

Ypsilanti Non-Motorized Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 7, 2014

1. Call to order – The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm, August 7, 2014 at the Ypsilanti District Library, 229 West Michigan Avenue. Committee members present were Diana Gonzalez, Kevin Hill, Bob Krzewinski, Laura Shiltz, and Cheryl Weber.
2. Introductions
 - a. Audience participation/public Input – None
3. General business
 - a. Agenda approval – A motion was made by Cheryl Weber, seconded by Diana Gonzalez to accept the meeting agenda with no objections.
 - b. Approval of June meeting minutes (no July meeting) – A motion was made by Cheryl Weber, seconded by Laura Shiltz, to accept the June minutes with no objections.
 - c. Other – With half of the sitting Committee's terms of office ending at the end of December, work will need to start soon to fill vacancies.
4. Old business
 - a. 2014 Committee priorities
 - Ypsilanti bicycling/walking map – No new updates.
 - Border To Border Trail completion progress – According to the City Planning Department, work on the new Trail bridge (Riverside Park to Michigan Avenue) and in the Water Street Trail is still expected to start by late summer/early fall. Once work is near completion on these new segments, this would be a logical time to start studies of the Frog Island to Eastern Michigan University segment.
 - Update the City Non-Motorized Plan – Laura Shiltz will start reviewing the Plan with suggestions for change and additions.
 - Sidewalk improvements – Washtenaw Avenue – North Huron – Catherine Street – Short discussion held on these areas.
 - Additional bike lanes – Forest Avenue – West Cross Street – Huron & Hamilton Streets – With \$50,000 in funds coming out of the City's Major Street Fund for non-motorized projects, Forest Avenue and West Cross Street are the logical first priorities for new bike lanes, with City Council also favoring Miles Street. The City Planning office is working on bike lane implementation. The Committee is also urging that a City-wide bike lane protocol be enacted (i.e. resident notices, public meeting, etc.).
 - Bike Friendly Community & Walk Friendly Community applications – Bike Friendly application has been submitted. The September Committee meeting will concentrate on completing the Walk Friendly application with City Planner Teresa Gillotti attending the meeting.
 - Bike Friendly Business program – Bob Krzewinski will brief the Downtown Association of Ypsilanti (DAY) on a proposed program at their August 20th meeting. At this same meeting Bob will discuss with the DAY members starting up again an "Adopt-A-Street" program to help clean trash off streets (such a program is mentioned in the City Non-Motorized Plan).
 - Public education outreach to encourage bicycling and walking – Discussed under agenda item of upcoming events.
 - Signage/pavement marking improvements – N. Huron & Cross – Hamilton & Michigan – Cross & Washtenaw (EMU) – S. Hamilton mid-block crossing – Huron & Pearl – City Planning staff will discuss N. Huron/Cross and Hamilton/Michigan with their Michigan Department of Transportation contacts. Kevin Hill also pointed out that improved "no turn on red" signage is needed for motorists eastbound on Michigan turning right on to Hamilton.
 - b. I-94/Huron non-motorized improvements – Bob Krzewinski attended the recent Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS) meeting on this project. Plans are for public input (meetings and an online survey of potential plans) later in August and into September. WATS is also planning on being at the Parkridge Summerfest to gather input.

- c. Upcoming events – The Committee has table space (gathering public input on non-motorized improvements and providing biking/walking handouts) at the Parkridge Summerfest (8/23) with Bob Krzewinski staffing from 12noon to 2pm and Diana Gonzalez from 2pm to 4pm. Committee members were encouraged to attend the SEMCOG Non-Motorized Plan meeting on 9/18. Bob Krzewinski will look into having a temporary “park” in a downtown parking space on Car Free Day (9/22) with the emphasis on urging people to try alternative transportation. Bob Krzewinski is also looking in having a Committee bike/walk information table at a possible Eastern Michigan University/Ypsilanti block party on 9/13.

5. New Business

- a. Planning Department update – Contained in above agenda items.
- b. Additional bike racks – Kevin Hill reported that the DDA is very interested in the near future on suggestions for additional bike rack locations. Suggestions should be forwarded to Bob Krzewinski who will forward on to the DDA with a copy to Kevin Hill. Possible locations were the N. Huron Street parking lot and FLY Center on Huron Street. The Committee also was very interested in participating in non-motorized improvements to the AAATA Ypsilanti Transit Center (i.e. bike racks/lockers, pedestrian improvements).
- c. Other – Downtown speed limits – A suggestion was made for a 25mph speed limit in downtown with prominent signage, to which Kevin Hill will present to the Downtown Association of Ypsilanti. Kevin Hill also discussed measures to prevent bicycle/pedestrian collisions in downtown and Bob Krzewinski will research data on this. Bob Krzewinski will set up a meeting with the new Police Chief on non-motorized issues with Diana Gonzalez interested in attending to discuss pedestrian safety enforcement.

6. Other Items – Announcements – A guest at the meeting suggested possible improvements to the AAATA transit maps and will be put in contact with the Committee AAATA liaison, Cheryl Weber.

7. Adjournment – A motion was made by Laura Shlitz, seconded by Kevin Hill, to adjourn the meeting. With no objections the meeting was adjourned at 8:28pm with the next meeting being Thursday, September 4, 2014.