



MINUTES

BIKE TASK FORCE

**CITY HALL SECOND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
505 BUTLER PLACE
PARK RIDGE, IL 60068**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2017 AT 7:00PM

I. Roll Call

On roll call, the following indicated their presence: Melissa Hulting, Jim O'Donnell, Claris Olsen and Lauren Pahnke. Also present were Alderman Roger Shubert and Senior Administrative Assistant Brigid Madden.

Eric Coker arrived at 7:28pm and Scott Scheuber arrived at 7:56pm.

Joe DeYoung and Matthew Talbert were absent.

II. Co-Hosting Trail Ride with Des Plaines

Chairman O'Donnell explained that he and S. Scheuber discussed the event and agreed to limit the Task Force's participation to publicizing the event. Alderman Shubert explained that now that the Task Force is aware of the event, it could better plan for it and the City Cn prioritize the use of its resources.

III. Report on Status of Bike Parking Proposals

Alderman Shubert explained that the City Council unanimously approved the purchase order for bike parking at the Uptown Metra station.

L. Pahnke asked about the timing for the installation. Chairman O'Donnell explained that the contractor indicated that the racks could be installed within thirty days of the approved purchase order.

C. Olsen spoke to Beer on the Wall who offered to host an event to publicize the bike rack installation. The bike survey indicated that residents would be more inclined to bike to the Metra station if there was adequate parking and C. Olsen explained that this is a great way to promote it. Chairman O'Donnell noted that the bike racks on Main Street were full during the Craft Beer Fest. C. Olsen will follow up with Beer on the Wall once the installation is complete.

Alderman Shubert explained that the initial findings of the parking study would be presented at the Public Works Committee meeting on June 12 and include bike parking.

Chairman O'Donnell explained that Director of Public Works, Wayne Zingsheim, called Joe DeYoung the morning following the bike parking approval. They discussed presenting phase 2 and 3 of the bike parking plan to City Council for approval. Chairman O'Donnell asked Alderman Shubert how to approach the next two phases.

Alderman Shubert stated that the reasonable approach would be to get phase 1 installed and demonstrate its success. He discussed challenges with the timing. Phase 2 and 3 would need to come before the City Council in August to allow time for installation before winter. He explained that there might be hesitation to approve additional phases before the first is installed, but by

August the Task Force will have positive momentum with the successful installation of the Metra bike parking and progress on the Bike Plan.

IV. Bike Plan Update

Chairman O'Donnell explained that Ed Barsotti from Ride Illinois would begin to study the routes within the next week.

Chairman O'Donnell explained that by August the Task Force should receive the recommendations for the Bike Plan, which could call for dedicated bike lanes and road diets. These changes will require approval by the City Council and may be a "tougher fight" than the bike parking proposals.

Alderman Shubert explained that the Bike Plan is a recommendation from a validated group of professionals. He does not anticipate immediate resistance from the City Council. Alderman Shubert stated that the Task force has demonstrated its capabilities and value.

C. Olsen suggested focusing on the Bike Plan ahead of additional bike parking. Adding a bike lane on Busse Hwy. would be a visible win to the community. She added that a bike lane is more of a priority than additional bike parking.

M. Hulting noted the speed limit on Busse Hwy. and commented on how much faster people travel on that street, specifically between Greenwood and Dee Road. Alderman Shubert explained that the bike lane recommendations would intersect other traffic concerns. He added that because the City Council is now full, after the appointment of a Seventh Ward Alderman, it is a good time to bring forward these discussions.

Chairman O'Donnell anticipates a push for dedicated bike lanes. M. Hulting suggested getting more of the City Council members out on bikes because it is difficult to understand the necessary changes until you are on a bike in Park Ridge. Chairman O'Donnell discussed riding in Chicago and the updated bike lanes and way finding signs. E. Coker inquired as to whether the Police Department still use bicycles while on patrol.

Chairman O'Donnell asked M. Hulting to discuss how the Task Force should approach grants. She explained that the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) grant application is due in December and selected projects are announced in the spring of 2018. Chairman O'Donnell added that Mr. Barsotti would provide guidance as well. He inquired about the Cook County grant that Procurement Officer Jim McGuire recommended. M. Hulting offered to look up information about the Cook County grant and stated that the CMAQ grant is on a two-year funding cycle and would not be accepting applications until 2019.

Chairman O'Donnell explained that Ride Illinois will be studying the routes and completing the fieldwork and Active Transportation will make recommendations on the road treatments.

E. Coker inquired about the City Council's response to the bike survey. Chairman O'Donnell explained that the results were briefly discussed at the Finance Committee Meeting when the bike rack purchase order was first discussed. M. Hulting suggested posting the survey results to the Bike and Walk Park Ridge Facebook page. Chairman O'Donnell asked that it be uploaded to landing page on the City's website. Alderman Shubert suggested pulling out key findings of the survey as a part of the presentation for the Bike Plan recommendations. L. Pahnke explained that specific parts of the survey could be cited depending on the particular request.

Chairman O'Donnell asked what could be done with the email addresses collected through the survey. It was determined that sending the participants a link to the website for survey results would also expose them to the Biking in Park Ridge landing page.

Chairman O'Donnell explained that 35 people participated in the 2005 public outreach component by attending a public meeting and 270 people took the 2017 survey. Alderman Shubert stated that the Task Force should highlight that fact in its future presentations to the City Council.

V. Approval of Minutes – May 10, 2017

On a motion by Claris Olsen, seconded by Melissa Hulting, the Task Force agreed to approve the minutes from the May 10, 2017 meeting.

The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

VI. District 64 Safety Committee Meeting

C. Olsen explained that there was little interest from the Safety Committee. She and Chairman O'Donnell did not receive proper introductions from those present and could not identify who was present from the middle schools. The Police Officer from Park Ridge expressed interest in bike safety training. Chairman O'Donnell added that the Park Ridge Police Officer was the most interested person at the meeting.

Chairman O'Donnell explained that the Superintendent expressed little interest in the presentation from the Task Force. When each school representative had the opportunity to discuss the issues at their school, they all discussed drop-off and pick-up.

E. Coker suggested reaching out to the District 64 School Board. Chairman O'Donnell suggested speaking directly with the principal at Lincoln Middle School, as they have the most student bike users and the greatest number of bike related accidents. He asked the Task Force for their opinion on how to move forward.

C. Olsen suggested revisiting the schools in the fall when the Bike Plan is in-hand. Alderman Shubert asked what is needed from the School District. M. Hulting provided an example of bike education initiatives in Wilmette schools. The school districts, park districts and police department have partnered together to provide in-class and on the road bike training this spring. Second grade students participate in a bike safety rodeo and fourth grade students receive in-class training and have the opportunity to ride from their elementary school to the middle school. M. Hulting suggested providing bike education to either second or third graders in Park Ridge, as student must be in third grade in order to ride a bike to school on their own. She explained that the "ask" of the School District is to be a part of an assembly to present bike education.

C. Olsen recommended that the Police Department provide the training. L. Pahnke asked if Active Transportation Alliance (ATA) provides bike safety training, in case the Police Department was unable to provide it. Chairman O'Donnell explained that ATA likely did provide training, as they have a strong education focus. C. Olsen offered to follow-up with the Police Department about training.

Alderman Shubert asked if training would also be provided to District 207. There was a consensus that it is relevant to high school students as well.

The Task Force's role in the training would be to facilitate.

Alderman Shubert suggested including Alderman Milissis, if necessary, when speaking to the School Board. He serves as the City's Intergovernmental Liaison.

Chairman O'Donnell explained that a significant number of bikes were present at Maine South during the survey, but when approached about attending a meeting, two students were sent to represent the school. C. Olsen reviewed her contact with the school and suggested hosting an after school event. M. Hulting explained that a face-to-face conversation is needed to access the school's interest. C. Olsen stated that the Task Force should approach the school with a specific offer. Chairman O'Donnell suggested presenting the Bike Plan and recommendations on how to safely bike to Maine South.

Chairman O'Donnell summarized the comments made by the Niles Police Officer at the Safety Committee meeting regarding biking and bike safety in Niles.

Chairman O'Donnell summarized the next steps. C. Olsen will contact the Police Department. He will contact ATA to see what assistance they can provide. Once the Task Force has identified what to offer, they will approach the District 64 School Board and Maine South High School. M. Hulting added that Maine East is also in Park Ridge. Chairman O'Donnell explained that not many bikes were present during the survey, but the Bike Plan will address routes to the school from the Park Ridge side.

VII. New Business

Alderman Shubert addresses the changes in City Council Committee chairs and liaisons to Boards and Commissions. He explained that he is now the City's liaison to the Northwest Municipal Conference, which includes a Transportation Committee and a Bike and Pedestrian Committee. The Bike Committee meets the third Tuesday of the month at 10:00am at Oakton Community College. Chairman O'Donnell suggested sending a representative from the Task Force to the Bike Committee meetings.

There was a consensus to cancel the July 5 Task Force meeting.

E. Coker discussed reaching out to State Senators and Representatives representing Park Ridge.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:43pm.