



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

DATE: Tuesday, December 17, 2024
TIME: 7:00 PM
PLACE: 400 South Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

MINUTES

Members Present: Annie Adams, Susan Jones, Tommy Griscom, Qiushi Huang, Bruce Michelson, Sarthak Prasad, Nancy Westcott, John Zeman (proxy for Carmen Franks)

Others Present: Ryan Franks and members of the public

Members Absent: Audrey Ishii, Keenan Portis, Carmen Franks

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

Annie Adams called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll was taken. A quorum of members was present.

B. Changes to the Agenda

none

C. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

none

D. Public Input and Commissioner Communications

A resident of the Scottswood subdivision brought up concerns regarding a “road” that will be built. Her concerns included the removal of trees, proximity to the backyards, and losing privacy. It was clarified that this is not a road that is being built, it is a Shared Use path which is not for vehicles.

Susan Jones mentioned that the Santa Rampage was fun.

Annie Adams asked about the speed limits that were discussed at the Traffic Commission meeting in which Audrey & Nancy attended. John said that he will be taking an ordinance to Council regarding those speed limits that were brought to the attention during that meeting.

E. Unfinished Business

1. E-Bike Battery Safety Discussion – Ryan Franks

Ryan introduced himself and stated that he works in the field of lithium-ion battery safety. Ryan’s presentation included how E-Bikes can produce fires. There is not great data right now, but the best statistics that are out there come from New York. Ryan shared that the causes of these fires include improper charging, DIY efforts to rebuild or replace batteries, water damage, and uncertified bikes and batteries.

Ryan shared that best practices regarding E-Bike safety include education, to use devices that are certified, charge in a proper place, use proper chargers, avoid damaged equipment, and avoid DIY efforts for repairs. He also said that Firefighter training on how to handle lithium-ion batteries is a good recommendation for the City of Urbana.

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

1. Bakers Lane Shared-Use Path, Preliminary Plan Presentation – John Zeman

John stated that the Bakers Lane Shared-Use Path is funded by an ITEP grant from the State of Illinois and that this project is in partnership with the Urbana Park District and the Urbana School District. John explained that a shared-use path is intended for pedestrians and bicyclists, not vehicle traffic. The shared-use path will be replacing the existing sidewalk on Washington Street. The final plans are expected to be completed in March.

John went through the preliminary design. During his presentation, many questions were asked and addressed with concerns of disrupting wildlife, removing trees, wetlands, types of lighting, and the effect on the adjacent neighborhood. John took notes of the concerns and will be bringing them to the designers' attention.

G. New Business

1. Equity and Quality of Life (EQL) FY25 Program – John Zeman

The EQL Program is to improve the quality of life in lower income neighborhoods and in neighborhoods with higher crime rates. City Council has allocated \$1 million for a second EQL program. When a project is selected, it needs to go through City Administration, then letters go out to the neighborhood, then the project is brought to BPAC to get feedback, and finally it goes to City Council for support.

The Community Development Grants Division has conducted a Community Needs survey. The results of the survey indicated the top concerns to be sidewalk & pedestrian facilities, neighborhood lighting, and speeding traffic. From the survey and crime statistics provided by the Police Department, the recommendation is to focus on pedestrian facilities and streetlights in the Silverwood neighborhood. In particular, filling in gaps between current lighting and adding sidewalks. There is also opportunity for some traffic calming, such as tubular markers, in the area.

Bruce Michelson motioned that the committee (BPAC) endorse the Equity and Quality of Life initiative proposed by John Zeman, Susan Jones seconded. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

H. Announcements

none

I. Future Topics

- a. Bruce Michelson mentioned the “No Turn on Red” from the November BPAC meeting (this was regarding the absence of a “No Turn on Red” at the corner of Main and Vine going eastbound)
- b. Discussion on E-Bike Agreements was brought up by John Zeman

J. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.