



**CITY OF URBANA
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY
COMMISSION MEETING**

DATE: Tuesday, July 16, 2024
TIME: 7:00 PM
PLACE: 400 South Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

MINUTES

Members Present: Annie Adams, Susan Jones, Tommy Griscom, Qiushi Huang, Audrey Ishii, Bruce Michelson, Keenan Portis, Nancy Westcott

Others Present: Carmen Franks, Marcus Ricci

Members Absent: Sarthak Prasad, John Zeman

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

Audrey Ishii called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll was taken. A Quorum of Members was present.

B. Changes to the Agenda

1. Add Urbana Meander (formerly Sage Trail) updates under Unfinished Business

Susan Jones motioned to add Urbana Meander updates to Unfinished Business, Nancy Westcott seconded. Motion approved with a unanimous voice vote.

C. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

1. April 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Audrey had some revisions to the minutes. These will be looked at and re-presented for approval at the August 20th meeting.

2. May 21, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Nancy Westcott motioned to approve the minutes, Susan Jones seconded. Motion approved with a unanimous voice vote.

D. Public Input and Commissioner Communications

- Tommy Griscom said there was some repaving completed on campus and it is very nice & smooth. He was also pleased with a bicycle being removed at a particular bike rack as part of the pick-up of discarded bicycles.
- Qiushi Huang mentioned that C-U Girls Who Walk is a good group to connect with & you can find them on Instagram. Annie added that the group is based on an idea that happened in Chicago. They will be at the Urbana Amble on July 20th.
- Annie Adams mentioned that she biked to the Crystal Lake swimming pool using the bike path & it's awesome. She wondered when bike paths will go through Crystal Lake Park. Annie also asked if anyone knows where the blue bike rack is that the City owns.
- Keenan Portis said that the Urbana Park District will have an open house on July 18th for Weaver & Prairie Parks' master plans.

E. Unfinished Business

1. Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Discussion – Annie Adams

Annie read a draft letter that she had written for consideration of sending it to the Mayor and City Council members for their support of the SS4A Grant. After discussion among the commission members, a few edits & additions were made to the letter. One of the additions included three bullet points of what the grant could be used for: 1) speed study for slowing residential speed limits, 2) adding additional crosswalks, and 3) traffic calming.

For the next BPAC meeting, Annie will have a revised letter incorporating the changes that were discussed.

2. Sage Trail/Urbana Meander – Annie Adams (added earlier during Changes to the Agenda)

Annie presented the Urbana Meander (formerly known as Sage Trail) to the Arts Commission. They liked it, but weren't understanding how art would be related to it. Annie encouraged them to look at the map on the URL and explained that there is art that is pointed out along the trail.

The trail goes through downtown Urbana & would probably be funded by TIF funds. The primary cost of the trail would be fixing the sidewalks along the trail & making them ADA compliant. The cost of the paint would be the next most costly part of the trail.

Annie would like to do a demonstration of the trail with either chalk or flags as a next step. She will also be presenting the Urbana Meander to Economic Development at some point.

3. Lincoln Avenue Corridor Study Discussion – Carmen Franks

Carmen Franks introduced herself to BPAC as one of the City's Assistant Engineers.

The public outreach phase is complete & RPC has analyzed all of the input they have received. There were 3 scenarios and the scenario that included 100% in-street bike lanes was chosen as the top one. The City's traffic consultant, Lochmueller, had the same conclusion after considering the 3 scenarios. This scenario (which was scenario #1) is the scenario that the City is moving forward with.

Lochmueller is doing some analysis & working with MTD regarding where bus stops would be. Oregon, Iowa, & Indiana will have complete access closures. Analysis will be done on how the access closures will impact vehicle traffic.

Carmen said that she is applying for an EPA Community Change Grant for this project. Applications can be submitted through November 21, 2024. Formal partners of this are Prairie Rivers Network, the School District, U of I, & RPC.

F. Reports of City Officials and Staff and Reports of Committees

On behalf of John Zeman, Carmen Franks gave the below updates:

- a. EQL sidewalk locations are under construction as of July 9th.
- b. EQL streetlights will be purchased soon. This will be over 70 streetlights & poles.
- c. ITEP projects are in design for Florida Avenue & Bakers Lane.
- d. Park District will have Weaver Park Master Plan open house on July 18th.
- e. Alignment for the Bakers Lane path has been straightened & shifted to the east.
- f. New sidewalks are in design for the Cunningham Avenue TIF shared use path on the south side of Country Club Road & Perkins Road.

- g. There will be a new sidewalk on the south side of University Avenue from Maple Street to the existing sidewalk in front of MTD.
- h. Lincoln Avenue from Wascher to Killarney design is underway.
- i. A second EQL program is being developed using the Annual Action Plan Community Needs survey from the Grants Division.

G. New Business

1. UIUC Campus Bicycle Update – Sarthak Prasad

Sarthak was not present to give this update.

2. Review Progress on BPAC FY2024 Goals – Audrey Ishii

Audrey said that John Zeman had suggested changing the BPAC goals from fiscal year to calendar year. The goals were then gone through one by one with discussion on how each goal was going.

- Speed reduced to ranges compatible with VZ commitment – being worked on and Annie suggested changing the 25 mph part of it to 20 mph
- Florida Avenue & University Avenue safe & attractive for ALL users – both in design
- Washington Street speed issues addressed – speed signs are up
- Vine Street issues with no cross walks addressed – SS4A Grant could help with this
- City Getting Around website update – still in progress
- East Main Street resolution added to Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan addendums – Audrey said she needs to re-look at this
- Lincoln Avenue Corridor Study actively followed & reviewed – in progress
- State lobbied to return speed-setting to municipalities – the bill is dead for now
- Add MTD & PACE representative to BPAC, change to Bylaws – BPAC has MTD representation with Qiushi, but it's not in the Bylaws
- Wayfinding & pedestrian access to parks evaluated and enhanced – Keenan said this is being researched, but no plan yet
- Obtain an SS4A grant to create the Urbana Vision Zero action plan & demonstration projects – working on
- Vibrant pedestrian tourist trail designed and promoted – now called Urbana Meander
- Long-Range Transportation Plan 2050 actively followed and reviewed – there is a survey due by the end of the month (July); the survey can be found at ccrpc.gitlib.io/lrtp-2050
- Snow removal zone expanded – nothing done with this yet, but should be looked at

H. Announcements

- a. Annie announced the Urbana Amble Garden & Art Tour is on July 20th-21st.
- b. Marcus said the City's Planning Division took the B3-U Campus University Zoning Text Amendment to the Plan Commission last Thursday (July 11th). This is an attempt to revitalize the B3-U District; now calling it Campus Mixed-Use Business District.

I. Future Topics

There was no time left for future topics to be discussed. Audrey will send out an email for suggestions.

J. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.