

April 9, 2013
5:30 P.M.
Newport, Oregon

The City of Newport Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee met on the above date in Conference Room A of the Newport City Hall. In attendance were Ken Dennis, Maryann Bozza, Elliot Crowder, Chuck Forinash, Bob Hein, Alisha Kern, and Dave Teem. Also in attendance was Mark Saelens, City Council liaison, and Peggy Hawker, City Recorder/Special Projects Director.

INTRODUCTIONS

Mark Saelens was introduced to the Committee as the City Council liaison.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - FEBRUARY 12, 2013

MOTION was made by Crowder, seconded by Forinash to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2013 meeting. The motion carried unanimously in a voice vote.

REVIEW OF DRAFT ORDINANCE FORMALIZING COMMITTEE

A discussion ensued regarding the draft ordinance that would formalize the Committee if adopted. Teem questioned whether the Committee had the authority to perform the duties prescribed by sections eight and nine of the proposed ordinance: (8) Provide bicycle and pedestrian safety education in Newport schools; and (9) Create a greater awareness of non-motorized travel as viable transportation options. Saelens discussed grant partnerships and possibilities, and inquired as to whether there might be a few interested people working in the schools who could take section eight a step further. Saelens suggested that if there was an event associated with providing bicycle and pedestrian safety education in the schools, this Committee could work with the city on it.

Hein noted that a major goal of the Committee is the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians, adding that sidewalks and sharrows on Highway 101 are critical to safety.

Teem noted that he is concerned with the city abdicating responsibility. It was suggested that perhaps the city could make choices regarding what it wishes to support rather than having the Committee make those choices. Saelens noted that by having a Committee, it will be guaranteed that there will be time spent during City Council meeting approving the top end of projects.

Saelens suggested taking the focus off infrastructure, but keeping it on the list, and working on items listed in the proposed ordinance. He added that representatives from various city departments could attend the Committee meetings for certain issues.

Crowder noted that the lack of continued infrastructure work will impact tourism, and it appears that the city is backing away from the infrastructure issue. Saelens noted that

the city is not backing away from infrastructure issues, adding that he would not be in attendance at this meeting if he believed the city was planning to abandon infrastructure work. He added that the city is making the best decisions possible with limited dollars, and suggested utilizing other options to make things happen.

Dennis reiterated the need for the Committee to find out what the Public Works Department is doing and to make recommendations and hold discussions with Public Works staff.

Dennis noted that items 2 - 14 of Exhibit A should be subs of item 1, and that items 12 - 13 could be deleted.

Hein reiterated the need for safety with the installation of bike lanes or sharrows, noting that the city has an obligation to keep bicyclists and pedestrians safe.

Kern asked how the Committee will know the status of projects if there is no representative of Public Works attending Committee meeting.

Bozza noted that a project priority list was given to the City Council, and asked how to advance projects on the list.

Saelens noted that the liaison reports to Council are valuable. He added that this is a time when he can highlight particular issues. He stated that the priority list could be utilized to determine which projects are doable, after which the projects can be taken to Council. He added that he will meet with staff regarding the list, and urged the Committee to remain positive.

The Committee requested a Highway 101 crosswalk project update.

The Committee reviewed Exhibit A of the proposed ordinance and made the following changes:

Paragraphs A. and B. - no change.

Paragraph C. will now read: "The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee may:"

Paragraph C.1. - 3. - no change.

Paragraph C.4. - delete.

Paragraph C.5. - no change.

Paragraph C.6. will now read: "Advise the City Council of potential funding for bicycle and pedestrian enhancements."

Paragraph C.7. - no change.

Paragraph C.8. - delete.

Paragraph C.9. will now read: Support the City Council in creating a greater awareness of non-motorized travel as viable transportation options.”

Paragraph C.10. - no change.

Paragraph C.11 - delete.

Paragraph C.12 - delete.

Paragraph C.13 - delete.

Paragraph C.14 - no change.

COMMITTEE REQUESTS

The Committee requested the following:

1. Status of the Highway 101 crosswalk project. The Committee asked whether ODOT could be repaired to paint and mark the crosswalks if the project will not be done in the near future.
2. Status of recommendations made to the Public Works Department regarding safety issues on Moore Drive and Bay Boulevard.
3. Status of the installation of the 40 sharrows that the city has in stock.
4. Status of specific costing of sidewalk from the west end of the Bayfront to the hospital, and potential for participation of the Bayfront Parking District in this project.
5. Determine whether the city’s grant consultant is actively looking for all grants or whether it searches for specific grant opportunities.
6. Status of the repainting of the bike lane symbols on SE Bay Boulevard and Harney Street toward the middle school.
7. Installation of dog waste bag containers on Big Creek Trail.
8. Installation of riprap to stabilize the bank in the slide area from the stairway on 31st Street to Harney Street.
9. Whether the city is looking into the installation of paths and walkways in Forest Park.
10. Status of the pedestrian walking maps that are designed using the same concept as the bike maps.

11. Hein noted that he would like to invite Laura Svengaard to an upcoming meeting to discuss trail development, grant opportunities, and volunteer recruitment for trail development. Saelens, as a member of the Oregon Community Forest Foundation, updated the Committee on OCFF's work with Forest Park.
12. Whether the city is aware of the proper placement of sharrows pursuant to the MUTCD. It was noted that sharrows should be more toward the middle of the lane to mitigate excessive wear and tear.
13. Whether the city has an inventory of all paths, trails, bike routes, etc.
14. Whether the city is planning to have the sediment tarps removed on the Big Creek Trail. It was noted that a berm could be constructed around the concrete structure to make it more visually appealing and less attractive to graffiti artists. It was asked whether this is work that the contractor should have done.
15. Whether there is a plan to properly sign the directions from Agate Beach to Big Creek Park. It was suggested that signs be erected at both ends of the Big Creek Trail. Forinash noted that the suggestion has been made to the Wayfinding Committee to put a trail icon at the west end of the Big Creek Trail.
16. Will there be bike lanes or sharrows on the Ash Street connection soon to be constructed. It was noted that there is a disconnect in the trail system on 40th Street to the OCCC as there is no bike lane in a portion of that street.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:29 P.M.