

**CITY OF ALBANY
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMISSION
City Hall, Periwinkle Room
333 Broadalbin SW
Tuesday, February 8, 2011
12 Noon**

MINUTES

Commission Members Present	Kelly Albers, Vice Chair; Bill Pintard; Juanita Eggers; Jim Lawrence; Matthew Hasek; Tim Siddiqui
Commission Members Absent	Terrance Virnig, Chair
Staff Present	Jeff Woodward, P.E., Civil Engineer II; Karen Williams, PW Projects Coordinator; Ed Hodney, Parks & Recreation Director
Others Present	Mark Siddall

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January 11, 2010, meeting were unanimously approved following a motion by Hasek and a second by Siddiqui.

NOMINATIONS: CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Tabled to next meeting.

BIKE PARK

Parks & Recreation Director Ed Hodney shared topography maps of the Bryant Park area to point out the location of the dirt bike track constructed by the riders in an undeveloped area of the park. He explained that the track was built without the City's permission and the riders have been told that it cannot continue. Besides the track not being built to any safety standards, Hodney said that it is remote enough that police surveillance is not possible and ambulance and emergency personnel cannot get to the area easily. He further explained the plan was for the City to construct a concrete or ramped system for the BMX riders next to the skate park, but due to the cost and the poor economy, it has been put on hold. However, Hodney said he is currently working with the riders to relocate the dirt BMX track at Bryant Park to the right side of the road before exiting the park, which would be little cost to the City except for employee time. Hodney further explained that one of the riders is a construction contractor in his twenties who is taking the lead and is concerned about the safety of his fellow riders. He also explained that at Bryant Park there is an area next to the road that has small jumps, which is great for the younger or less skilled riders. This area will be left where it is as it separates the advanced and less-skilled groups.

Hodney also explained the City's liability risk and said the City's insurance carrier acknowledges risk is inherent in the activity and is okay with it as long as the City knows where it is, that it is happening, and it is being managed to the extent that it can be. Also Hodney said there is state statute that limits the City's exposure as a public entity.

Lawrence said if there is enough of a demand, a second facility could perhaps be established in another area of town.

Hodney said there is a need for both types of facilities in order to satisfy all riders and explained that the City is pursuing both, but at this time the concrete or ramped track is a long-range project.

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Pintard suggested contacting the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA). Hodney said the IMBA has been contacted in regards to setting up a task force to help Albany with this project. He further explained that an organization from Eugene who has managed these types of facilities is on Albany's task force to help determine what is needed and where to go from here, with the potential for organizing the bikers in our community and perhaps establishing their own not-for-profit that could take over management of the facility for the City. Hodney added that another group from the fairgrounds in Salem is working with the City as well.

Pintard also asked about a park being built around Timber Ridge School. Hodney said there isn't a park being planned for that area at this time due to lack of funding.

Hasek then asked about the possibility of taking it to the voters to fund the BMX track, or if there are grants available. Hodney explained the City is reluctant to take Parks projects to the voters.

Pintard said there is a group called "Bikes Belong" that offers grants, and asked if anyone knew if BMX had a governing body. Albers said she believed there is due to all the organized BMX events.

ACTION: The Commissioners will work on a draft motion to be brought back to the next regularly-scheduled meeting in support of Parks & Recreation's plans for BMX facilities.

ODOT COMMUNITY OUTREACH (Background)

Pintard reported that ODOT wants to meet with the Commission to discuss the I-5 reconstruction between Jefferson and Albany and receive their input for pedestrian and bicycle access. Pintard reported that ODOT will be going out for bids in 2015. Pintard will work with ODOT personnel and the Commission to schedule the meeting.

INTERSECTION ISSUES

None.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

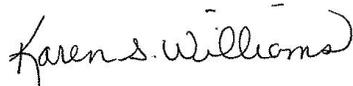
NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 8, 2011, at noon in the Periwinkle Room.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Lawrence and seconded by Pintard. The meeting was adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Williams
PW Project Coordinator