

BPAB Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2015

Members Present: Todd Ake, Amanda Potter Cole, Jim Bruce, Greg Reddin, Jess Henry Spayde, Jimmy Warren, Scott Lucas

Members Absent: Peter Mehl, Michael Yoder, Emily Walter,

Others Present: Jack Branscum, Jude Michael Branscum, David Barber, Wes Craiglow, Emily English, Tanya Reddin

April Minutes: The minutes from April's meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Jim Bruce. Jimmy Warren seconded the motion.

May Minutes: Jess Henry Spayde made a motion to approve the May minutes and Jimmy Warren seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Vacancy: Todd Ake reported that Adam Davis has resigned the board. The board is now left with ten members. Jim Bruce suggested that Matt Murphy from the CAB board had previously shown interest and would be a good candidate. Amanda agreed to reach out to Matt to gauge his interest. Jim Bruce motioned to nominate Matt Murphy to fill the term vacated by Adam Davis contingent on Murphy's continued interest. Greg Reddin seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Tucker Creek Trail: Jack Branscum noted that an agreement was not reached with the property owner for the last remaining section of the trail. The Council will vote to condemn in its regular meeting on July 28. Amanda Potter Cole raised the following motion: The board appoints Greg Reddin to present the board's recommendation to the City Council to condemn the remaining property for the Tucker Creek Trail. Jimmy Warren seconded. In discussion Todd Ake suggested to frame the presentation around the thirteen years or so that the trail has been in construction. This motion passed unanimously.

BFC Application Update: Wes Craiglow reported on the BFC renewal application. August 5th is his local deadline and August 12th is the national deadline. Wes wants it compiled the last week of July and needs all materials by Sunday July 19th.

Walk-friendly Community: Wes also reported that the Pedestrian Master Plan is still on the back burner and no progress has been made. He reiterated his commitment to get it done this year. But he has so far been prevented by higher priorities in his workload. He is looking at a 3 or 4-tier process to prioritize areas that need work.

Bike/Walk Arkansas: Jim Bruce reported on the second meeting of the re-formed statewide advocacy group in July. The group agreed to meet quarterly and the next meeting is in October. The meetings are held in the Conway Chamber of Commerce building. Barbara O'Connor presided. Jim and Patsy represented Conway. In the meeting they held a conference call with the bike/pedestrian advocacy group from Mississippi. That group reported that they have to work with local organizations to get things done at the state level. There was Q&A after the presentation. Jim asked them about competition regarding membership between local and state groups. The

Mississippi group reported that this is an issue. The rep stated that she would prefer a donation model rather than membership dues. They spent the remainder of the meeting hammering out bylaws. A draft is to be presented at the next meeting. They confirmed who would remain on the board and talked about staffing. There was also discussion of a letter the president is drafting to the AHTD and the Governor regarding the White River Bridge that is set to be demolished. Several bike/ped groups in the state want this bridge to be preserved for bike/ped access in the White River National Wildlife Refuge, but they are getting pushback from the Federal Government. Greg asked about the Arkansas bike/ped plan. That was discussed at the last BPAB meeting. The group is stepping back and taking a different approach by focusing on tourism and economic development with the plan. The revised release date for the plan is the end of 2015.

Bike route expansion: Todd reported that he is waiting on an updated map from Jack.

City Council Interaction: Todd led a discussion about how this board should tailor our interaction with the City Council. The board feels there is a disconnect between the advice given to the Council and the results. How can the board do a better job of sending our message to the city government? The board mentioned several points as evidence of the disconnect:

- Todd mentioned his letter to the Mayor and Council regarding his disappointment that the parks priorities didn't list trails. The response to that letter was that they did intend to complete Tucker Creek Trail and that it was a short-term plan. However, BPAB's plan calls for significant development by 2025, which will not be reached at the city's current pace of trail development.
- Todd sent a separate letter to Alderwoman Shelley Mehl regarding the crossing lights for the Tucker Creek Trail at Salem. These were supposed to be installed a couple of years ago and are still not installed. Jimmy suggested we bring it up at the upcoming Council meeting if we are allowed to present.
- Greg mentioned the updated bike master plan and that the Council has not yet adopted the plan that was presented late last year. Todd said he'd asked about it, but that he would like to see more than a resolution. The plan calls for funding, and that would require something more than the Council has devoted so far.
- Jim reported that he had received no response to his inquiry to the parks department about a lip that exists on the trail bridges.

The remaining discussion centered around how to address these concerns. Todd would like to see some kind of survey to gauge where bike/ped priorities sit on each Council member's agenda. Amanda questioned whether they think we are the only people in the city who care about these things. Jimmy raised the question of how we can create buy-in - not necessarily from this board, but from outside groups like the Chamber, bike advocates, etc. We need to get right people in their ear. Amanda

suggested that we need to tie the discussion into economic development. Greg wants to see a resolution on the agenda regarding the bike master plan as a starting point. Jimmy Warren questioned whether we should invite them to a meeting.

This suggestion seemed to resonate with several members. Amanda noted that she wanted to see a public meeting where Council members could hear from their constituents. Jim suggested that to advise the Council we need to get the public – not just us – to tell them what they want them to do. Todd suggested an October meeting. We need to get members of the public to tell the Council what facilities they use, what they've seen elsewhere that they'd like to see here, etc. – something like a bike/ped town hall. We could give CRC, CAB, and any other local organizations a few minutes to present. BPAB could also present a bullet point list of the bike master plan and what we'd like to see the city do. All agreed that the next step is to reach out to the Mayor and judge his support for the plan. The next step after that is to pick a date and craft the agenda. Todd agreed to contact the Mayor about this idea.

Complete Streets Design: Greg reported that no progress has been made on the plan in the last couple of months. His goal is to bring a final draft in August. Todd asked that we get it out a week in advance of the meeting to allow members the chance to offer feedback.

Communications: - Amanda presented a detailed communications report. The website is currently down and she is trying to get new contributors added and get spam cleaned up. She's offered to host the site herself and is having trouble getting a response from the current provider. She asked for an RSVP to Facebook meeting invites so we'll have a more active acknowledgement that board members will come. We need volunteers for Ecofest on October 10 from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Greg agreed to work on the booth with his family.

Education/SRTS: Jess reported on the Education category for the BFC application. She mentioned that the 6th grade classes in Conway take apart and put together a bicycle for mechanics education. Some schools don't have enough bikes to do it. Several folks noted that we should be able to get them more bikes if needed.