

**CITY OF ALBANY
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMISSION
City Hall, Periwinkle Room
333 Broadalbin SW
Tuesday, January 11, 2011
12 Noon**

MINUTES

Commission Members Present	Terrance Virnig, Chair; Bill Pintard; Juanita Eggers; Jim Lawrence; Matthew Hasek; Tim Siddiqui
Commission Members Absent	Kelly Albers, Vice Chair
Staff Present	Ronald G. Irish, Transportation Systems Analyst; Karen Williams, PW Projects Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Virnig called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the December 14, 2010, meeting were unanimously approved following a motion by Lawrence and a second by Hasek.

BIKE PARK DISCUSSION

As follow-up from last month's discussion regarding the City's bike park plans, Virnig asked what action the Commission needed to take in regards to supporting the bike park. Hasek voiced concern about the City's liability, and a discussion followed about the fatal accident that recently occurred at the rider-built dirt track in the undeveloped area of Bryant Park. Lawrence felt that the dirt track should be closed during the wet months and also posted "use at your own risk." Following the discussion, the Commission decided they needed more information and agreed to invite Rob Romancier to attend their next meeting to discuss the issues. Virnig said the Commission should try to send their decision to the Council by the Council's March or April meeting. It was suggested and agreed that before the next meeting, the Commission members should each take time to look at the dirt track at Bryant Park.

ACTION: Irish will invite Rob Romancier, City of Albany Recreation Program Manager, to next Commission meeting.

NOMINATIONS: CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Virnig said he felt it was best that he step down as Chair due to his work schedule. Pintard and Lawrence have both served as chair in the past. Hasek offered to serve as chair if Albers (current vice chair) was not interested in serving in that position.

ACTION: Referred to next meeting when Albers is present.

BIKE FRIENDLY CITY: COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS (Bill Pintard)

Virnig asked about the placement of the Bicycle Friendly City signs. Placing a sign at the train station was suggested and Siddiqui offered placing a sign on his business sign post. Irish said he would check with the City's Building Codes, and would draft a letter to ODOT that would come from the Commission asking permission to place signs on Highway 20. Pintard suggested Sheila Lyons, ODOT Bike Coordinator, be contacted to help support the placement of signs.

January 11, 2011

INTERSECTION ISSUES

Lawrence asked about the status of the 9th and Geary and 34th and Pacific intersections. Lawrence explained that he had to ride through the intersection against the red light after a long wait at the intersection due to the traffic light's trip feature not working with his bike. Lawrence asked Irish for an update on the new pavement markings for bicycle placement in order for the trip feature to respond. Irish said he will talk to the City's Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer about adding these to new street paving projects.

Pintard expressed concern about the sharrows on Liberty Street and cars parking along the street. Irish explained that the sharrows are placed approximately 14 feet off the curb warning drivers to watch for bikes. Pintard said he didn't think people understood what sharrows are. Lawrence suggested that articles could be placed in the newspaper or in publications about bicycle safety, and may be sponsored by the Commission. Eggers added that a warning is needed to alert drivers to look behind them before backing up, and explained it is especially dangerous for cars parked at the market on the corner of Elm and Queen. Lawrence said the owner of the market should be contacted about placing signs on the building in front of the parked cars.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Linn County Bicycle Commission - Pintard said that Roger Nyquist talked to Darrin Lane, Linn County Roadmaster, about forming a Linn County Bicycle Commission. Lawrence suggested the County be encouraged to add pedestrian representatives to the Commission. Pintard added he would be willing to help, but didn't know if he could do that officially or unofficially due to a possible conflict of interest. He added that he will be delivering bicycle maps to Thompson's Mill and the store in Shed, and suggested distributing maps to other appropriate businesses. Eggers said there is a walk that starts at the Mill and is held every day this year as part of the Volks Walk goal of doing a walk in every state.

Bike Commute Challenge – Terry suggested that the Commission needs to start planning now. He felt that the focus needs to be on contacting businesses to promote their participation. Irish said he would contact the Albany Police Department to find out what they did last year.

Oregon Bicycle Ride – 25th Anniversary – Pintard said that this 7-day ride will be held in Albany, with riders starting at the Linn County Fairgrounds and riding to Brownsville, then to Sweet Home, to Silver Creek Falls, Champoeg State Park, and back to Albany. Pintard will check with them regarding the possible need for volunteers.

OTHER BUSINESS

State Flex Funds Program – Irish explained that funds became available from the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) for transit/bike/pedestrian projects. Benton County applied for half-a-million dollars to purchase right-of-way for the Corvallis-to-Albany path. Irish received an e-mail today from ODOT showing this project is on the recommended project list. The OTC will make a decision from that list.

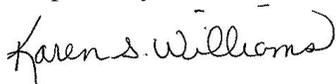
NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting has been scheduled for February 8, 2011, at 1:00 p.m. in the Periwinkle Room.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Siddiqui and seconded by Hasek. The meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Williams
PW Project Coordinator