

Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Board meeting
Thursday, July 19, 2012—6 PM
Conway Police Department

Members present: Erik Leamon, Jennifer Boyett, Greg Reddin, Jim Bruce, Lynn Schaefer, Curt Amenta, Duston Morris, David Barber, Michael Yoder

Members not present: Jim Holland, Peter Mehl

Ex Officio: Wes Craiglow, Finley Vinson

Old Business

1. June minutes were approved with one correction—the statewide advocacy planning meeting last month took place at the Conway Chamber of Commerce rather than City Hall.
2. SRTS items: Members heard a report from a recent meeting with instructor Sherri Pillow at Marguerite Vann Elementary School attended by Wes, Erik, and Jim Bruce. There are some frustrations with the school's bus system, which is not SRTS-friendly because children are bused all over town. Sherri has suggested that BPAB meet with the school board. Jim Bruce mentioned that Cindy Thacker, principal at Ida Burns, wants to do a bike rodeo there and that there is a teacher at Jim Stone Elementary, Laurel Brashears, who does her own bike rodeos.

Formation of SRTS committee: David is compiling a list of people who have interacted with SRTS in the past, with a goal of first making contacts and then having a public meeting. We hope to get one or two demonstration schools to focus on and then see if other schools want to get involved.

SRTS Grant:

- The trailer update will be done in about a week. It will have logos for Conway Public Schools, CAB, and City of Conway with the BPAB name under it. Another bag of chalk and \$600 worth of tools have been purchased to be used for the next year.
- Bike/walking summit: Wes said that we will not be able to partner with the Chamber for the summit because they have already made their plans for the year. A fall summit would be ideal, as we have to spend the grant money by May 2013. The Conway Streets Department will be putting together its 2013 work plan later this year; we can put together some specific goals and then present them to the city council by Thanksgiving to be included in the street plans. We have about \$800 to spend on the summit and can possibly find additional sponsorship from local businesses. We can invite area

politicians, university presidents, teachers, and neighborhood associations.

- Other grant items: The grant contact person will not allow us to use grant money for more maps, but expenditures on “buck slips” inserted into Conway Corp bills and a website have been approved. There are 4500 coloring books at city hall. **Wes will check on whether an expenditure for a graphic designer has been approved.**
 - Teacher breakfast: There will be a teacher breakfast on Friday, August 17, at Ruth Doyle Intermediate School, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and Conway Corp. Several hundred teachers will attend, representing all area schools including St. Joseph’s and Conway Christian School. Erik suggests having a booth there; cost is \$200 for bronze sponsorship and a small booth. August 3 is the deadline for registration. Several members said it would be a good idea and would give us even better visibility than Toad Suck Daze. Wes suggested putting the trailer out in front of the school and possibly doing a bike rodeo at the event. **Curt will talk to the Ruth Doyle principal about that and will get Wes a contact person.** Other suggestions included passing out coloring books and bike toolkits and collecting teachers’ contact information so we can visit their classrooms to talk about what we do.
3. BPAB name and membership information have been updated on city website.
 4. MTB group: Erik may want to head this up as a committee. **Jen will send Chance Norman’s contact information to Erik.**
 5. State Bike Advocacy Group meeting report: Jennifer reported on this group’s June 29 meeting in Conway to discuss coordinating efforts across the state after Arkansas was ranked 50th in bike-friendliness. She, Jim Bruce, and Peter represented Conway; other bike advocates from around the state attended, as well as the president of BACA and Bud Laumer from AHTD. A consultant with the Alliance for Biking and Walking came from out of state to facilitate. Attendees discussed what is being done in their communities, community goals, and what a state group could accomplish. Topics included bike education, complete streets policies, a Governor’s Council on bike and pedestrian issues, a statewide master plan for biking and walking, marketing, and networking. The Alliance for Biking and Walking representative agreed to come back for a future summit with a larger audience; he will send a summary of the June 29 discussion and plans for the next step to Jennifer. **Jennifer will send out the notes to BPAB members when she gets them.**

6. Walk Friendly City—Michael said that there are December and June deadlines to apply for WFC. We might be ready to apply by June 2013. A lot of this information that was compiled for the BFC application can also be used for this application. Michael has been looking at similar-sized cities' WFC report cards. All of the cities that have WFC status had complete streets policies, ADA compliance, and active SRTS groups. Wes mentioned that all communities are supposed to do an ADA compliance transition plan, but most have not followed through on it because it is an expensive undertaking. It was suggested that a committee be formed to include Conway running group members, Sporty Runner owners, and other local runners and walkers and that events such as art walks, historic district walks, and master gardeners' walks could be done.

New Business

1. Bike Friendly status review: This item was tabled for a future meeting.
2. Chamber Promenade Project: Wes reported that the Conway Chamber of Commerce is interested in building a promenade connecting downtown with major institutions in Conway, including parks, hospital, schools, ball fields, etc. The promenade would have brick inlay, benches, nice light fixtures, and landscaping. The first phase of the project will be downtown to Laurel Park via Caldwell Street, and then from the high school to the hospital. The chamber has met with people from the various institutions and with city officials about how utilities, street rights-of-way, and crosswalks will be affected. Greg asked if anyone who walks or bikes around town regularly is involved in the project—someone like that can foresee problems such as bikes having to stop at every cross street, interference from cars backing out of driveways, etc.

Related to the promenade project, Wes has recently begun a sidewalk master plan. The first step of the plan is to address the problem of unconnected sidewalks around town, with an end goal of connecting 24 to 25 walkable quarter-mile nodes. Step two of the project will address making it possible for people to walk safely on Oak Street and other high-speed corridors. Wes hopes to take the plan to the city council before the end of the year. He will keep BPAB apprised of this plan as well as the promenade project as they progress.

3. Master list of problematic cycling/pedestrian areas: Erik will go to city hall and mark those places on the streets map. Finley said that there used to be a website where people could drop a pin on problem area and an email would go to him, Ronnie Hall, or David Vondran, but it became a way for citizens to simply vent complaints and was not productive. He thinks the website must have been shut down because he hasn't received any such emails in a long time. Finley also reported that the street sweeper who has been out sick is back on duty. He mentioned that Conway street employees do not clean state

highways, many of which go through the city; the state is supposed to clean those but rarely does. On the subject of state highways, Erik asked if anyone made a report about problem roads during AHTD's official reporting period, which recently closed. Greg said that we didn't make a report as an official group but that he had learned a great deal about how the process works and we will be better prepared next time.

4. Next meeting: Thursday, Aug. 16, at Conway Police Department.