

Ypsilanti Non-Motorized Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, April 3, 2014

1. Call to order - The meeting was brought to order on April 3, 2014, 7:35pm at the Ypsilanti District Library, 229 West Michigan Avenue, downtown Ypsilanti. Committee members attending were Tony Bedogne, Diana Gonzalez, Bob Krzewinski, and Laura Shiltz. Also attending was City Council member Pete Murdock.
2. Introductions
 - a. Audience participation/public Input - None
3. General business
 - a. Agenda approval - A motion was made by Laura Shiltz, seconded by Tony Bedogne, to accept the meeting agenda, with no objections.
 - b. Approval of March meeting minutes - A motion was made by Laura Shiltz, seconded by Tony Bedogne, to accept the March meeting minutes, with no objections.
4. Old business
 - a. 2014 Committee priorities
 - Ypsilanti bicycling/walking map – The Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS) has just sent out an email concerning County bicycle maps which will be forwarded to all Committee members.
 - Border To Border Trail completion progress – The City Planning Department informed the Committee that design work is being finalized and that construction is expected to start at the earliest in the late summer of 2014.
 - Update the City Non-Motorized Plan (current plan is dated to the end of 2014) – This will be the theme of a future meeting.
 - Sidewalk improvements – Washtenaw Avenue – North Huron – Catherine Street – The City will incorporate sidewalk improvements suggested by the Committee into a City Capitol Improvements Plan which is the first step in obtaining funding.
 - Additional bike lanes – Forest Avenue – West Cross Street – Huron & Hamilton Streets – The City Planning Department is finalizing an application for a Federal Transportation Alternatives Plan (TAP) grant for non-motorized improvements, including bike lanes and pedestrian crossings. The Planning Department will be in touch with the Committee for support letters. On bike lanes on Huron and Hamilton, the Michigan Department of Transportation is asking the City for more data before action can be taken.
 - Bike Friendly Community & Walk Friendly Community applications – Teresa Gillotti from the Planning Department will attend the May Committee meeting to review both applications. Tony Bedogne will bring projection equipment to tie in with laptop computer data.
 - Bike Friendly Business program – Bob Krzewinski plans to attend a Downtown Development Authority Economic Restructuring & Design Committee meeting in May to discuss this project.
 - Public education outreach to encourage bicycling and walking – Tony Bedogne will attend the May 4th Bike Ypsi Spring Ride to staff a bicycling/walking information display. Bob Krzewinski will supply handouts.
 - Signage/pavement marking improvements – N. Huron & Cross – Hamilton & Michigan – Cross & Washtenaw (EMU) – S. Hamilton mid-block crossing – Huron & Pearl – These will be included in the City TAP grant request mentioned earlier in the meeting.
 - b. Committee project “helpers” – Bob Krzewinski is continuing to do outreach to find volunteers to help with Committee projects such as information displays and attending City Council meetings.
 - c. Prospect Avenue rebuild non-motorized aspects – The City Planning Department is continuing to promote any and all possible non-motorized improvements to this project keeping in mind the City’s Complete Streets ordinance.
 - d. Cross Street (Depot Town) non-motorized use safety improvements – The City recently revised an ordinance allowing enforcement of mid block pedestrian crossing problems, which will allow enforceable signage to be installed for increased pedestrian safety.
 - e. West Michigan Avenue “road diet” reconsideration – On April 15th, City Council is expected to review the present configuration (two traffic lanes, one center turn lane, bike lanes) of West Michigan Avenue, with one option being to convert the road back to four traffic lanes. With the Committee formally supporting the present configuration (already conveyed to Council through a letter), the Committee is taking steps encouraging residents to contact Council to not change the road configuration.
5. New Business
 - a. Planning Department update – Bob Krzewinski contacted the Department in early April with updates incorporated into meeting minute subjects.
 - b. Upcoming events (Bike Ypsi Spring Ride, Ypsi Pride, Heritage Festival) – For Ypsi Pride Day (May 17) a possible bike ride to clean up bike routes may take place. Also discussed was a possible Eastern Michigan University fall bike/pedestrian outreach event.
 - c. EMU to downtown/Depot Town bike/walk routes – Bob Krzewinski will contact the DDA and Visitors & Convention Bureau encouraging pedestrian and bicycling routes between campus and downtown/Depot Town.

- d. May Bike-Bus-Walk Week (May 11-17) – Bob Krzewinski will send out a list of events to Committee members during this week encouraging people to try alternative transportation in the hope that this will become a habit. Also, Ghost Bikes (white painted bikes with signs on them stating “a cyclist was injured near this spot” to encourage sharing the road) will be displayed again this year with Bob Krzewinski and Diana Gonzalez working on increasing the number of Ghost Bikes.
- 6. Other Items – Announcements – There will be an informal City trash cleanup April 5th and 6th.
- 7. Adjournment – A motion was made by Bob Krzewinski to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Tony Bedogne, with no objections. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm with the next meeting being Thursday, May 1, 7pm at the downtown library.