

July 5th, 2017 MINUTES

Welcome, Introductions, and News

- Members and special guest Joan Leavens, Coordinator of Sustainability and Community Engagement for the Shawnee Mission School District (SMSD), exchanged greetings and introductions. She briefly shared that part of her responsibilities is looking for alternative transportation opportunities.

The BFC meeting came to order.

- David Harwood made a motion to approve the agenda. Ron Schikevitz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- David Harwood made a motion to approve the May 3rd, 2017 minutes. Dan Schaeffer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Main Routes to Schools

- School Liaisons:
 - David Harwood – Prairie Star Elementary and Middle
 - Dan Schaeffer – Brookwood
 - Bill Day – Leawood Elementary & Middle
 - Phil Goff – Corinth, Brookwood
 - Alicia Jennings – Cure, St. Michaels, Nativity
 - Debra Filla – Montessori, Corinth
- The last meeting's discussion was left at GIS routes. David Harwood shared that the best option to get the GIS data information is to reach out to the bus transportation company because the district provides them the routes of the kids being picked up. Joan Leavens shared that SMSD uses AIMS.
- Brian Anderson provides the work history for main routes to school (MR2S). Gareth Matthews is an avid biker and walker with his children to school at Mission Trails. He started researching for better, safer routes to school as encouragement for other kids to form a walking alliance, neighbors coordinating sprinkler and snow removal to benefit kids, and better behavior among pick-up/drop-offs. He mapped an area, tracked student routes and gathered information to determine routes using the bike ped master plan. Chair Corbett explains that it starts with the ownership of the school. The committee would help with the awareness and explains the process. They have not done any assessments or gone after grants or monies from Safe Routes. Debra Filla shares that they are looking to Joan Leavens for advice as she is successful. She briefly explains what she has seen since she's been with the council as it applies to main routes. Members discuss grants and funding.
- Joan Leavens applied directly to Safe Routes for \$40,000 and was allocated \$25,000 and was able to leverage that money because of the coalition around the table. Her group generated a gigantic map using student data and ground trooped it with families and committee members. It was the PTA's idea and their leadership was important. They also worked with the Public Safety Officers to identify traffic data with an average speed of 28 mph for a 25 mph zone. And then hosted a back to school walk to school day. They also had staged purple marks for trouble spots with Police Officers. They learned a great deal from a 2-Day work shop lead by a Seattle firm that Gareth Matthews also attended. David Ley shares that the City would apply through MARC and the funding would come from KDOT. She mentions that Mission and other cities went through that process and was awarded. Members discuss the many ideas for the grants.
- Chair Corbett will send out the Mission Trail packet to the committee again. Joan Leavens also commented on the packets they send out too. They would like to send similar ones and walkability assessments that are for schools. Every school is unique. David Harwood suggests standardizing the process with a base assessment; public works

ATTENDEES

5:30 pm • Leawood City Hall
4800 Town Center Drive
Main Conference Room

Members

- Kevin Corbett, Chair**
- Alicia Jennings, Vice-Chair**
- Bill Blessing**
- Bill Day**
- David Harwood**
- Barry Nelson**
- Ron Schikevitz**
- Dan Schaeffer**

City Staff

- Brian Anderson**
Parks Superintendent
- Marica Putman**
Administrative Graphics Tech
- David Ley**, City Engineer
- Mark Klein**, Planning Official
- Phil Goff**, Police Officer
- Kirt Yoder**, Sergeant Police Officer

Guests

- Chuck Sipple, Councilmember**
- Debra Filla, Councilmember**
- Joan Leavens, Shawnee Mission School District**

suggestions and ground troop it with parental feedback. He feels that this group needs to do this for the schools. He mentions Utah DOT's app for all public schools and parents in the state, to help parents engage with the school bus programs. It is a simple app and is free to any state who wants to use it. It engages the districts to have uniformity. The more uniform something is, the easier it is to adopt, the easier acceptance it is by the public. Meeting members continue their discussion.

- Brookwood has been temporarily moved to the Indian Creek Tech Center for one year. There is time to put this in place. Corinth has a new nurse and will be available in six weeks.
- Chuck Sipple asks Joan Leavens what can be done with streets without sidewalks. She replies that they don't have any recommendations and to converse with the City. David Ley comments that north of I-435, residential streets really do not have sidewalks and the grading is an issue. It is relatively flat the first 12 feet back of the curb. There was the way the Kroh brothers developed it, there are swales on both sides. For sidewalks to be implemented, trees would have to be removed or have another option. Those trees will be up for reconstruction in 4 years. They can be evaluated then. Everyone wants a sidewalk on the other side and they do not want to pay for it.
- Chuck Sipple asks David Harwood to send Kevin Corbett Utah Safe Routes to School information app and the DOT website. The app is called The Walking School Bus. Joan Leavens mentions that students are learning about +developing apps and this would be a great opportunity to give students a real world experience to existing issue. The schools are catching opportunities as they pop up. She lives near the Trailwood neighborhood and has observed much more walking to school. Members continue the discussion.
- David Harwood asked about if Crossing Guards do student traffic counts. It would be nice to have traffic counts to include seasonal fluctuations. Crossing guards are contracted with the police. Sergeant Kirk Yoder shared that there was an initial count and he will look into counts for schools. At Prairie Star Elementary and Middle have existing crossing issues at 143rd Street and Mission. Mio Vision does counts and videos, could be very cost effective. The City of Roeland Park is using most of their grant for signage, crosswalks, strobing lights, and more. Discussion continues.
- Joan Leavens speaks highly of the work by BikeWalkKC. Laura Steele and Maggie Priesmeyer have provided programs for students to participate in such as bike training, repair, bike safety assessments, and presentations at various schools. And students have received donated bikes through the Earn a Bike Program. BikeWalkKC has been a great partner for them.
- Chair Corbett's summarizes:
 - Continue outreach to the schools to see which are interested in picking this up and begin the process.
 - Our role as a committee and to the City is to act as consultants to get the data, the mapping together, walking through, and working together in getting this done.
 - A main route to school template for Mission Trail from advocate Gareth Matthews (SAB). The template can be changed to fit the geographical challenges and needs of every school.
- Dave Harwood suggests simplifying it to one page and a map for Prairie Star Elementary and Middle Schools and presenting them by the last week in July. He is also an advocate for 143rd Street and Mission too. Public Works can provide the schools the basic information such as current and future street projects, improvements, crossing, traffic patterns, speed limits, etc. as many schools may not have this information. Likewise, Public Works is not going to know where the students are coming from; however, the schools will have this information. Working together they can decide the best main routes for kids and draw up the map. They would also like to know what the City's take is on the safe routes and they would provide input from parent/student perspectives on the deviations. Members discuss opposing views, safety assessment processes, and various methods in obtaining main routes information to present to schools.

Recreational Loop Update

- The Self Propelled Leawood Master Plan recommended 2 recreational riding loops and several walkable loops breaking off from the bike riding loops. There is \$50,000 in the budget this year to mark these recreational loops. Brian Anderson provided the example of the MUTCD approved sign and suggested using the 3 tree city logo in the top portion, we need input regarding the name of the route. Some members have ridden the loops. Considering the budget, the group had prioritized signing the north loop first. At an earlier meeting, the committee discussed signing the walking loops as well as the bike loop. Staff explained the MUTCD signs are intended for bicycle use and it would be confusing and difficult to wayfind several smaller loops off the main route. Staff recommends marking the recreational loop as a bicycle route. The committee recommended marking the north loop as a bicycle loop.

- \$50,000 budget. David Ley initially did an estimate with 3 signs per direction per intersection of \$120,000. Actually there would be 4 signs with arrows. More than 100 signs per loop at every 800 feet and may need to extend the feet. Members discuss the logo options for the signs and alternate road route (trails) signage. Members also discuss rudeness between riders and walkers on the trail. There are signs on the trail regarding passing procedures and it is posted in the Parks & Recreation Program Guide's Parks and Shelters section.
- Kirk Yoder reminded all that the City ordinance prohibits organized bike events on the trail system with the exception of what Parks and Recreation might want to do. This would be for organized paid events not like a group of cyclists who wanted to ride together. This is intended to be a recreational loop. It was noted that the north loop is not routed on any trails. The south loop did recommend using portions of tomahawk creek trail.

▪ Chair Corbett entertains a motion to direct Brian Anderson to call this a bike route as opposed to a bike walk route. David Harwood makes moved motion and Dan Schaeffer seconded the motion.

- David Harwood mentioned another option to signs and that is the use of colored box dots in the pavement. Many northern states use this method too. Brian Anderson commented using sharrows, snow removal, and other options.
- Members decided to do the north route which would "begin" at City Park and go north of I-435.

▪ David Harwood makes a motion to sign the north loop over the south loop based on fund availability. Dan Schaeffer seconded the motion.

✚ Discuss Future Agenda and Goals

- Discuss in length at the next meeting.

✚ Future Bike Event

- There was a budget addition in Parks & Recreation for a Bike Event in 2018.
- Last year's Kermis on the Parkway was a private event, that Parks & Recreation helped sponsor. The bicycle race was well done. The festival part of the event was not as well attended by the general public as we would have liked. A possible reason for this was a lack of money early on, for marketing. Chuck Sipple and Debra Filla proposed in the SAB meetings of having a city sponsored bike event and staff provided the costs incurred for the Kermis event. A vast majority of the expenses for the Kermis went to traffic control and security. It was estimated at \$6,000. City sponsored events do not have to pay for traffic control or security so that money could go toward other activities directly for the event.
- Members discuss adding the Leawood loop for the event and possibly a bike parade, safe routes, something for everyone and more.

✚ City Department Reports

- Public Works. David Ley reports that 133rd will have bike lanes in a month or after restriping.
- Parks & Recreation. Brian Anderson reports Tomahawk Trail is closed from Roe to Tomahawk Park and is anticipated to open up at Labor Day weekend. Rain is slowing them up but the supporting structures are in and the old trail removed and ready for pouring the new trail.
- Planning. Mark Klein reports that they are consistent as far as getting bike wrecks in all the developments as they come in and all is smooth.

✚ Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned.
- The next regular BFC meeting of September 6th, 2017.