

1. CALL TO ORDER. (4:05pm)

2. ROLL CALL.

Members Present: Barkalow, Billings, Bisinger, Brandt, Kehrt, Monroe, Neilly, Scott, Thayer, Whyte, Zierath

3. MINUTES.

a. Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee – January 26, 2015

Motion by Neilly, seconded by Kehrt to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved by a unanimous agreement.

4. DISCUSSION REGARDING BIKE TO WORK WEEK

Billings informed the group that this year's Bike to Work Week is May 16<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup>, with the actual Bike to Work Day occurring on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Billings explained the events that were scheduled for last year and asked the Committee if they wanted to try for a similar schedule, or change some of the events or bike routes.

Billings will double check that cyclists will receive free transit rides all week. Billings asked Zierath and noted she would ask Mentzer to check with last year's participating businesses and restaurants about offering Bike to Work Week discounts again this year.

The Committee discussed the kick-off bike ride and decided that Tuesday would still be the ideal morning, Billings said she would contact the Mayor for a proclamation. The route from Thomas Park to City Square Park would remain the planned route. Once the date, time and location of all the rides are confirmed, Billings will ask the Police Department for bike escorts.

Wednesday would be the planned day to coordinate biking to lunch and supper. The Committee discussed Nikki Davidson's coordinated Ride of Silence for fallen cyclists and questioned whether she might be interested in having the ride end in Marion to potentially boost the numbers biking to and receiving discounts from local restaurants. Billings noted she would contact the City of Cedar Rapids to potentially borrow their temporary bike racks for the event.

Although last year staff did not coordinate any Thursday events, the Committee discussed the potential to have a Meet Me At The Market (starts at NewBo) to Marion, with the potential for a pop-up bike amenity demonstration (protected bike lanes were discussed) at the end of the ride in Marion.

Kehrt noted she would talk with Ms. Davidson regarding the Ride of Silence and Meet Me At The Market ride to Marion.

As Friday is the official Bike To Work Day, a second morning ride will be scheduled. The group discussed and agreed that the route from Butterfield to City Square Park worked well and would plan on that again. Bisinger noted she would reach out to try to find a 'local celebrity' for the Friday ride. The group then discussed an 'after party' to wrap up the week. The Committee discussed the name Bike-N-Brew and holding the event at the newly relocated Another Road Brewing. Kehrt noted he would be talking with them in the coming weeks and would bring up the idea of hosting an event there. Billings noted she would contact NorthTown Cycling to see if they would donate item(s) for a grand prize drawing. The Committee agreed that a 'need to be present to win' stipulation be added to the drawing. Instead of handing out tickets through the restaurants, the Committee agreed that tickets would be gathered at City sponsored events and at the door of the 'after party'.

The group then discussed how t-shirts were ordered and distributed last year. The Committee agreed that if the same design were to be used, the color of the shirts needed to change, orange was discussed. Billings noted that she like the idea of opening orders up to more than just Blue Zone businesses, but was not sure if the shirt company had online ordering. Bisinger noted she would check on that, with the potential to have the Bike To Work Week and t-shirt order information included in the Marion Messenger that will be distributed at the beginning of May.

## 5. OTHER BUSINESS.

The MPO Ride will be on May 14<sup>th</sup> and will be round trip to Fairfax this year. Additional rides include a Trees Forever "Tour de Trees" ride on Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup> from Marion to SW Cedar Rapids (check out the Trees Forever website for more info). Also, Billings will be leading a ride following the Marion City Showcase on April 23<sup>rd</sup> (more details to follow).

As discussed at the previous meeting, Billings informed the Committee that she wrote a memo to the Local Option Sales Tax Committee requesting an additional \$250,000 to put towards the underfunded Grant Wood Trail Extension project. Barkalow attended the meeting in which they found the request to be in accordance with the original ballot language. Billings then went on to inform the Committee that she intended to write a letter requesting funding from the Linn County Trails Association in hopes they would be able to contribute funding that was sufficient to ensure the paving of the trail project from Squaw Creek to Highway 13.

Whyte added that he has confirmation from the Iowa DOT that decorative pavers can be used in funded trail projects. He also noted that the CMPO hosted a public meeting on the first Tuesday of the month in which the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) applications were discussed. He noted that Marion's 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue Side Paths project was ranked second in public support. He also noted that the Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization now has a Facebook page. Please use the full name of the agency in the search.

6. ADJOURN. (5:25pm)

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Neilly, Secretary