

**CITY OF ALBANY
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMISSION
City Hall, Periwinkle Room
333 Broadalbin SW
Tuesday, September 13, 2011
12 Noon**

MINUTES

Commission Members Present: Kelly Albers, Chair; Terrance Virnig, Vice Chair; Bill Pintard; Jim Lawrence; Juanita Eggers

Commission Members Absent: Matthew Hasek; Tim Siddiqui

Staff Present: Jeff Woodward, P.E., Civil Engineer II; Karen Williams, PW Project Coordinator

Others Present: None

CALL TO ORDER

Albers called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Pintard made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2011, meeting. The motion was seconded by Virnig and the minutes were unanimously approved.

REPORT ON 2011 CRITERIUM

Lawrence reported on the August 7, 2011, Criterium saying there were 150 riders, which was down from last year and said the Criterium probably needed to be better publicized. Since there was an accident where a participant hit a curb, the Commission discussed ways to protect riders in areas that could be a hazard. Lawrence said it was not the fault of the course as the course is carefully walked to check for problems and are fixed before the race begins. Pintard added that this year they bagged the hay bales used as barricades, which really made the cleanup much easier, and mentioned this was the first year for the cruisers, although there weren't many of them.

The Commission also discussed the possibility of setting up a kids play area and having a ride set up just for them. Lawrence thanked Albers for doing the "detour" signage. Virnig suggested perhaps this could be tied to another event, such as a ride in the country. Pintard and Lawrence said this has been discussed, and Pintard talked about a ride to Wells Landing in Independence would be nice.

BIKE FRIENDLY CITY: Copenhagen article

Lawrence reported on the Copenhagen article that he had shared by e-mail with the Commissioners. He said fifty percent of commuting in the city is done by bicycle. He discussed the extra costs charged to those who drive an automobile, making cycling more desirable.

Pintard said that some cities declare certain days during the year as "car-free." Albers said that Portland does something similar by temporarily closing some streets off to vehicle traffic, which is rotated around to different neighborhoods in the city, adding that if Albany wanted to do something similar we could use Portland as a model.

Lawrence said he called Sheila Lyons with ODOT to ask about the percentage of car/bicycle accidents in Oregon that are caused by the cyclist, and it is about 50/50.

Virnig said there seemed to be a lot of people walking and riding down the wrong side of the road in the bike paths. Eggers added that she recently experienced three different instances of bikers going the wrong way.

Lawrence talked about applying for a federal grant for bicycle education; Lyons was to send the information to Lawrence. He said the bicycle safety program needed to be reorganized, adding that ODOT cut funds for the current program and funding is now up to the local communities. A possibility to obtain funding for the program would be to partner with an entity for securing an instructor, and for funds to cover program overhead expenses that was estimated at \$15,000 to \$20,000. Suggestions for partners were City Parks & Recreation, Boys and Girls Club, or the Hospital. He added that in the past the schools contributed approximately 25 percent of the expense through discretionary funds, the Parent-Teachers Association, or even by students paying a fee. The cost is about \$800 per class. He asked that information regarding possible instructors be forwarded to him.

INTERSECTION ISSUES

None discussed.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Virnig talked to Councilor Dick Olsen regarding the placement of the Bike Friendly City signs, explaining to him that because of ODOT's regulations regarding the number of signs on state highways at the entrance to cities, the signs have not been put up. Councilor Olsen asked that the Commission send a letter to the Council to ask ODOT to approve a location for the signs. Virnig presented a draft letter for the Commission to consider. Albers will attend the Council meeting to participate in the discussion.

ACTION: Virnig made a motion to direct a letter to the City Council asking for their support. Pintard seconded the motion, and there was unanimous approval.

Bike Commute Challenge. Pintard expressed his disappointment that the Commission didn't do more to promote the Bike Commute Challenge this year. He said he was glad the City participated.

OTHER BUSINESS

Veterans Day Parade. Pintard discussed the Commission once again participating in the Veterans Days Parade, and said the entry fee was waived. He also said he would contact the parade organizers to ask that they be placed close to the City Council in the parade lineup.

Albers suggested doing a patriotic theme. Pintard reported that City Manager Wes Hare agreed to ride with the Commission in the parade again this year. Virnig asked about inviting Hasso Herring from the local newspaper to ride with the group.

Eggers said the Albany Fitwalkers group may be interested in walking with the Commission. She will share the information with them and report back to the Commission.

Bike Path Extension. Pintard and Eggers shared a newspaper article from the Wednesday, July 20, 2011, Democrat-Herald titled "Safe bike route backed on Riverside, 34." The article discussed a plan "to extend a bicycle/pedestrian frontage road on the north side of highway 34 to Wolcott Road" and "to extend that frontage road two miles east to Riverside Drive." The article also stated "Linn County agreed to widen the shoulders on Riverside heading into Albany." Pintard said the bike club to which he belongs sent a letter to ODOT supporting the plan, but asking that the shoulders be extended four feet on both sides, and asking that a bike crossing with signage and signaling be included on Riverside Drive, just off highway 34. Pintard felt this should be a discussion item on the next agenda to discuss sending a letter expressing Commission support of these projects.

Lawrence informed the Commission about a possible bike path connection between Thornton Lake West and the end of Hickory. Woodward said Irish would be the one to talk to as he has been working with ODOT on the highway 20 corridor plans.

September 13, 2011

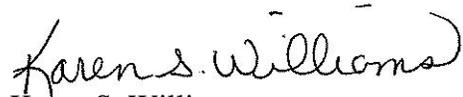
NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 11, 2011, at noon in the Periwinkle Room.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen S. Williams". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Karen S. Williams

Public Works Project Coordinator