

1. CALL TO ORDER.

2. ROLL CALL.

Members Present: Barkalow, Billings, Carolan, Daubs, Neilly, Thayer, Mentzer, Mooney, Scott

3. MINUTES.

a. Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee – April 28, 2015

4. BIKE BOULEVARD AND CEMAR BRIDGES UPDATE.

Billings informed the Committee that the City received a check for \$1,306 from the Hawkeye Bicycle Association for the purchase of the bike boulevard signs and poles. The signs have been ordered and the Public Service Department is ordering the painting stencils, which will need to be modified to incorporate 'BLVD' into the stencil. The hope is to have the bike boulevard signed and painted by the end of July, but Ryan was unsure if it would be possible.

Billings then informed the Committee that the CeMar bridges were approved for funding in June. The funds will be available in October of this year, which will allow staff to start consultant selection at that time. Staff anticipates at least a year, maybe two for design and acquisition for the trail prior to construction.

Billings noted that the funding from the CMPO is not anticipated to cover the cost to make the bridge into a true gateway feature. She explained that she anticipates seeking additional funds for an artistic design of the bridge to use for additional construction funds. She was hopeful to apply for some sort of state grant in the coming months. Carolan informed the group that he was anticipating applying for REAP funds on August 4th for the recently dedicate 'rock' park east of 62nd Street. He went on to explain that the park will hopefully serve as a trail head with a loop trail and pavilion.

5. DISCUSS CURRENT/ONGOING BIKE LANES SIGNS (29TH AVENUE PROJECT)

Billings informed the Committee that the developer of Prestwick Place Addition will be widening 29th Avenue, between Butterfield Park and 44th Street. The widening will allow for the extension of bike lanes and an 8 foot sidepath on the north side of 29th Avenue. The developer is in the process of getting bids, with City Council approval of the bids at an upcoming meeting.

6. PRESENTATION OF FUTURE FITNESS TRAIL IN HANNA PARK (CAROLAN)

Carolan distributed packets that contained images of the fitness equipment that will be installed in Hanna Park. He informed the Committee that construction has begun on the fitness trail, with all three pods installed by the end of July.

7. IOWA TRAILS SUMMIT RECAP

Billings informed the Committee that she had the opportunity to attend the Iowa Trails Summit in Cedar Falls on June 11 and 12th. The first day was discussion with Cedar Falls and Raymond firemen regarding the usefulness of the United States National Grid (USNG) in search and recovery efforts. She noted that the grid is not as precise as latitude and longitude, but is easier to convey to first responders as to the general area (9 square meters) of an accident. She noted that this is something that the Marion Fire Department is aware of and wants to incorporate into their disaster preparedness.

On day two of the Summit, she heard from a very inspirational 76 year old woman who has been on several cross country bike rides since turning 60. Age does not matter for bicycling enjoyment.

She also noted that the presenters discussed trails as economic development tools in which the High Trestle Trail was used as an example of a trail project that has spurred new businesses to open in small towns along the trail. The presenters also discussed the need for adequate (but no overdone) signage to help with way finding.

8. MEMBERSHIP DISCUSSION

Billings informed the group that Candy Mullen was appointed by the Mayor in August of 2014, meant to be a running advocate since she was an employee of Running Wild located in Uptown. Candy has not attended any meetings in the last year, and does not respond to staffs attempts at contacting her. Billings recommended she be removed from the group and have a new running advocate appointed.

The Committee discussed avid runners that they thought would bring running insight to the Committee.

Motion by Thayer, seconded by Neilly to recommend removal of Ms. Mullen from BPAC and reach out to Todd Goodell to asked about his potential interest as serving as a running advocate. All 'Ayes', motion passed.

Mentzer suggested reaching out to a Marion Independent School District resident/employee to represent the south portion of Marion trails.

Billings then noted she has received a request from Noel Kehrt, President of the Linn Area Mountain Bike Association (LAMBA) to be more involved with trails development. She recommended he be appointed to the BPAC as a mountain bike advocate.

Motion by Mooney, seconded by Thayer to recommend appointment of Noel Kehrt to BPAC as a mountain bike advocate. All 'Ayes', motion passed.

9. DISCUSS BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY APPLICATION

Billings reminded the Committee that last August the City submitted an application for a Bicycle Friendly Community designation to the League of American Bicyclists and received an honorable mention. She noted that the Committee questioned a few of the low marks received at the time. She asked the Committee if they would like staff to work on updating and resubmitting the application again. The Committee agreed that they wanted the application resubmitted.

Neilly asked about the progress on the CeMar Trail property/easement discussions. Billings noted that they have not had any additional contact with property owners. Mooney suggested to continue reaching out to the property owner south of Highway 100 and offered to be involved in the discussion if staff desired.

10. NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2015

11. ADJOURN.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Neilly, Secretary