

August 5th, 2020 MINUTES

🚩 Approve Agenda – Meeting began at 5:34 pm

- Chair Kevin Corbett opened the meeting by first reading the Purpose Statement of the Bike/Walk Leawood Committee for the benefit of any members of public watching the livestream of the zoom meeting.
- Bill Blessing made a motion to approve the agenda. Ron Schikevitz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

🚩 Approve January 8th, 2020 Minutes

- Bill Blessing made a motion to approve the January 8th, 2020 minutes. Jaclyn Penn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

🚩 City Response to Pedestrian involved traffic accident at 89th St. & Lee Blvd intersection.

- Brian Anderson informed the committee that the city is moving forward with the installation of enhanced crosswalks at 89th & Lee and also 85th Terr. & Lee. Installation of rapid fire beacons, signage and ladder style striping should be completed in the next 4-5 weeks.
- Jaclyn Penn shared details about the accident with the committee. A motorist was exiting off 89th St. northbound on Lee and struck a grandmother walking with her grandchild in a stroller. The child is ok, the motorist was not injured and the grandmother sustained minor injuries. Visibility at this intersection was a concern of her neighborhood as the grade of the road makes visibility difficult.
- Brian Anderson informed the committee that earlier today, he received a voice mail from a citizen that lived on Lee Blvd. who had questions about the use of the bicycle lanes. Can pedestrians use bicycle lanes? Joggers with headphones have been using them and do not notice oncoming cyclists. There has been near accidents. Can vehicles park in bicycle lanes? It is allowed to park vehicles in the bike lane. Officer Phil Goff informed Anderson it was not legal for pedestrians to use bicycle lanes. Anderson replied to the citizen with this information. Committee members Corbett and Penn shared that they observe pedestrians moving over to the bike lane to maintain social distance when meeting oncoming pedestrians. Anderson had observed the same. Police have been notified about the citizen's concern
- David Harwood shared concerns about the re-opening of schools and motorists being used to low traffic due to the pandemic. He asked if the city had any variable message boards that could be used to post warnings of school zones at busier locations before school starts to warn motorists. Brian Anderson informed the committee that the Public Works Department has 2 variable message boards. The Police Department also has a speed trailer that could probably be used in the same way. David Harwood made a motion to recommend that the public works and police departments set the message boards and speed measuring trailer at various higher risk areas near schools to enhance awareness of school zones. These devices would be moved to various locations upon the evaluation of the staff and school district. The motion passed unanimously after brief discussion of the committee.

🚩 Trail Centerline Striping

- Kevin Corbett shared his experience cycling on striped trail noting that it greatly help keep trail users on their side. His experience is that the striping is a big help.
- Ron Schikevitz agreed the striping is doing its job. He and his wife recently cycled the trail and noticed it has helped with people walking dogs to keep them in the lane as well. Schikevitz shared that he noticed e-bikes using the trail and they were riding very fast, 20+ mph. He asked for an update allowed e-bike use. Anderson informed that the recommendation of the KC Metropolitan Park & Rec. Directors Assoc. was for jurisdictions to allow Class 3 and Class 1 e-bikes. Class 3 e-bikes will assist the user up to 28 mph, Class 1 assist the user up to 20 mph. Class 2 e-bikes not recommended because the user has the option to have the battery propel the e-bike without pedaling up to 20

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**
- Jaclyn Penn**
- 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

Guests

- Chuck Sipple, CM W3**

mph. Our current trail regulations permit any class of e-bike. Corbett recalled the committee had discussed speed limits in the past. Police had shared the difficulty with enforcement. Schikevitz clarified that his concerns with speeding are not directed only to e-bikes. Non e-bikes riders are also speeding on the trails. David Harwood asked about posting a recommended speed on the trails. 15 mph recommended maximum speed was discussed. Anderson shared that while walking on the trail with others, he has been passed by cyclists probably going about 10 mph and the other person with him express concerns about the speed. His point being every person has a different comfort level and it is difficult to determine if a recommended speed limit would work. 15 mph is pretty fast and pedestrians would likely still be uncomfortable.

- Trail etiquette signage was discussed. It was decided that Chair Corbett and Anderson would gather more information and examples and the committee will discuss again during the next meeting.

📌 **Future meetings and formats**

Brian Anderson informed the committee that until city hall is reopened our meeting will continue to be in the zoom format unless we can meet in a location that allows us to maintain social distancing. An outside meeting at a large shelter or at Vista 154 at Ironhorse Golf Course. While using zoom, city staff cannot operate more than one meeting at a time, there usually is not a conflict with our first Wednesday of every other month. Anderson said the committee could change the meeting time if they wanted to zoom meetings earlier in the day. Karry Rood preferred the 5:30 pm meeting time. The committee decided to stay with 5:30 pm.

Chair Corbett recommended we consider holding the October 7th meeting at City Park utilizing the Lion's Shelter. As a bonus the committee could review the site for the trailhead of the North/South Loops.

📌 **Goal Setting – Suggest Goals**

- Chair Corbett
 - Trail Communication – Signage, Etiquette, Safety – This was discussed earlier in the meeting. It will be continued to the next meeting.
 - Scorecard – What to Measure – Bill Blessing recommended we list everything that has been accomplished since Self-Propelled Leawood Plan was approved and review items not accomplished and use that as an aid in determining whether to recommend an update of the plan.

📌 **City Department Reports**

Park & Recreation

Brian Anderson shared with the committee that design plans will be completed in early fall to receive bids for building the new trail from Roe Ave. tunnel connecting to Tomahawk Creek Trail. The crossing of Tomahawk Creek Parkway will have an enhanced crosswalk with rapid fire beacons. Anderson is planning to apply for a recreational trails grant which is due September 1st. The grant is an 80/20 match, the most funding that was approved for a project has been \$250,000. Having an idea of the available support is helpful in deciding how much assistance we should apply for. The trail construction is estimated to cost \$1,000,000.

Anderson has a proposal being reviewed for the renovation of a segment of the trail from City Park to the College Blvd. trail bridge. The work would mill the old asphalt, reuse it as a base material and pour a 10 foot wide concrete trail over the top. The work would include the trail spur leading to College Blvd and Brookwood St. There would be 2 storm water pipes installed to improve trail drainage. The fee proposal is approximately \$130,000. We would fund this using the trail maintenance funding in the Park Maintenance and Public Works budgets.

Trail relocation – there is approximately 40-50 feet of trail that is being undermined by Tomahawk Creek between the Middle and South Lakes. GBA has provided a proposal to design a plan for moving the trail away from the back. The trail will have to be moved into the forest, so tree removal will be necessary.

North & South Loop Trailhead – This project has been delayed due to the limitations from covid-19 on the staff working closely together. We are also delayed because possible funds from the South Loop sign installation will not be available for use to purchase the trailhead furniture items and shelter. Our maintenance budget funds are expected to be used for the trail renovation from City Park to College trail bridge this year. The North Loop route sign is still erected in City Park at the starting point.

Police

Karry Rood reported that she had spoken with Steve White, former President of the Kansas City Bicycle Club, about concerns he had received from cyclists about cyclist/motorist conflicts in Leawood. He relayed that cyclists are not reporting these incidents because they do not feel anything will come from it. Rood encouraged Mr. White to recommend cyclists call the police department when they have concerns and that Leawood Police Department does respond to complaints.

Public Works

Ron Schekevitz congratulated the public works department for finishing the Mission Road improvements.

Planning & Development

Brian Anderson reported that planning staff reported that a renovation of the outdoor area on the north side of the Barnes and Noble in Town Center Plaza will have outdoor lawn type games and bicycle parking.

Other

- Next meeting date will be October 7th.

Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at 6:49 pm