

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

A meeting of the Sioux City Active Transportation Advisory Committee was held this date at 4:00 p.m. at City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ron Begnoche
Bob DeSmidt
Angela Drent
Corrine Erickson
Shawn Olorundami

MEMBERS ABSENT

Judy Bohnertz
Michelle Pick

GUESTS

Ragen Cote,
Downtown Partners

STAFF MEMBERS

Chris Madsen, Planning
Justin Pottorff,
Engineering
Mark Huberty, Police
Bill Lane, Parks & Rec

1. Call to Order

Drent, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes from the August 16, 2023, Meeting

Staff provided copies of the minutes from the August 16, 2023, meeting. DeSmidt (Olorundami) moved to approve the minutes. Motion carried. (5-0)

3. Ongoing Items

a. Trail Update

Lane gave an update on trail projects. The mountain bike trail south of Singing Hills Boulevard is nearing completion and construction on the pump track in Cone Park is beginning.

b. Committee Member Homework Update

DeSmidt gave an update on the Goosechase scavenger hunt. The hunt includes 30-40 activities and several hundred participants have signed up. DeSmidt stated the feedback has been positive and many people have stated they were not aware certain trails existed. The Committee stated the feedback has been great with raising awareness of the City's trails.

c. Social Media / Marketing Update

DeSmidt stated he had passed along information for the Iowa Bike Coalition to Anne Westra for pedestrian safety month in October.

Huberty stated he was asked to research pedestrian and bicycle accidents within the City. The report indicated 49 pedestrian and 26 bicycle accidents in the past year.

d. Long Term Projects, Quick Wins and Bike / Ped Master Plan Update

Pottorff discussed the City is currently reviewing the intersection of Southern Hills Drive and Christy Road as a round-a-bout intersection. The ATAC would be involved with sidewalk, trail, and pedestrian refuges as part of the project.

Pottorff mentioned that designs were nearing completion for the sidewalk infill project and would be brought before the Committee for review.

e. Report an Issue Website Communication

DeSmidt stated he has received concerns regarding a motorized motorbike on the Riverfront trail. Huberty said the police are aware of the individual.

Drent asked if Staff has received complaints regarding vehicles on the Riverfront trails as there have been posts on social media with videos of vehicles driving the trails. Lane stated the trails were designed for City vehicles to use and access parts of Chris Larsen Park.

Madsen gave an overview of the reports received the previous month. The first issue was regarding vehicles blocking the sidewalk on Levitt Street. The item was forwarded to the Inspections Division.

The second was the lights under the Stone Park Boulevard bridge over the Perry Creek Trail. Matt Salvatore at Parks and Recreation was going to investigate.

The third was on Midale Avenue regarding a fallen tree limb and motorcycles parked on the sidewalk. The item was forwarded to the Inspections Division.

The fourth was on Stewart Avenue regarding bushes and trees blocking the sidewalks. The item was forwarded to the Inspections Division.

The final was regarding barking dogs on Windsong Court. The complaint was forwarded to Animal Control.

4. New Business

a. Physical Activity Access Grant Requests

Drent stated that an issue identified downtown is the lack of benches and places to rest. An AARP grant has been applied for a bench on the trail behind Stoney Creek Hotel. Snow removal, specifically for people with mobility devices, is a recurring issue that is raised. Crossings near the Shire Apartments and the need for additional curb cuts was also raised. There was a general discussion regarding the private street crossing in the Southern Hills Mall parking lot between the mall and HyVee store. Staff stated the loop road in that area is a private drive and not City right of way.

b. Transit and Trail Videos

Drent stated that the District Health Department partnered with Sioux City Transit to make four videos on how to use transit. The videos covered topics such as how to ride, how to use the bike racks, how to request a reduced rate, and how to plan a route. The videos are on the City, Transit, and Health Department websites and social media.

c. Discuss Meeting Time

Drent stated that there is a timing issue with the SIMPCO Bike-Ped meeting and the new SIMPCO location on the edge of town. Erickson stated the Bike-Ped meeting may change the timing and location of the meetings in the future. Drent asked if the meeting start time could be moved to 3:30 p.m. so the meetings don't go as late. The Committee also discussed moving the meeting location to the Expo Center. Madsen stated that changing the meeting time and location would need to be voted on. The Committee decided to place the item on the October meeting for a vote.

5. Staff Site Plan Reviews for Sidewalk Connections (August – September)

Madsen gave an update on site plans that had been reviewed at the Development Review Committee since the last meeting. The first was a storage building at 5600 28th Street. The building would require a sidewalk along the 28th Street and Outer Drive frontage, which would also trigger the adjoining property owner, MidAmerican Energy, to also place sidewalk along their site.

The second site plan is a proposed chapel on the Trinity Height property at 2501 33rd Street. The site has sidewalks on 33rd Street, and a pedestrian connection would be required from their site to the public sidewalk. An updated plan has been submitted showing that connection.

The third site plan is an addition to the car lot at 4695 Gordon Drive. The site plan includes adding a sidewalk along the Gordon Drive frontage, with a pedestrian connection that would pass through the queuing for a small fast-food building being proposed. Staff asked to move the pedestrian connection away from the queuing.

The fourth site plan was the Hillcrest Center at 2548 Glenn Avenue. The site plan increases the amount of greenspace on the site to offset the new paving at the Kwik Star site. The petitioner stated they would connect to South Rustin Street to the east for their pedestrian connection. Staff has not received an updated site plan to show this connection.

The fifth site plan was the East High School at 3300 South Cypress Street. The site plan shows a new batting cage to be installed north of the baseball field. The plan shows a sidewalk connection but does not extend to the north entry door. The Committee asked Staff to require a paved connection to the entry door.

Erickson exited the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

The next two site plans were located in industrial areas at 4400 South York Street and 1900 Murray Street. Neither site is adjacent to or near a public sidewalk and would not be required to install a sidewalk on their frontage. The Committee agreed that sidewalks should not be required for these two site plans.

The eighth site plan was a residential dwelling located at 3821 Talbot Road. The street is a gravel road and not in the vicinity of a sidewalk. The petitioner indicated they would apply for a sidewalk waiver, and the Committee agreed that a waiver made sense in this area.

The final site plan was for a church addition and parking lot expansion on the property located at 4701 Floyd Boulevard. Staff would require sidewalk extensions on Cleveland Street with a crossing over Floyd Boulevard on the west side of Cleveland Street. The Committee requested the crossing be parallel to Floyd Boulevard to the west side of Cleveland Street.

An additional site plan was discussed at 724 Pierce Street that was being reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Commission. The downtown design standards require a 3' wall and pedestrian seating be required where parking lots abut a street frontage. The Committee requested the design standards and landscaping be required on the site.

6. Roundtable / Future Agenda Items / Other Business

Drent stated the stop sign has been removed from the sidewalk on Signing Hills Boulevard east of Old Lakeport Street. Drent also stated she had raised a concern about handicapped parking in the Expo Center next to the trail. Parks and Rec staff have already signed and painted the stalls for handicapped access.

Cote stated she had asked Dave Carney for a traffic study at the intersection of 4th Street and Jones Street. Cote also asked if members of the Committee would like to be involved with discussions about pedestrian connections between downtown and the riverfront.

7. **Adjourn**

There being no further business, DeSmidt motioned, Olorundami seconded, and with a 4-0 vote the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m. The next scheduled meeting will be held October 18, 2023 in the City Hall 3rd Floor Conference Room at 4:00 p.m.

Angela Drent, Chair

OR

Bob DeSmidt, Vice-Chair