

Bike/Walk Leawood

October 2nd, 2019 MINUTES

🚦 Welcome

- Guests are greeted with introductions.

🚦 Approve Agenda

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

🚦 Approve August 21st Minutes

- Bill Blessing made a motion to approve the August 21st, 2019 minutes. David Harwood seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

🚦 City Council Referral: Citizen Request for Crosswalk at Lee Boulevard and 89th

- Several residents in attendance are requesting a crosswalk at 89th and Lee Boulevard due to safety concerns.
 - Marc Larsen has a first grader.
 - Nick Even has a second grader and kindergartener.
 - Peter Lang has a first grader.
 - Jaclyn Penn has an almost 5 and 7 year-olds.
- There are eight families in their group that are actively walking and biking approximately 1.7 miles to Corinth school. They struggle to cross Lee Boulevard with the heavy morning traffic. Often a kind soul will stop traffic on both sides and wave them across. They do not let the kids cross by themselves. However, as the kids get older and are allowed to ride to school by themselves, the parents worry about their safety trying to cross Lee Boulevard. They have seen accidents in that area. There is a hill looking south from 89th street that limits visibility for crossing Lee.
- Marc Larsen emailed Councilmembers Debra Filla and Chuck Sipple about another area of concern along the way to school. The sidewalk from 89th and Mission north towards 83rd. The sidewalk is narrow with several bumps and cracks with no crosswalks at all. Cars come down the street and then block the intersection waiting to turn. It was noted that the section in question is actually in Prairie Village and the staff will communicate these concerns to them. The last concern is the overgrown landscaping that is impeding the sidewalk width. Evergreens and pines have overgrown on the east side of the sidewalk on 89th and on Mission, making those areas not usable. Staff will review the landscaping and notify the resident if there are clearance issues. Sidewalk clearance is 10 feet overhead clearance and nothing extending over the sidewalk.
- The citizens pointed out that there are no crosswalks striped at street intersections. David Ley informed that the city does not stripe a crosswalk at every residential intersection as standard practice. They will review citizen requests to improve walking routes to school when recommended.
- When asked about meeting the criteria of putting in crosswalks in that area it was noted that there are two different issues. One being at 89th and Lee. If there are issues with vehicles parking in the crosswalk or where the crosswalk should be, Public Works can stripe a crosswalk there so Police can issue citations or move people onward. They will verify the intersection location.
- David Ley shares that Lee Boulevard from 95th to 103rd is under construction, widening and adding a ribbon curve that is 6" wide to hold the asphalt inside. It will be striped with bike lanes. They will do the same next year from 95th to 83rd. What he needs to know from the committee is if they want to proceed forward with having a crosswalk study completed at 89th and Lee. If so, Bike/Walk Leawood needs to make a recommendation to the 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**
- David Harwood**
- 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**
- Marc Larsen, 8741 High Drive**
- Nick Even, 8915 High Drive**
- Peter Lang, 8914 High Drive**
- Jaclyn Penn, 8736 High Drive**

Committee, probably in December. They will review it and will make a recommendation to the governing body. Public Works can then adjust their contract with their engineer and review the intersection.

- Kids and a large influx of corporate personnel, encouraged by walking meetings, are using the sidewalk frequently along with electric scooters thus changing the dynamics of who's using it.
- This may be more of a Public Works issue than a Bike/Walk Leawood one. An issue that these residents are facing are people entering their street, thinking 89th will take them to State Line Road and when it doesn't, they drive the circle frustrated, driving at a higher rate of speed as they leave. They would like to have some signs that say 'not a thru street'. One resident puts out 2 'slow – children playing' plastic signs and 2 carpet wet floor signs to curb the speeders. Other residents have some form of this issue whether it's lost drivers or the construction traffic. They are worried for everyone's safety. David Ley will look into the signage such as 'no outlet' sign to put on top of the street name sign.
- Karry Rood asked about having a signal at the intersection of 89th and Lee Boulevard. Peter Lang ask about options beyond striping a designated path. David Ley responded that they have hired a consultant who is designing Lee Boulevard. That person will do a traffic study and the options are either put signage with crosswalks in some areas or a push button rapid fire beacons for visual effect.
- A narrowing of a section at 89th that butts into Lee Boulevard with a 20' planter was brought up. The HOA maintain the planters to the north and are often hit. Making it smaller may cause entering and leaving problems. They would have to review it and see if 89th is allowed in the Traffic Calming Policy. If so, then neighbors would have to sign a petition and pay 75% up front for the roadway. Then they will look at calming traffic devices – speed cables, humps, etc. David Ley will email the Traffic Calming Policy to the residents if it's not available online. David Harwood suggests that if it is a speed issue, Police can be contacted for selective enforcement. They discuss the danger of that intersection.
- Peter Lang mentions that there are no paintings on the roadway crossings along 89th. Several kids join up at 89th and go on to school. If the people driving the cars don't see the kids, they pull into the crosswalk zone while waiting for a safe turn. Brian Anderson shared the plan of what Gareth Matthews did for Mission Trail. He will email the Mission Trail plan to the residents too.
- David Harwood suggests googling Safe Routes to School website for more information. He states that the value is huge, maintains property values and encourages family to partake in the routes. This group enjoys the walkability of the neighborhood brought on by the bike masterplan and its continuous movement forward. There is an area of vegetation issues along Mission between 84th Terr and 89th that needs to be taken care of. It's encroaching on the sidewalk and is possibly a code violation. It may be on the Prairie Village side.
- The Bike/Walk Leawood committee will make a recommendation to the Public Works Committee. Julie Stasi, Administrative Services Manager, will send these residents a notice of the meeting. The Public Works Committee will review the issues and if approved, they will make a recommendation to the governing body and the residents will be notified of the council meeting date. The Public Works Committee meets the first Wednesday each month at 7:30 am and breakfast is served.
- David Harwood makes a motion to recommend to the Public Works Committee that a warrant study be performed for a pedestrian crossing at 89th Street and Lee Boulevard for consideration in next summer's Capital Improvement Program. Bill Blessing seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor's Referral: Recent New Items Regarding the KCMO Bicycle Plan

- Chair Corbett received an email from Chuck Sipple via the mayor with news articles forwarded and a suggestion to look at the discussion going on in Kansas City. When Ron Schikevitz responded that he could not attend the meeting, his email shared his comments about this issue. Bill Blessing replied back with some of his comments, which he shared at the meeting. David Harwood reminded all that this group is subject to the Open Meeting Standards in Kansas. An item must be put on the agenda individually and cannot be discussed through chain emails. No communication or pre-discussion on topics that would be on the agenda with enough people that would constitute a quorum. Staff will research group emailing further and advice at the next meeting.
- Bill Blessing asked if the mayor expected a response from our observations as he did have several talking points which are not relevant if there's no plan to respond. Chuck Sipple thinks she wanted everyone to be advised of the commotion in Kansas City because they may have to answer to constituents about what they are doing and how much they are spending. Chair Corbett felt that she was saying 'please pass it on'. Brian Anderson made copies of the emails in question for those in attendance at the meeting.

✚ Trail Use Etiquette/Trail Speed Limits –

- Some members share the cities and states that have trail speed limits. Seattle, Denver, Colorado, California are a few and are areas to research the reason for the speed limit, how is it enforced and how it is working.
- Leawood currently does not have the police resources to provide bicycle officers to monitor trails. Speed limits would also need to be posted.
- In the last meeting of the Kansas City Metro Directors Association, they recommended for cities that trails permit e-bikes of Class 1 and Class 3 (must be pedaling to get assistance). Scooters were talked about and are not recommended by KCMDA at this time. They wanted to first address e-bikes before taking on scooters. Many counties such as Jackson County, Overland Park, and Johnson County did not want Class 2 e-bikes and felt that the trails are intended for exercise and you should be pedaling the bicycle. The Class 2 can move by battery power alone without pedaling. Currently, Johnson County is in their testing period for e-bikes. They are surveying people, making traffic counts to gathering data to take back to their board. Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks recently adjusted their regulations to allow pedal assist e-bikes on their trails and state parks. Because trail systems are becoming more and more interconnected, it is important to try to have unity regarding the types of conveyances allowed on trails.
- The committee recommends not posting speed limits at this time, continue to monitor the issue. It is courteous trail use by pedestrians, pedestrians with dogs and cyclists that is the problem. Discussion about installing signs intermittently along the trails that illustrated the walking/riding on the right side of the trail with the dog on leash on the right side of the person and passing on the left was an idea offered to reinforce better trail use.

✚ City Department Reports

- Mark Klein, Planning.
 - Ranchmart got approved for their final for their CIV.
 - Received an application from Cure ARS for an expansion; 3 phases. They want to build a new gym, tear down the old gym, create a building that connects the two, change the rectory and combine it with the church.
 - McDonalds got approved for their improvements. They want to get started and not wait on Ranchmart.
- Karry Rood, Police.
 - Bike/Walk to School at Brookwood was successful. They have only 2 bike rack and will purchase more. e bike racks. Bikes were everywhere! This is continuous and not just on Bike/Walk to School event.
 - The traffic is crazy fast. A teacher's bumper was clipped. School speed limit warnings are leased through KCPL but Leawood designates the timing. It is 30 minutes before and after school. They have a walking school bus on Wednesday with their teacher volunteers.
- David Ley, Public Works.
 - In the last meeting, the South Loop reroutes were discussed for Roe, Tomahawk as Mission Road is under construction and eventually go to 133rd. He is hoping the project will be signed in late fall. Mission Road will open up to two lanes in mid-November. Lee Boulevard should finish early November. Members discuss developing a plan to Ironwoods Park via Pawnee and Windsor, showing it as a future loop along with budget items.
- Brian Anderson, Parks & Recreation
 - Any leftover funds from the signage will be applied toward purchasing materials for the trail kiosk. The mason on staff really likes the natural stone look but the cost is higher than first estimated. David Harwood suggested a naming rights sponsorship to help pay for materials.
 - Finishing up pool closing.
 - Move and install the art piece Point Defiance to Ironwoods Park.
- Chuck Sipple, Council
 - A lady called on the Action Line. She was injured on her bike on 133rd Street on the sidewalk. He feels that this committee should be informed of any bike involved accidents to talk about and to prevent them. David Ley responded that this issue went to Codes Enforcement. They took pictures and it he reviewed it. It was actually a storm sewer next to it and there was some settlement offset. It will be repaired.
 - Bill Blessing suggests that we make bike accidents or incidents from Public Works or Police from the last meeting becomes a part of our minutes. It's good to be aware should the mayor be notified.

- Kevin Corbett, Chair
 - Dan Schaeffer resigned.
 - Brian Anderson shares that the by-laws state the committee shall be at least 5 members. He will contact Mayor Dunn about Dan Schaeffer's resignation and the committee recommending a total of 7 members.
 - Marc Larsen and Jaclyn Penn are interested. Bill Blessing also knew of a potential person interested. The committee members would prefer to have 7 members as an odd number of members is easier to get a quorum and there would be a cushion if members resign.

 **Other**

- Next meeting date will be December 4th.

 **Adjourn**

- Meeting adjourned.