

Ypsilanti Non-Motorized Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 6, 2014

1. Call to order – The meeting was brought to order on March 6, 2014, 7:05pm at the Ypsilanti District Library, 229 West Michigan Avenue, downtown Ypsilanti. Committee members attending were Diana Gonzalez, Kevin Hill, Bob Krzewinski, Laura Shiltz and Cheryl Weber. Also attending was City Council member Pete Murdock and Gavin Carter from the locally based Program To Educate All Cyclists (www.bikeprogram.org).
2. Introductions
 - a. Audience participation/public Input - None
3. General business
 - a. Agenda approval – A motion was made by Cheryl Weber, seconded by Bob Krzewinski, to accept the meeting agenda, with no objections.
 - b. Approval of February meeting minutes – A motion was made by Cheryl Weber, seconded by Bob Krzewinski, to accept the meeting minutes, with no objections.
4. Old business
 - a. 2014 Committee priorities
 - Ypsilanti bicycling/walking map – A separate meeting was suggested for map mark-ups with color coded (good-fair-poor) bike routes.
 - Border To Border Trail completion progress – Bob Krzewinski reported on the meeting he and Tony Bedogne attended with Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission staff on completing Trail segments in Ypsilanti. Parties agreed to further collaboration in the coming months with the next logical segment being a ½ mile segment along the west side of Grove Road from the I-94 bridge north.
 - Update the City Non-Motorized Plan (current plan is dated to the end of 2014) – No updates.
 - Sidewalk improvements – Washtenaw Avenue – North Huron – Catherine Street – Bob Krzewinski will survey the Catherine Street gap when snowfall clears.
 - Additional bike lanes – Forest Avenue – West Cross Street – Huron & Hamilton Streets – All these streets would be included in a federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant that the City is applying for in the near future for bike lane installation.
 - Bike Friendly Community & Walk Friendly Community applications – Teresa Gillotti is willing to run through the applications with members of the Committee. Along these lines, Laura Shiltz will coordinate the Bike Friendly application with Diana Gonzalez and Cheryl Weber coordinating the Walk Friendly application.
 - Bike Friendly Business program – No new updates.
 - Public education outreach to encourage bicycling and walking – Discussed in item 5 c.
 - Signage/pavement marking improvements – N. Huron & Cross – Hamilton & Michigan – Cross & Washtenaw (EMU) – S. Hamilton mid-block crossing – Huron & Pearl – On mid block crossings, the City discovered it must amend the City ordinance dealing with those crossings in order to install improved, legal signage. Such ordinance changes are expected to be completed in the near future (i.e. April).
 - b. Committee project “helpers” – Bob Krzewinski working on increasing the number of volunteers who could help with such items such as staffing information tables and attend City Council meetings.
 - c. Prospect Avenue rebuild non-motorized aspects – City Planning Department, keeping in mind the City’s Complete Streets ordinance, looking at maximizing non-motorized aspects of this project, including possible bike lanes on wider segments of Prospect.
 - d. Cross Street (Depot Town) non-motorized use safety improvements – See “signage/pavement marking improvements” under old business.
 - e. West Michigan Avenue “road diet” reconsideration – Pavement markings are rapidly eroding on Michigan Avenue and before they are repainted City Council will revisit the present configuration (three lanes plus bike lanes). A letter has already been sent to City Council from the Committee supporting the present configuration.
 - f. Other – The Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS) has issued a request firms to apply for a design and engineering contract on the I-94/Huron Street non-motorized project.
5. New Business
 - a. Planning Department update – Included in meeting agenda items.
 - b. Snow removal – sidewalks/AAATA – General discussion of the status of snow removal in the City on sidewalks. Also Cheryl Weber is working with the AAATA to keep bike racks cleared on snow at the Ypsilanti transit center as these racks are well used over the winter.
 - c. Upcoming events (Bike Ypsi Spring Ride, Ypsi Pride, Heritage Festival) – General discussion held on possible Committee outreach through information tables at local events. For Ypsi Pride Day the thought was to work with Bike Ypsi for a possible bike lane & road shoulder clean up.
 - d. EMU to downtown/Depot Town bike/walk routes – The Downtown Development Authority will be holding a “Wayfinding” meeting on March 13th at the downtown SPARK office to increase area directional signage. Kevin Hill is interested in coming up with designated routes for pedestrians and cyclists between Eastern Michigan University and downtown/Depot Town.

- e. Other – The League of Michigan Bicyclists will hold law enforcement officer training sessions with the thought that perhaps Ypsilanti Police Officers could attend the session that will be held in the Ann Arbor area.
- 6. Other Items – Announcements - None
- 7. Adjournment - A motion was made by Cheryl Weber, seconded by Kevin Hill, to adjourn the meeting with no objections. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm. The next Committee meeting will be Thursday, April 3, 7pm at the downtown Ypsilanti District Library.