

1. CALL TO ORDER: (4:05)

2. ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Billings, Brandt, Neilly, Prouty, Scott, Staashelm, Thayer
Guests: Craig Rairdin

3. MINUTES:

- a. Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee – April 30, 2018
Motion by Neilly, seconded by Thayer, to approve the minutes.
All 'Ayes', minutes approved.

4. BIKE TO WORK WEEK RECAP:

Billings provided a recap of the Bike to Work Week events including the CMPO ride that came to Marion. The ride was cold and rainy, but decent turn out considering the weather.

Billings noted that the Tuesday morning bike ride was not well attended, and we will need to look at that next year to determine how we want to get our mayor and elected officials involved at an event that is better attended.

The Ride of Silence went well, and the group stayed together pretty well this year. The Committee commented how nice it is to have the help from the Marion and Cedar Rapids Police Departments to keep traffic at bay.

Billings noted that the Thursday "Helmets and Hops" ride was well attended with 25-30 bikers joining. The weather was nice and the ride went well out to Waldos Rock Park and back to City Square Park. It was a great suggestion and we should plan to do it again next year.

5. PATRIOTIC PICNIC BOOTH (FREEDOM FESTIVAL)

At the previous month's meeting the Committee discussed having a bike demonstration or bike rodeo at the Patriotic Picnic. Billings noted she had discussed the idea with Northtown to see if they could supply bikes or if they do bike rodeos. They noted that it is difficult to provide bikes for kids because there are so many sizes and skill levels and they would want have stock of used bikes, which they could not guarantee either. They noted that perhaps the Iowa Bicycle Coalition could do a bike Rodeo. Billings noted that she had reached out, but had not heard anything back and recommended not signing up to do the Picnic this year. The Committee agreed.

6. 5TH AVENUE / GWT CONNECTION

Billings noted that a Grant Wood Trail connection from 5th Avenue was discussed at the previous month's meeting. The Committee reviewed an aerial image with property lines identified and discussed the potential connections via unused right-of-way and 31st Street right-of-way. The Committee discussed the difficulties of having a defined route from 5th Avenue that is also flat enough to provide an ADA accessible connection to the trail. The Committee felt that a potential connection just south of the Marriott would be too steep and would require a rather expensive ramp down to the trail. Without an identified alignment and funded project, the Committee felt that looking for a sidewalk connection along 31st Street would be the best first step.

7. OTHER BUSINESS:

Billings noted that she had been selected to be part of the Iowa Walking College which includes online communications, but also 3 days of training in Ames. Through this process she will be more versed on the need and recognition of walkability and connectivity.

Billings noted that Craig Rairdin had contacted her regarding the posting of the trail closer signs for large portions of the trail when only a small connecting point may be impaired. Staashelm responded that is standard Parks Department practice as it is the position of the City to recommend not accessing the trails if there are hazards ahead. More commonly referred to as 'at your own risk'. He did not see the Department going away from that response. Mr. Rairdin then suggested that maps be posted at the trail heads with an indication of where the hazard was on the trail. The Committee discussed this approach. Billings commented that trail head maps could be a good Hotel/Motel application for next year. The Committee also discussed the text alert function that was proposed in ImagiNext, with the idea that there is potential to include a trail closer notification in that.

The Committee discussed the new mountain bike / single track trail off the Boyson Trail in Boyson Park. Staashelm was able to provide a brief update on the work being done. The Committee discussed getting Kehrt to an upcoming meeting to discuss the project progress.

8. ADJOURN:

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:11pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Scott, Secretary