



Minutes of BPAC Meeting, April 13, 2009

Minutes of the meeting of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee held on Monday, April 13, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. in Room B190 of the La Crosse County Administrative Center, 400 4th St N, La Crosse, WI 54601.

Members Present: Sandy Sechrest, John Boland, Ed West, Bob Fisher, Mike Henderson, Peter Fletcher, Ginny Loehr, Charley Weeth, Bill Ferguson. **Members Absent:** David Conklin, Tim Tiber, Tim Acklin **Others Present:** Obbie King, Off. Stephanie Welch, Jackie Eastwood, Tom Faella.

1. Approval of Minutes of the February 9, 2009 Meeting:

John Boland called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Ed West motioned to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2009 meeting. Peter Fletcher seconded. All were in favor.

2. Annual selection of Chair and Vice-Chair:

Jackie Eastwood informed the committee that Peter Schaettle resigned his membership on the BPAC, so a new vice-chair was needed.

Ed West motioned to nominate John Boland as Chair for another term. Mike Henderson seconded. All were in favor.

Bill Ferguson motioned to nominate Ed West as Vice Chair. Charley Weeth seconded. All were in favor.

3. Inviting new members to the BPAC:

Jackie Eastwood stated that Jeremy Gragert, chair of the UWL Transportation Committee, was interested in being a member of the BPAC. His next class schedule should be more accommodating to the meeting times.

Tom Faella asked Obbie King if he would be interested. Obbie stated he thought he could be an asset, but was concerned that some of his personal activities might be a conflict of interest.

John Boland asked Tom to make a request of the officials on the Policy Board to appoint a community representative, especially now that the Onalaska representative has resigned. Mike Henderson stated that the Onalaska Safe Bicycling Association has been talking with Mayor Mike Giese about just that and that a representative should be appointed soon.

4. Education and enforcement of bicycle laws:

Jackie Eastwood introduced Officer Stephanie Welch as the new La Crosse Police Department liaison to the BPAC. Because the four E's (engineering, education, enforcement, and evaluation) will be incorporated into the update of the bicycle plan, Officer Welch was specifically invited to help answer questions pertaining to the education and enforcement of bicycle regulations in the city.

Jackie began by asking what the police department's policy is for enforcing bicycle and pedestrian regulations. Officer Welch stated that enforcement of a violation is at the discretion of the officer. The police department has increased the number of stops of bicyclists without lights because of the number of crashes occurring. Generally, bicycle regulations are enforced in the summer in commercial areas through the use of grants.

Everyone agreed that education is the better course so as not to discourage people from biking. The Bikes, Boards, and Blades brochure will be posted to the Coulee Bikes website and made available at the universities, bike shops, and police department. Charley Weeth commented that not only the state regulations but the local regulations need to be publicized. Jackie Eastwood stated that those regulations will be incorporated into the bike plan.

Ginny Loehr stated that she has been working on integrating biking into the elementary school curriculum through the Safe Routes to School Program, but staff need to be trained—which takes time and money—and few are qualified. Often, staff can't fit another requirement into the day.

Jackie Eastwood asked about high school students. Ginny Loehr stated that the SRTS program may be expanded to the high school level. Peter Fletcher suggested a focus on driver education. The problem is that driver education is no longer taught in the schools. Officer Welch stated that the police department is invited to speak at driver education classes and could incorporate information on bicycle and pedestrian regulations and safety. She stated that the general request is to talk about the graduated drivers licensing. She asked that the BPAC present an outline to her of the information we'd like her to talk about.

Charley Weeth suggested we hold a meeting with all of the municipal law enforcement agencies to discuss enforcement/education.

5. Future Agenda Items:

- None brought forth.

6. Other business; Adjourn; Next meeting TBA:

Tom Faella stated that eight enhancement applications have been submitted in round 2 of the stimulus funding. The DOT wants them prioritized as soon as possible, so the BPAC will need a special meeting to do that. The applications he has received so far are on the LAPC Web site at www.lapc.org.

Ed West informed the committee that Bike to Work Week will coincide with the La Crosse Fitness Fest. A bike rodeo will take place near the band shelter in Riverside Park from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. on May 2. The event will close out in Cameron Park on the 8th.

Jackie Eastwood stated that the LAPC will again have a table at the Three Rivers Waldorf School on Saturday, April 25 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for Earth Week.

Charley Weeth motioned to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. Sandy Sechrest seconded. All were in favor.