

## Bike/Walk Leawood

# January 3rd, 2018 MINUTES

### 🚦 Welcome, Introductions, and News

- Members and guests exchanged greetings/ introductions.  
Guest Laura Steele, BikeWalk KC Outreach Coordinator

### 🚦 The Bike/Walk Leawood meeting came to order.

- Ron Schikevitz made a motion to approve the agenda.  
David Harwood seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Bill Blessing made a motion to approve the November 29th, 2017 minutes. Dan Schaeffer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### 🚦 Bike/Walk KC & Trailwood Elementary Bike/Ped Safety Clinic

Laura Steele from Bike Walk KC provides a general background. They are the region's biking and walking advocacy group. They would like to see sidewalks and city streets become places that people reclaimed and use for healthier lifestyles. They have several divisions, run bike share in KC, and provide education. She is the Outreach Coordinator for the education team for youth and adult programming.

She recommends the BLAST programming for the committee. BLAST stands for Bicycle Lesson and Safety Training and is a tried and true youth education program. Safety is the top component, along with on-bike and practice sessions. They bring bicycles to use or students can bring their own bikes and learn how to start and stop, signaling, set up mock intersections, wearing helmets properly, check bike for safety, and rules of the road.

She provided an example at Trailwood Elementary asked for a condensed BLAST program, an adaptable program to fit the needs of the school through PE classes. She has spoken with Dan Schaeffer and Joan Leavens. The school itself is currently in Overland Park and she wanted to know if the committee is willing to support that kind of programming. A video is provided for the committee to watch.

Bill Blessing asked if the condensed training is optional and if it is for all students and how much of the safety training is included in the condensed version. The programming is for those in the third to six grades during the school day (1-3 pm). There is some discussion for various grades to provide the programming. The safety talk is given by the Leawood Police and Bike Walk KC provide bikes, course set up and practice with core safety curriculum. They do encourage kids bringing their own bikes to do their bike checks and more. She explains the details how the bike program works for the schools with a regular course (4 day rotation schedule, school schedule, etc.). Schools are charged a fee for the bike rodeos, which can be anything. The BLAST program focuses on safety and is free.

Members discuss previous education training experiences, bike rodeos, safety education, and helmets, and the main routes to school program.

### 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

- Chris Claxton**  
Director of Parks & Recreation
- Brian Anderson**  
Parks Superintendent
- Marica Putman**  
Administrative Graphics Tech
- David Ley**, City Engineer
- Mark Klein**, Planning Official
- Phil Goff**, Police Officer
- Mark Hackathorn**, Police Officer

#### Guests

- Chuck Sipple, Council W3**
- Karry Rood, Police**

Chair Corbett asked how our group could provide support. Gareth Matthews attended a workshop and discussed main routes to school with Laura Steele as she was working with the Roseland project. She is introducing Bike Club through Bike Walk KC. It is an after school program in which kids build a peer network by exploring their neighborhood through safe routes for them to ride. This program has many benefits for kids. It takes a champion from the school and community support to make this program work. Members discuss how this program would work for Leawood schools and opportunities for our members to participate. Chair Corbett asked Laura Steele to follow-up with Brian Anderson for those opportunities. She describes an example of a school process of setting up a program, notice of curriculum, and program length. The BLAST program is 4 hours and based on PE class times. The first session has an assembly style session and then riding in the last session. It is an adaptable, flexible program with various modules. The youngest are in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and maybe taught Pre BLAST for their learning level and bike exposure. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade received the full safety training and building on more skills in BLAST. The Topeka school district has adopted their curriculum. Confident City Cycling for adults is an expanded BLAST program. It is more in-depth in road rules, lane positioning, rights and responsibilities, ABC quick checks, practice course, helmet fittings, maintenance, etc.

Bill Blessing asks if there are other convening opportunities for committees like Bike/Walk Leawood while promoting effective biking and walking and interacting with peer groups in the metro areas. Members learn about MARC's BPAC (Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee). Members discuss BPAC and opportunities. Laura Steele mentions that she works with various cities that do not have a bicycle committee. Brian Anderson attends BPAC meetings and will ask about opportunities to work together to promote biking and walking in Leawood.

Laura Steele suggests other opportunities for participation such as a bike drive, expanding the idea to take ownership of the bikes and fix them for programs like Adopt a Family. She also suggests working with bike shops. Brian Anderson mentions that the committee is collaborating with Prairie Village and Overland Park's Recycling Extravaganza and with Revolve KC.

#### 🌟 Leawood Stride 'N Ride

It is a family friendly biking and walking event on June 9<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 1 pm. BikeWalk KC is offering their services to assist in the event. Leawood Police is considering a bike rodeo and utilizing the mountain bike trail for the older youth. Other activities include: food trucks, educational items, popup tents for bike commuting, scavenger hunts, North Loop, etc. and finalizing it with the BMX show. Need help with bike parking and traffic control. They discussed closing off the first lot at the pool.

Laura Steele mentions that BikeWalk KC might be able to provide some b-cycles to display and for people to learn about them. Which would educate attendees how to use B-cycles when/if the program expands to Johnson County. She hands out information brochures/cards about BikeWalk KC.

Bill Blessing mentions that this could be a green event too with recycling, along with Bridging the Gap, and using Event in a Kit. Brian Anderson said he will bring this idea up to the event planning committee meeting. Since this is the first event, they want to focus on biking and walking to get started and determine how best to grow/improve.

#### 🌟 North Loop

David Ley shares that engineers are completing the plans in two weeks and will go out for bid soon after. He has driven the route and pointed out his concerns when crossing some main streets and working on recommendations and improvements. They are trying to make it safe as possible and everything will be signed.

The time frame is before the 1<sup>st</sup> council meeting in March to approve the contract in which will then give the contractor three weeks to put the signs up.

Bill Blessing wanted to know when the committee should set aside money for the South Loop. David Ley shares that it is coming up pretty soon as the City is working on the budget now. They will review the bid that is coming in for the North Loop and determined the cost for the South Loop. They discuss the South Loop's potential costs and street improvements. They are considering placeholders for the South Loop in the 2019 budget. Chair Corbett asks Chuck Sipple if there was anything that the committee can do to strengthen the request for the South Loop cost for the CIP. Chuck Sipple replied that a formal written request from the committee to stress that this is what is wanted, what the estimated needs are for 2019/2020, etc. and presented to the council is good. Chuck Sipple will also present information about the North Loop at the upcoming 2018 Sustainability Summit and HOA Meeting Dinner. They discuss this matter further and will put it together and present it to council.

#### ✚ Main Routes to School (MR2S)

Brian Anderson met with Dave Hill and Scott Crain Blue Valley School District about the Self-Propelled Leawood Master Plan and implementation plans the city has been doing. There have been improvement projects at two schools submitted to the city recently with resulting in staff comments seeking school campus improvements be added as recommended in the plan. Of particular importance, was a sidewalk on the west side of Leawood Elementary School. The District wanted to remove this walk, but the master plan recommended widening this particular walk to trail width as it is part of a recommended route. The District explained that they have granted easements and permission for trails on their property with other Overland Park, for example, but when these trails are for primarily for recreational purposes, the city pays for the improvements. The District also mentioned that literally incorporating every recommendation in the master plan would not work for them. There are recommendations for trails that would require future easements between homes, for example that may not be granted, so trails built by the District may never connect. I agree and explain the purpose of the master plan was to provide and improve biking/walking connectivity to school campuses and the City would like to see evidence of District consideration of this plan when submitting campus improvements. Logical reasons for changes and adjustments are going to be necessary. For example, school districts have security issues/concerns that were not present when the master plan was developed. For the Leawood Elementary sidewalk, the District offered to widen the path from 5 foot to 10 foot if the City would pay for the additional 5 feet.

Brian Anderson goes on to mention that our MR2S process of meeting with the principals of schools to determine interest in implementing biking and walking programs/events may best begin at the district level. Scott Crain suggested that they have a wellness coordinator and facility divisions have had problems with campus improvements started at local schools by principles unfamiliar with civil engineering in the past. Joan Leavens, Shawnee Mission District, had also told me they have a similar structure. The wellness coordinators and facility staff implement district-wide programs and develop campus improvements that encourage participation and increase awareness for better internal campus improvements.

#### ✚ Committee Goals

Chair Corbett reviews the mission statement with the committee. Since the committee meets six times a year, their goal is to focus on something that they can rally towards the end of the year.

Goal Setting/Annual Events Subjects to consider:

- Main Routes to School
- Leawood Stride 'N Ride
- Moving Leawood from Honorable to Silver (American Bicycle League)
- Self-Propelled Leawood Master Plan
- CIP

David Harwood suggests separating annual events from goals (what the residents expect from the committee) and so forth. They discuss the roles of the committee pertaining to the master plan, providing a balanced scorecard, and a format for assignments to city staff and so forth. They discuss the chain of command from staff personnel to various departments. For instance BWL reports to the Sustainability Advisory Board who is a conduit to the council. Chuck Sipple and Debra Filla (Council Members) can make council members reports from time to time in terms of progress toward goals or request to have things in the CIP or events that are coming up that of interest to the general community. They continue discussing metrics and viewed the CIP construction schedule.

One of the goals is to review, create a recommendation and prioritize on an annual basis. And measuring progress against what was chosen should be a subset of that.

Brian Anderson would like to have a more coordinated agenda. It would help him if he knew what needed to be discussed and when for agenda planning. Chair Corbett agreed that an annual agenda is needed and to start placing items (events, recommendations, projects, council dates, etc.) in certain months, adjusting as needed. Members discuss projects.

Chair Corbett lists the immediate plan of action. For the next meeting he will work on this agenda and prioritizing the plan. Members discuss American Bicycle League as something to aspire to but not as a goal. Another suggestion is to have the meeting agenda more in advance to shorten the meeting discussion and for better preparation.

- Review the annual plan
  - Prioritize
  - Budget/CIP
  - Recommendation
- Main Routes to School
- Educational Outreach
  - Leawood Stride 'N Ride - June 9th

#### City Department Reports

Mark Klein, Planning: Last night at the City Council meeting, the Prairie Star Elementary School, part of the improvements that they agreed to make were the connection from Mission Road over to the Prairie Star Middle School. They also agreed to stop the continental striping along 143<sup>rd</sup> Street going across the driveways. They indicated there are two connections shown in the self-proposed Leawood plan that were interior to the site. They would like to do a study to see if the MUTCD process would recommend them.

Mark Hackathorn, Police: Police is working to get the bike staff back up. They used bicycle officers at Town Center during the holiday season to keep the crime down. This has been successful. They didn't get hit as they had in the past. Their bike unit does not have officers permanently assigned right now due to staffing. They do have previously trained officers filling in this unit when necessary. They will have officers on bicycles for the June 9<sup>th</sup> event.

## ✚ Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned.
- The next regular BFC meeting of March 7th, 2018.