



MINUTES | August 10, 2011

6:00 pm • Leawood City Hall • 4800 Town Center Drive • Main Conference Room

Members Present: Alicia Jennings, Steve Hassler, Brian Neilson, Jill Paton
Staff Present: Brian Anderson, David Ley, Joe Peeples, Marica Putman, Joe Rexwinkle
Members Absent: Rod Crawford
Guest: None

MEMBERS

Rod Crawford, Chair
 Alicia Jennings, Vice-Chair
 Steve Hassler
 Brian Neilson
 Jill Paton

Chris Claxton,
 Director of
 Parks & Recreation

Brian Anderson,
 Parks Superintendent

Marica Putman,
 Adm. Graphics Tech

David Ley, City Engineer
 Public Works

Joe Rexwinkle, Sr. Planner
 Planning & Development

Joe Peeples, Police Officer
 Police

The BFC meeting came to order at 6:05 pm. Joe Peeples was introduced to the committee members.

Call to order

- ✚ **May 4, 2011 Minutes Approval**
 - Steve Hassler made a motion to approve May 4, 2011 minutes. Brian Neilson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

- ✚ **Bike Week Update – Brian Anderson**
 - Brian Anderson requested participant numbers related to the bike week events. This information will be submitted in our application to be a Bike Friendly City.
 - Corinth received 175 certificates for student participation.
- ✚ **Spoke 'n Art – Brian Anderson**
 - There were 20 participants, the perfect number of riders for this event.
 - Ride surveys were sent out and completed. There were many positive comments, requests to continue the bike events, and suggestions.
 - Suggestions for the next event:
 - Staggered start times to keep rider groups small.
 - Most of the cost was for printing fliers and not very effective. They were given to the bicycle stores and they did not appeal to many riders due to the short ride length. This event is best suited for family and leisure riders.
 - Lose the shirt and keep the cost down or keep the t-shirt as an option for purchase and have it signed by the artist as a collector's item.
 - The \$25 per person registration fee was thought to be too high. Perhaps reducing the registration cost for families or have the option to pay one amount to ride and/or another amount to receive a goodie bag.
 - A circular/loop route would accommodate more people and lessen the need for a ride back. Or select a more residential route.
 - Discussed various traffic and ride issues from the group ride. Provide repair and maintenance issues.

New Business

- ✚ **Bicycle Friendly Business Presentation with Leawood Chamber of Commerce – Brian Anderson**
 - We are cosponsoring a Lunch and Learn seminar with the Leawood Chamber of Commerce in September. It would be hosted in the Oak Room, City Hall.
 - The Bicycle Friendly Business program is similar to the Bicycle Friendly Community program but is specific to businesses. The number of bike friendly businesses in a community the more bike friendly the community will be, promoting this recognition program to Leawood businesses is an asset to our community.

- Brian Anderson will host the presentation with speakers including Elizabeth Bejan and Bicycle Friendly Business representatives from Sprint and Foth Architecture.
- The committee discussed the City of Leawood applying for a bicycle friendly business and some ideas for programs to include.
 - Ride-Share or a Guaranteed Ride Program
 - Additional programs, promotions, bike racks, etc.

✚ **Bicycle Friendly Communication Application – Brian Anderson**

- Application deadline was July 22, 2011. The application was turned in on time and They have received it. It will be reviewed by their committee. We should hear from them late September or early October.
- David Ley, Joe Peeples, Joe Rexwinkle, and Elizabeth Bejan assisted with the application.
- First step is to get the map with the recommended bicycle route system done. It will give us a guideline of what facilities are best appropriate on each street, where and how it falls into the rehab schedule or capital improvements plan.
- Members discuss striping and space issues. David Ley mentions issues with 119th, 123rd, and 127th Streets, where they cannot continue bike lanes through those intersections. The worst one is at 127th Street because it is only 1100 feet long where there is no striping at all. In the left turn lane portions; even though the street appears wide enough, it is not wide enough to put in a 4 foot bike lane. There is only a 10.5 foot car lane and a 2.5 bike lane. From 119th to 127th, we can strip a bike lane there. Joe Rexwinkle suggested that we make our wish list on the map. Put everything down that we think would be great places for these bike facilities. Then hire a consultant for the bicycle master plan services and go through our wish list and prioritize and recommend various design components.
- David Ley has been researching grants for us to hire someone to do this. Joe Rexwinkle reiterated the advice that was given to him was to have the staff gather data along with the wish list to give to the consultant. Funding for the consultant, the FHA Grant is for \$64,000 for comparing bicycle routes and complete streets.
- Elizabeth Bejan is starting a low price, no price for college kids and low income people in the area of 51st and Troost. If you are interested in donating a bicycle contact Alicia Jennings or Elizabeth Bejan to pick up the bike. The Parks and Recreation department is working with Elizabeth Bejan for the October E-Waste Recycling event with Jim Twigg with the City of Overland Park.
- Joe Peeples mentioned that officers have a hard time giving a citation to a bicyclist who runs a stop sign/light a \$150 ticket (same for a motor vehicle). Is it possible to present to the courts a reduced fine or diversion in connection with the Bicycle Friendly Committee? Joe Rexwinkle had come across a program that in lieu of a ticket, the person had to go to participate in the bicycle education program. The consultant we hire might be able to research that and more and it's legal issues to make a similar program here. Members continue ticket and resolution discussion.

✚ **Earthriders Trail Association – Brian Anderson**

- Leawood has a mountain bike trail and the Earthriders Trail Association is willing to meet with Brian Anderson to view the trail and possibly expand it. One goal of the meeting is to develop a partnership with this group for maintenance of the trail as this would be a great example of working with the cycling community in providing cycling facilities.
- The first mountain bike trail was first built by an eagle scout, with help from the parks department, a police officer, and an animal control officer as well as the scout's troop. They donated their time and built obstacles, jumps, etc. The trail is in floodplain and has been effected by high water over the past years and would benefit from more frequent volunteer maintenance efforts. It is a dirt packed path.
- Alicia Jennings shared that the Johnson County Bike Club and the KC Metro Club are voting on August 29th to merge in April of 2012. It would be great for someone to be a

liaison for this committee to the various bicycle clubs. This a great source of bicyclist and motorist information and they participate in many rides.

✚ **New Cycling Event – Brian Anderson**

- Interested in have a race or a criterium. Brian Anderson spoke with Ariel at Leawood Bicycles and his club, The Blue River Bicycle Club to receive feedback. Ariel said he would love to have a road race here in Leawood. September is a great date for this. An idea is to have one on Tomahawk Parkway and close it down on a weekend morning. Parks and Recreation and the Police Departments would assist with some resources for the bicycle club who is interested in making this new race event club driven for setup, promoting, etc.
- Members discussed various races and options for our race.

✚ **Safe Walk/Bike to School – Alicia Jennings**

- Alicia Jennings shared her research results about promoting a walk with a high profile person, i.e. Mayor, Council Member, etc. It has been very popular in many areas. She has met with several principals. Mary Jo Gates, Principal at Cure is all for it and is also interested in recycling food waste.
- Alicia Jennings asked if the Police and Fire Department's Open House would be a great opportunity to promote the BFC. Joe Peebles believed it would be great and should not be an issue if she wants to participate. Many helmets have sold during these events.
- We still have many of the giveaways for the kids are still available for future events. She will call for police presence. Traffic Sergeant is Sgt. Kirt Yoder as of April.
- Route map will be part of the plan and be consultant created depending on the grant. It is doubtful that the map will be available this year; however, the data may be available.

✚ **Various Question – Brian Anderson**

- Steve Hassler noticed that the trail from Tomahawk Creek to Mission Road is closed again. Brian Anderson had to install permanent fencing at the entrance and confirmed that the City Administrator directed it to be closed until further notice for public safety. There is a work session scheduled in the near future to determine what the council recommends for that trail. The trail is failing due to storm water issues from above. The repair would be extensive and expensive. Brian Anderson hadn't reviewed the plan recently and, from memory, recalled the estimate was \$750,000 that would address this erosion site and thirteen other areas. He would need to review the report to be confirm of the engineer's estimate. Discussions among the committee included turning it into a dirt bike trail. There have been home owner concerns regarding what will happen to the trail and the slope if the City does nothing. Discussions for that area continued.
- Steve Hassler asked about the Ironwoods Amphitheater Proposal and its effects to the trails there. Brian Anderson replied that the amphitheater is proposed to be in the same vicinity as the current one, just a bit further and closer to the pond. It should not affect the trails at all. The trail that is currently north of the existing amphitheater may shift a bit from its current alignment due to landscaping. Joe Rexwinkle confirmed that it would not require any changes to the current trail system. It will still exist. They discuss the land area of LeaBrooke and the City's in the process of buying it. Members commented that the area would be great for mountain biking. Some of it may be in the flood plain.

✚ **Adjourn**

- Meeting adjourns at 7:26 pm. We are skipping a month. The Next meeting is October 5th, 2011.
- Brian Neilson makes a motion for the meeting to be adjourned. Jill Paton seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.