

The CITY OF WINTER PARK
PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Regular Meeting

January 13, 2015

Public Safety Building, 500 N. Virginia

8:30 am

Chief Raymond E. Beary Community Room

Present: David Erne, Scott Redmon, Tom Hiles, Jill Hamilton Buss, Susan Pins and Jean Siegfried

Absent: Terry Bangs

City of Winter Park Staff: Officer Bruce Robinson, Police Dept.; Lindsey Hayes, Planning Dept; Wayne Margraf, Public Works Dept.; and Debra Moore, Public Works Dept.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1. Cady Way Bike Lanes – Update by Rick Geller**
- 2. Bicycle Friendly Communities/Walk Friendly Communities Designation – update by Lisa Portelli**
- 3. 7th Annual Bike to Work Day and Florida Bike Month**
- 4. Bicycle Parking Ordinance**

CALL TO ORDER. Chairman Erne called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Chm. Erne asked for approval of the minutes for the following meetings: November 11, 2014, November 17, 2014 Work Session, November 17, 2014 City Commission Work Session and December 9, 2014. Ms. Siegfried made a motion to approve the minutes as listed above. Ms. Hamilton-Buss seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously with a vote of 6-0.

Cady Way Bike Lanes. Mr. Rick Geller presented an “Analysis of the Winter Park Public Works Department’s Cady Way Cycle Track Pilot Project Determination Report.” He outlined benefits of cycle tracks and research of studies indicating cycle tracks are the safest form of bicycling infrastructure when designed correctly. Studies/surveys showed substantial declines in collisions and number of injuries for all roadway users with the use of cycle tracks and showed a dramatic increase in comfort for bicyclists riding in a cycle track vs. a conventional bike lane. Also, studies showed cycle tracks are associated with increased bike riding.

Mr. Geller reported Ian Lockwood of P.E. Toole Design Group conducted a two hour inspection of the Cady Way site. His findings concluded there are engineering solutions for the concerns raised by staff.

Existing conditions on Cady Way. Shrubs on Cady Way create blind spots for motorists and bicyclists when pulling out of driveways. An alternate proposal is to allow bicyclists to use the Ward Park parking lot. Mr. Geller does not recommend this as a marked bicycle route because the parking lot is busy on weekends.

Mr. Geller outlined his suggestions stated in the report and the City of Winter Park Staff (Staff) concerns about the cycle track.

1. Turning radius of large vehicles at the Cady Way/Greene Dr. intersection. Staff suggested the way to avoid encroachment on the cycle track is to make it one way at the intersection. Mr. Geller suggested it is good to have small/compact intersections. He stated encroachment by large vehicles enables a compact, slow, and pedestrian-friendly intersection. You can accommodate larger vehicles.

Two alternatives in Mr. Geller’s report:

- Mr. Jamie Krzeminski, P.E. of HDR Engineering suggested a concept to widen the intersection in order to allow the cycle track to maintain itself as a two lane facility. The proposal was to move the stop bar back 40 feet and move the crossing walk from the west side of Greene Drive to the east side of Greene Drive. Staff was concerned about the stop bar being moved back too far. It was suggested that motorists will continue to accommodate the occasional large vehicle regardless of where the stop bar is. Mr. Geller stated the cycle track could co-exist with the large turning vehicles.

- Mr. Ian Lockwood suggested to do new curb work on the southeast corner of the intersection and you would not have to widen on the north side. Mr. Lockwood concluded it “looks like a feasible solution exists. There are likely several ways to achieve acceptable results.”

2. Junction from Cycle Track to Cady Way Trail. Staff’s concern was that bicyclists in the cycle track going eastbound toward the trail continuing eastbound could make erratic movements across Cady Way Street. Mr. Geller proposed an alternative suggested by Mr. Lockwood to ramp up the cycle track next to the sidewalk by the driveway into Cady Way Park and separate the two eastbound and westbound lanes.

3. Use of Cycle Track by Children at Brookshire Elementary. Staff’s concern was that most of the children expected to use this cycle track are too young. Mr. Geller suggested parents can judge the maturity level of their children and decide if they will accompany them.

4. Bi-directional Cycle Track. Staff’s concern was the bidirectional cycle track would be tantamount to wrong way bicycle riding. Mr. Geller believes that wrong way bicycle riding is very different than riding against traffic in a cycle track. On the cycle track you have the buffer. You might have poles, paint on the ground, or signage. You have separate space for the bicyclists. This creates predictability and motorists will expect bicyclists on a cycle track. Ms. Pins stated her concern about bi-directional trails.

5. Sufficient room pulling out of driveways. Staff was concerned about enough room to pull out safely at the driveways. Mr. Geller stated the residents on Cady Way would find there is sufficient space.

6. Reduction of lanes. Staff was concerned that the reduction of lanes on Cady Way from 11 ft. to 10 ft. would cause driver anxiety. Mr. Geller suggested it would have a traffic calming effect.

Economic justification for cycle track. Mr. Geller stated the cycle track combined with wayfinding can bring a considerable number of bicyclists from Cady Way Trail to Park Avenue to patronize our businesses.

Legal issues.

- Mr. Geller stated we have legal discretion to use the NACTO standards. Also, the Manual of Uniform Control Devices (MUTCD) which is published by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) allows for counter flow bicycle lanes and the FHWA has endorsed the NACTO standards and will soon release its own standards. The FHWA has designated cycle tracks as an official safety counter measure. In addition, Florida municipalities enjoy planning level sovereign immunity.

- Mr. Geller stated cycling tracks are not included in the ASHTO Green Book nor are they included in the Florida Green Book. The American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Green Book is a book of recommendations. ASHTO is a National organization comprised of state departments of transportation and they have their own bicycle guide. Mr. Fenton previously reported ASHTO is 8 years behind. He recommended the City look to the standards set forth by (National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO)). There is a chapter in there on cycle track standards. The Florida Green Book specifically authorizes municipalities to adopt alternative standards such as NACTO. The Florida Dept. of Transportation is considering adopting standards out of the NACTO guide into the Green Book. The cycle track in Mt. Dora (Central Florida’s first cycle track) was funded by a \$600,000 grant from Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

Mr. Redmon said the cycle track on Cady Way will be a medium-comfortable one. He inquired if this is the right place for the demonstration project.

Total cost of the Cady Way bike lanes is approximately \$54,000. The Winter Park Health Foundation offered a \$17,000 grant to help offset the cost, and the Keep Winter Park Beautiful/Sustainability Board pledged \$10,000.

Mr. Margraf stated we just received the “Analysis of the Cady Way Cycle Track Pilot Project Report” from Mr. Geller. He and the board members need time to review it.

Citizen comments. Frank Gilbert stated he is voicing his support for the cycle track as a member of Bike Walk Central Florida. This is based on his experience riding the 8th and 9th street cycle tracks in New York City. He endorsed it as a good thing for the kids, bicyclists, and the environment.

Staff Updates by Mr. Margraf

The following items will be brought before the City Commission on January 26, 2015: (1) St. Andrews Trail--LAP recertification and (2) Resolution for the Brookshire sidewalk.

Bicycle Wayfinding. Mr. Margraf reported it is in the hands of a consultant (KCG) who is giving us costs for implementing based on a scope provided to them that we worked on earlier. The RFP and request for funding will go out at a later date.

Mr. Geller mentioned a student in the Rollins Master Planning Program is doing an independent study and will prepare a professional caliber wayfinding plan to submit to the consultant hired by the City.

Prioritizing Pedestrian Bicycle Projects. Mr. Margraf reported a special work session was held. He will use the list developed by Ms. Dang to help set priorities. He will then bring it to Board members.

Pedestrian/Bicycle Coordinator. Mr. Margraf is working on the job description.

II. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Bicycle Friendly Communities/Walk Friendly Communities Designation. Lisa Portelli reported Healthy Central Florida’s teams are assisting Winter Park and Maitland to meet their goals. Through the League of America Bicyclists we can apply for a Bicycle Friendly City Designation. Bike Walk Central Florida took a proposal to Winter Park Health Foundation and it was funded to hire Jamie Krzeminski with HDR Engineering to assist us. The timeline for the application is August/September, 2015.

Ms. Portelli stated the things you already have in place will help get the designation. Also, there are some additional things we can do over the next 6 months to help. On February 17 and 18, 2015, there is a two day workshop for Winter Park, Maitland, Eatonville and Casselberry presented by the League of American Bicyclists. An invitation will be sent to Board members. On Tuesday, February 17, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. a small group of cyclists will ride from Orlando City Hall to Winter Park, Maitland, Eatonville and Casselberry. The objective of the ride is to show the League of American Bicyclist staff the strengths and weaknesses of our area. We are looking for a few people to ride who are experienced cyclists who represent the diversity of cyclists. Wednesday, February 18 there will be a half day workshop. We will put the strategies of “how to become a bicycle friendly designation” on the wall. The question is what is right for us? What are your priorities? This will be the citizen input that will be used by Mr. Krzeminski over the next six months. We will bring that information to the Board members.

Mr. Krzeminski reported the application submitted to the League of American Bicyclists a few years ago will be updated and strengthened. One of the pieces that we will build on is the input from the workshop on February 17 and 18. We can strengthen the application with things we can get implemented before or have in the pipeline for that August/September application timeframe.

We will document everything that is in process, what is coming soon, and look for the low hanging fruit that can be put into the application to strengthen it. After the February workshop, we will be working through the data collected. Mr. Krzeminski would like to have a spot on the agenda for Pedestrian/Bike Board every month starting in February. We can talk about some of the strategies that we can include.

7th Annual Bike to Work Day & Florida Bike Month

Family Ride. A work session was held on Friday, January 9, 2015. Ms. Hamilton-Buss will distribute notes from that meeting. Participants suggested scheduling a family ride in the fall with bike rodeo-type activities. It might include classes, helmet fittings, safety checks, etc. To reach more families, it could be scheduled on a Saturday or Sunday. Mr. Margraf suggested Sunday.

Adult Ride. We want to ask the Mayor to designate a bike-to-work day in Winter Park in March. The March ride will be an adult ride. We might partner with the Chamber and get businesses involved. The new event can be on an off-peak day, possibly March 10, 11, 12 or March 31st, April 1 or 2. People can ride to work and in the afternoon meet in the West meadow or Central Park and go for a bike ride. After the ride, we will go to an establishment on Park Avenue, thereby making it an economic development opportunity. We might ride Denning Drive or Morse Boulevard. If we promote it outside of Winter Park folks can come to Winter Park on Sun Rail. In both cases, get the local bike shops such as Breakaway Bicycles and Loco Motion involved.

Mr. Margraf stated National Bike Month is May, and in Florida it is in March. He would like to get a Resolution from the City supporting Florida Bike Month at the last City Commission meeting in February.

Bicycle Parking Ordinance

Ms. Hayes will send the website and section numbers that apply in the MuniCode so Board members can review them. She will include both bicycle and sidewalk ordinances.

Other Business

- On January 14, 2015, downtown Orlando--Why I Walk: The Shift to Biking and Walking Culture.
- Chm. Erne will create a monthly e-mail which lists activities and events in town.
- Bike lockers on City Property. Mr. Margraf reported the bike lockers at City Hall are not being used. The Library stated its employees can use them. We will relocate them to the Library and replace the bike lockers at City Hall with a bike rack and a canopy.
- Ms. Pins would like to have an organized bike ride for the Pedestrian/Bike Board members. The purpose is to visit the big projects discussed at the meetings. Chm. Erne suggested the route be discussed at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chm. Erne adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m. Next meeting is February 10, 2015, 8:30 a.m., Public Safety Building, Chief Raymond E. Beary Community Room (2nd floor) at 500 N. Virginia Avenue.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Moore, Staff Assistant