

Bike/Walk Leawood

August 21st, 2019 MINUTES

✦ Approve Agenda

- Bill Blessing made a motion to approve the agenda. David Harwood seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

✦ Approve July 10th Minutes

- Bill Blessing made a motion to approve the July 10th, 2019 minutes. David Harwood seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

✦ Mayor's Referral: Complaint Received On Speeding Bicyclist and Skateboarders on Bike Trails – Brian Anderson

- Mayor Dunn received a concerned handwritten letter from Dr. James S. Zarr who wanted to know what could be done about speeding bicyclists on the bike trails colliding into pedestrians and dogs. Mayor Dunn forwarded the letter to this committee and the council.
- Brian Anderson spoke with Dr. Zarr and found out that cyclists aren't yielding to pedestrians regularly but instead are speeding by them. He personally has not had an accident with a cyclist, but has had near misses. He is not comfortable with cyclists on the trails and has stopped walking on the trails and is using sidewalks instead of the trails.
- Brian Anderson explained that the committee is asked to come up with ideas to improve trail etiquette. Dr. Zarr recommended posting 15 mph speed limits on the trails and posted signs that convey pedestrians always have the right-of-way. He walks with a dog a lot and it's hard for him to keep him on one side of the trail.
- Members reviewed and discussed trail signs, speed, and etiquette such as shouting "on your left". Often walkers do not hear a cyclist because of earbuds or that they are so startled by the shout that he or she jerks into the cyclist's path. They mentioned different scenarios with pedestrians and their dogs, suggesting owners keep their dogs safe by minimizing the distance of their leash or walking them on the grass. Vice-Chair Jennings suggested asking Marty Shukert if he has a solution. She has shared her experience with other trails and spoken to cyclists from Denver and San Francisco.
- Leawood trails are mostly 10 feet wide with some segments of 8 feet wide and most of our bridges are 12 feet wide. Striping a center line at blind corners were mentioned. David Harwood shared an example of California's unique trail sign - 'know your lane' where pedestrians, cyclists, horses are yielding to one another with animals on the grass and not on concrete, walkers on the far right edge, and then cyclists.
- Karry Rood suggested this verbiage for a sign. "When others are around, please slow down".
- Officer Phil Goff suggests a small flyer, to leave on parked cars near trail heads, tips to keep your dog close to you when walking on the trail and more. Members suggests this for Parks and Recreation Guide: What Your Dog Wants You to Know about Trail Etiquette. Keep me safe. Perhaps a trailhead regulations for a photo. Catch phrase: OYL (on your left).
- Possible trail permit or licenses.
- Currently per the city ordinances, there are no police enforcement measures used on the trails. However, if an ordinance is changed to reflect a 15 mph speed limit on the trails along with posted signs, then the police can enforce it. David Harwood suggests council consider an ordinance change, whether limits are posted or not, to have on the books a law that would allow police to enforce should it be posted at some later date if this continues to be an issue. Members discuss it further. Staff will look at cities' best practices and League of Bike America with some findings that can apply to Leawood. Density, trail system review, etc. to reinforce existing safe and courteous practice signage that might include a recommended speed and therefore look at best practices. For now, members will do a bit a research and go for a big push in the spring.

ATTENDEES

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

Members

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

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
- Karry Rood**, Police Admin
Services Coordinator

Guest

- Chuck Sipple, CM W3**

✚ South Loop Update – Brian Anderson

- Reviewed the final concept of the kiosk.
 - Current trees are preserved
 - Bike repair stand with a water bottle filler
 - Teak benches, tables (looking at other options for cost and care), recyclable/repurposed materials
 - Shade structure, materials still being reviewed.
 - Misting tower
 - Bike parking for 6 bikes, but limestone wall would provide added leaning opportunities.
 - Sidewalk will be widened from 5 feet to 10 feet
 - Informational Panels showing the maps of the routes.
 - Work will be done by the Parks Maintenance crew
 - The South Loop signage project budget will provide funding, we want to have the sign installation bid results so we know how much the signs and installation will cost before purchasing kiosk amenities.
 - Project to possibly start this fall after the pool is winterized.
 - Karry Rood offered that there is a discount for bike racks through BikeWalkKC if any of their designs would fit.
- Brian Anderson reintroduced the reroute to get the South Loop off of Roe Avenue for those who were not present at the last meeting. He briefly explained the revised route, Roe concerns, and Mission Road safety. The project for the west side of Mission Road sidewalk from the trailhead to Berkshire is about 9 weeks behind schedule. Members discuss the proposed route.
- David Ley told Brian Anderson that he hopes to have the signage installed late fall after the two construction projects are completed that would have the South Loop closed right now.

✚ City Department Reports

- None.

✚ Other

- Next meeting date will be October 2nd instead of November 6th.

✚ Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned.