

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

MINUTES

Commission Members Present	Kelly Albers, Chair; Bill Pintard; Jim Lawrence; Matthew Hasek; Juanita Eggers
Commission Members Absent	Terrance Virnig, Vice Chair; Tim Siddiqui
Staff Present	Ed Hodney, Parks & Recreation Director; Jeff Woodward, P.E., Civil Engineer II; Ronald G. Irish, Transportation Systems Analyst; Karen Williams, PW Project Coordinator
Others Present	Mark Siddall; Tamryn Hynes and Christina Renfro (Brookshore Apts.)

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Pintard made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2011, meeting. The motion was seconded by Lawrence and the minutes were unanimously approved.

INTRODUCTIONS

The Commissioners and staff introduced themselves to Tamryn Hynes and Christina Renfro who were attending the meeting to discuss problems they are experiencing with the bridge and bike path at the back of their property.

PERIWINKLE CREEK BRIDGE AT 12TH AVENUE

Tamryn Hynes and Ed Hodney explained the concerns about the path that runs beside the Brookshore Apartment property to get to and from the Periwinkle Bridge at 12th Avenue. Even though the property owners have installed more lighting in the area, there continues to be problems with trespassing, vandalism, and illegal activities. Hodney further explained that an easement was granted to the City in 1982 by the owners of the property for the path; however, the problems in that area have increased over the years and the property owners are interested in the possibility of having the bridge relocated and moving the path that runs beside the apartment complex. Hodney said there is currently no money budgeted for that project, and suggested that the City install more lighting and police officer enforcement be pursued until an engineering feasibility study could be done.

Irish explained Lowe's building plans and the changes to that area when Lowe's goes in, suggesting that perhaps Lowe's would be interested in putting in more lighting and/or security cameras or, if it would be in their best interest, to help with the cost of relocating the bridge.

Lawrence asked if the location of the path and bridge were okay if the other problems didn't exist, and Hynes said the location was okay, but the problems in that area were not. Lawrence said he felt that the problems may no longer exist with the changes made when Lowe's is built.

Hodney asked Irish about legal issues with relocating the bridge, and Irish said they would need to secure an environmental permit. Irish made a suggestion of relocating the path away from Brookshore as something that could be done now until bridge improvements can be made.

Hodney said he would work on enforcement strategies with the Police Department as a first step and, as a second step, more lighting in that section of the park, which would be in conjunction with what Lowe's provides. Hodney said they would continue to look at relocating and replacing the bridge as the ultimate solution. Lawrence asked that the Commission be kept informed. Pintard said a long-term plan should include lighting on the path.

CLAY STREET SIDEWALK

Irish provided maps and preliminary design and cost estimates for a pedestrian crossing with a median island on Clay Street between Bi-Mart and Fred Meyer. Irish explained the parking lot at Fred Meyer is about 2½ feet above the sidewalk on Clay and there is a worn path through the hedges between the sidewalk and parking lot where pedestrians are crossing. He said it is difficult to align the street crossing with a safe walkway through their parking lot to the store entrance, explaining the problem is with the way the parking lot is striped. Irish suggested that a walkway between the fronts of the parked cars in one of the rows would be a solution, and aligning the walkway with the sidewalk ramp going into the can/bottle return area and Clay Street.

The Commission suggested that Fred Meyer be contacted about the possibility of changing the layout of their parking lot in the area next to Clay Street. Irish suggested that the first step be to get the pedestrian crossing scheduled to be built in the City's Capital Improvement Program, and then approaching Fred Meyer to include a pedestrian path across their parking lot next time they plan to re-stripe it.

ACTION: Lawrence made a motion to support the pedestrian crossing project on Clay Street between Fred Meyer and Bi-Mart, and Pintard seconded the motion. Lawrence restated the motion to request the City Engineer include the project in a future Capital Improvement Plan, with Hasek making the second. The re-stated motion passed unanimously.

The Commission asked if the other pedestrian islands recently built within the City were financed by a grant. Irish explained that some were done with grant money while others were financed with street construction funds.

UPDATE: 2011 CRITERIUM, August 7, 2011

Lawrence said there was a meeting regarding the Criterium this morning. He said volunteers were needed.

INTERSECTION ISSUES

None discussed.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Lawrence asked Irish about the Albany-Corvallis path, and if Albany should apply for grants. Irish explained that Benton County was finalizing the environmental work that they received the original grant for, and acquiring right-of-way. Irish said there is only a small portion of the path that lies within the Albany city limits, and the likely sources of funds are Transportation Enhancement Funds and Bicycle & Pedestrian Funds. ODOT told both the City and the County that they wouldn't authorize any more funding until the County completed the environmental assessment and once that is complete, the City can apply for grant funds with the City match coming from System Development Charge funds. Irish also explained that there is still a dilemma about the route, particularly just west of North Albany Road, with the options of utilizing the bike path at Blossom Crossing or paralleling the railroad tracks.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

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NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, August 9, 2011, at noon in the Periwinkle Room.

[NOTE: This meeting was cancelled.]

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen S. Williams

Public Works Project Coordinator