \$400 to the person that uses a bike to work, school and errands the most in the month of May. Bike Newport is coordinating this with the newspaper.

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New Business:

There is an opening on the committee due to the resignation of Patti Murphy and the committee has been provided with the names of four other applications to select a replacement. The members reviewed the applications and voted to add Dave Teem as the newest member of the committee. Ken will notify Mayor McConnell of this selection.

Dave has pointed out that the ODOT tunnel underneath Highway 101 at Agate Beach is in need of cleanup and general maintenance. This tunnel connects the Agate Beach Wayside to the Newport trail that goes to Big Creek Park. It was suggested that Jim Protiva might be the person to contact ODOT about cleaning up the tunnel. Chuck also points out that a curb cut needs to be done in the park to access the trail/sidewalk next to the parking lot.

Ken reminded everyone that he will be out of town June, July, August and probably September. There will be a need for one of the other committee members to put together agendas, notify City staff with copies of upcoming meeting agendas, and conduct the monthly meetings.

Meeting adjourned: 7PM

Next Meeting: June 14, 2011 at Newport Parks and Rec., 5:30 PM