

Mequon/Thiensville Bike Pedestrian Commission
Friday August 2, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.
Mequon City Hall, North Conference Room
Minutes

1. Call to Order, Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. by Chairman O. Frets. Those present were: C. Leonard, (10:55 a.m. excused) J. Liegeois (10:10 a.m.), T. Mooney, J. Treffert, K. Wade (10:08 a.m.) and, J. & H. Ward. Guests included Kit Keller, from the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals. For the City of Mequon: K. Lundeen, B. Vento, Lee Szymborski, City Administrator (10:55 a.m. excused), Alderman Nerbun (10:55 a.m. excused) and Police Chief Graff (10:17a.m.)(10:55 a.m. excused).

2. Review Minutes of June 28th, 2013.

Discussion: O. Frets asked if there were any changes to the minutes. J. Treffert moved to approve. Carol Leonard seconded. A voice vote was called. All approved 7-0.

3. Traffic Concerns Involving Bicyclists

Discussion: Alderman Nerbun expressed concerns that were brought before the Public Safety Committee about riders riding two and three abreast centered around Lake Drive as well as other roads in the City backing up traffic and then leaving the traffic feeling compelled to try and pass on occasion. There are signs on Lake Shore Dr. that indicate that they are to ride single file. The City doesn't really have an Ordinance that backs that up. State wide it's pretty clear that riding two abreast is allowed as long as it doesn't impede traffic. Ald. Nerbun said it was difficult to enforce and asked if there were any suggestions on what could be done. J. Treffert said that people get irritated with bicyclists in general and that most bicyclists comply. Ald. Nerbun agreed that it's a small group of people that don't comply. K. Wade asked who you are looking to go after, motorists, or bikers. Ald. Nerbun said we are looking on getting what the rules are out there. T. Mooney said most of the commissioners are considered casual riders and generally obey the rules of the road, but there are groups who are in the racing class and don't want to be impeded by stop signs and other traffic in their way. All cyclists' should be aware of what the laws are in the state and the communities. T. Mooney mentioned that in speaking to an alternate member of this group, J. Gennrich, and he suggested that a Police Officer go and talk to biking groups. There should be some type of public information in the press or on TV. K. Lundeen noted that this committee has tried to reach out to the community for various issues via the commissions own website, e-news, contacts with bike stores and clubs. O. Frets said that once people get stopped by the police its like school, people will say watch it the cops are out there. K. Wade said that she liked the approach that we are still trying to keep it a bicycle friendly community. K. Lundeen mentioned that the committee has sponsored bike racks and maybe flyers could be placed there. Chief Graff mentioned that even his officers have had a hard time getting people to stop. You can get the ones in the end but the front ones keep on going. The Chief also mentioned that the recent article that Gary Achterburg wrote in the News Graphic July 25, 2013 entitled "Mequon address cyclists-motorist conflicts" generated a huge response. Vehicles are as much to blame as cyclists, but at least with a vehicle we have something to follow-up on; description of the car, the driver and the plate. When their on a bike its two-four guys on bikes in yellow and black clothing. J. Treffert mentioned that Extreme Ski & Bike usually has a large group of about 20 riders every Sunday morning and suggested we ask them for some suggestions on how to address this issue. K. Lundeen suggested a letter to the editor. H. Ward agreed and suggested a letter from our side of it. K. Lundeen brought up a discussion from last month regarding the rail road tracks on Mequon Road that truckers have to stop for the tracks and bikers think their yielding for them when that is not true. H. Ward also mentioned that a lot of bikers are just passing through and that articles in the local papers won't reach them. She further stated that we should talk to the bike clubs similar to the way Harley talks to their riders before they make a run reminding them of the rules each time they ride. O. Frets said that what I hear most of you saying is that maybe it would be helpful to go to the bike clubs. He also stated that this year has been the highest year for bike accidents in the state of Wisconsin.

T. Mooney asked for K. Keller's input. K. Keller asked who the primary group was that is not following the rules. Chief Graff responded that it is the non family adult groups. K. Keller asked why the single file was created. K. Lundeen replied that's because some of the roads are not wide enough to accommodate. K. Keller asked how fast the cyclists are moving. Chief Graff said sometimes they are on a road marked 25 mph and their doing 25 mph not impeding traffic, but in general the roads are 35 mph. K. Keller said you want people to be able to move around at or below a reasonable speed limit. What is the distance? K. Lundeen responded that Green Bay Road was 3 miles and 6.7 for Lake Shore from top to bottom. K. Keller stated the question is one of education and enforcement of all groups, cyclist and vehicles. She further stated that the group's suggestion of

educating is good, contacting clubs, by sending e-mails to the clubs that it has come to our attention.; “it’s a safety issue, we welcome you in our community on your rides, we require in these areas that you ride single file, just a heads up to your club members that we will be enforcing that.” Giving people a notice warning making people aware what’s going to happen in an area. C. Leonard asked if we need an Ordinance. Alderman Nerbun said that we don’t need one. Right now it’s single file regardless if there’s traffic or not and is a much lesser fine. K. Keller said biking and walking is a good social activity and its good that you’re looking at making roads more accommodating to bikes and cars where possible. C. Leonard said the goal here is to 1. Produce an education piece, 2. Talk to bicycle clubs and 3. Letter to the News Graphic. There should be some response to that article that positive is positive. K. Lundeen said the education should be for both sides biker and vehicles’ listing the citations for both and what it means to share the road. K. Keller mentioned that the state has a lot of good tools and resources for this such as “Share and Be Aware” yard signs. K. Wade asked the Chief what he thought about these ideas. The Chief said he was willing to give it a try but was a little skeptical, but it was putting fair warning out there. Ald. Nerbun agreed that it was fair warning. O. Frets said that maybe we could get G. Achterburg to have something about biking every month, that way it’s not just a one time thing. K. Lundeen suggested keeping this on the agenda for next month, assign tasks; see what was done and see what still needs to be done. Advertise on the web sites; contact Pam to put something on the sign regarding Share and Be Aware. J. Treffert volunteered to talk to the bike club at Extreme Ski & Bikes; K. Wade said she would talk to Crank Daddy. O. Frets/T. Mooney will talk to Belgium Bike Works, and H. Ward and J. Ward will talk to Wheel and Sprocket. C. Leonard will look into doing something on an education piece. K. Lundeen reminded everyone don’t forget something for the e-news with a link to more information. C. Leonard is participating in a bike ride on Sept. 7th and will remind then of the rules of the road.

RESIDENT CORRESPONDENCE / PERSONS WISHING TO BE HEARD

4. Resident Concerns:

1. Donges Bay Neighborhood Connector
2. Off Road Bike Path on Donges Bay

Discussion:

1. **Donges Bay Neighborhood Connector.** K. Lundeen asked to bring this back next month and also Sandie Pendleton indicated that he was going to attend and is not here. This issue is not new to this Commission, and what he is asking for is neighborhood connections between the subdivisions in Mequon and Bayside not on any major roads just bike path connections.
2. **Off Road Bike Path on Donges Bay.** K. Lundeen stated the Public Works Commission decided against putting bike lanes on Donges Bay Road. This commission amended its recommendation from a bike path to be bike lanes instead and that was carried through to Public Works and they decided against it. Letters were sent to the residents and the residents put together a petition for the consideration of an off road path. Carrie Fox wanted to be here today, but was unable and asked to pursue still putting in an off road path. H. Ward asked if we would then have to amend our amendment to put it back into our 2030 Plan. K. Lundeen said 2030 plan is a guideline and you don’t need to keep changing it every time something comes up. The original document has not been changed so changing the recommendation back to off road path would mean the document would stand as. H. Ward spoke to L. Szymborski regarding the Park and Open Space Plan. H. Ward wanted to know when you have an off road bike lane is it strictly public works that takes care of that or could it be considered part of the park. Who has jurisdiction? Could you use park and open space money to do build the bridge over the creek? K. Lundeen said that Public Works is the department; we have a division that’s parks and that the money is regulated. We can leave this on for discussion and decide if you want to put as an action plan. T. Mooney asked if we can request that the Engineering Department to prepare a cost estimate or what it would cost to do to create a bicycle path. K. Lundeen said for the path itself we can get a cost estimate. H. Ward said that it would be similar for the path from 76th to Lemke Park.

Motion: T. Mooney move to request the Engineering Department run a preliminary report for getting the cost estimate for running a grade separated trail from Lemke Park to Wausaukee Road.

J. Treffert asked that pinch points be identified, trees, wetlands. K. Lundeen said it would be at the 30,000’ view, getting over the Little Menomonee, the fact that most will have to be on private property, wetlands etc.

K. Wade asked if this decision was final. K. Lundeen said that the decision has been made regarding the bike lanes and the Highway Department is under their portion of construction now.

J. Ward second the motion. O. Frets called for a voice vote. Response 7-0

REGULAR BUSINESS

5. Planned Events:

Bikefest – K. Wade & O. Frets

Discussion: O. Frets said the Concordia events were great and much better than last year. The next event will be the River Ride.

6. Bike Racks: B. Mack

Locations

Fiddleheads

Discussion: Nothing further to discuss. O. Frets is taking this over.

7. Bicycle Friendly Community

Application

Joint Mequon/Thiensville – T. Mooney & O. Frets

Discussion: Nothing further to discuss. O. Fret and T. Mooney still putting stuff together.

8. Community Involvement – T. Mooney

Impromptu Rides

Ozaukee Bicycle Club

Discussion: T. Mooney said that the ride is August 10, starting at the Port Washington band shell north of the harbor. It's a 35 mile ride. We will stop at Hobo's restaurant.

9. OIT Improvement – Bonniwell Substation Revision – K. Lundeen

Discussion: K. Lundeen stated that the status is essentially the same as last month and continue with analysis of the preferred alignment. We did calculations with regard to the wetland and the good news is that the wetland impact will be under a general permit which is better than individual permit. We are still working on design for this winter with an expectation to bid in spring.

10. Signs

Branding Committee – J. Treffert

Discussion: J. Treffert said there may be a meeting next month.

11. Additional Connections

Green Bay Road in Thiensville/Mequon

Donges Bay – K. Lundeen

Discussion: J. Treffert said that Green Bay Road was done. K. Lundeen referred to Donges Bay Road in item No. 4 so no further discussion was needed.

12. Other Business

Bikeway Budget

Discussion: Nothing further to discuss at this time.

Next meeting September 6th, 2013

13. Adjourn

J. Treffert moved to adjourn

T. Mooney seconded

A voice vote was called. 7-0

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.