

Bicycle Advisory Task Force (BATF)

January 12, 2011

Minutes

Task Force Members Present: Tom Merritt – Chair
Warren Fishman, Rick Weininger,
Mike Teets, Juana Sandoval,
Colleen White, Max Pyles
John Reiner 7:00, Brian Hagerty 8:20)
(Absent: Michael Stovsky, Glenn Aidt, Jeff Stevens)

Staff Members Present: Jeannie Martin, Landscape Architect
Michelle Crandall, Dir. of Admin. Services
Jeannie Willis, Engineering Manager
Tina Wawszkiewicz, Civil Engineer
Corporal Kevin Keiffer, Police
Corporal Renae Rice, Police
Chas Burgess, Intern
Tami Moore, Admin. Specialist (Recorder)

Guests: None

I. Call to Order

Chairman Merritt established a quorum was present and called the meeting to order.

II. Public Comments for Items Not on the Agenda

None present.

III. Approval of the October 13, 2010, November 3, 2010 and November 10, 2010 BATF Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes had been distributed by email for review. Mr. Merritt asked if there were any revisions. Ms. Sandoval noted a correction to the October 13, 2010 minutes for the spelling of Ariel “Godwin.” She also noted Jody Dzurainin of Consider Biking joined the meeting in progress and should be added to the list of attendees for the November 10, 2010 meeting. There being no further revisions, Mr. Weininger moved for approval of all meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Fishman. All in favor, the meeting minutes were approved as amended.

IV. New / Old Business

None.

V. Staff Updates

None.

VI. Enforcement/Education Bicycling Police Programs

Dublin Police Officers Corporal Kevin Keiffer and Corporal Renae Rice (co-managers of the bicycle unit) provided a PowerPoint presentation over-viewing the Dublin Police Bicycle Unit to provide the BATF with information on current Police Division programs on cycling, cycling safety and any educational and/or enforcement efforts. The presentation highlighted bike patrol history; officer personnel order; composition of unit; training; goals related to deployment and primary deployment locations; summary of 2010 activity; coverage at special events; educational elements; enforcement of code sections; crash analysis and ending with a Q&A session. (presentation attached).

The officers noted the Bike Rodeo had traditionally been tied to the Justice Center Open House with the goal of Public Relations. The last City-sponsored bike rodeo was held at Karrer Middle School and was more focused on teaching and testing skills and was better attended; however, the overall participation level has decreased over the years. Due to no City funding this past year, the Bike Rodeo was hosted by Healthy Dublin in conjunction with Washington Township. Corporal Keiffer had not received feedback on the success of it as part of that event yet. Mr. Merritt stated if Council is supportive of providing future funding for the Bike Rodeo, the City may want to explore ways to better promote bicycle education and safety issues. However, the Bike Rodeo is not currently funded in the Police budget. It was estimated the budget was approximately \$1,500 to \$1,700 for supplies in addition to staffing officers, some on overtime, which was estimated at \$3,000 to \$5,000. Ms. Crandall noted the organization promoting the Bike Rodeo this past year in conjunction with Healthy Dublin is no longer participating but has turned over the funding they had set aside for the program and it could perhaps be used to help with the Bike Rodeo in future years.

Bicycle registration was discussed, and the officers noted they recover many bikes each year and have no way to return them to their owner because most do not register their bikes. It was suggested doing registration through the Dublin Schools would perhaps increase participation. The Police promote registration at the Bike Rodeo and at the pools in the summer and noted it is very important to get the sticker affixed to the bike and the card returned right at that point of contact or it does not tend to happen. The bike corral at the Dublin Irish Festival was also suggested as a registration point. If there is going to be a promotional effort, then the Police would want to be notified to purchase more stickers to have on hand. They also agreed volunteers could also be utilized to assist in the registration process—not just officers.

Ordinances pertaining to codes were discussed. Dublin laws versus the Ohio Revised Code are enforced within the City of Dublin's jurisdiction. Mr. Merritt asked for clarification if Dublin were to do a bike lane, would it be considered for exclusive use of bicycles. Corporal Rice believed it would, but further clarification could be requested from Legal. In general, the spirit of the law is based on slower moving vehicles staying to the right so vehicles can get around and maintain the flow of traffic. In further discussion, Corporal Rice stated for clarification a bicyclist is only considered a pedestrian when dismounting the bike. Accidents often happen in crosswalks, especially on bikepaths, when bicyclist are not considered pedestrians and do not have the right-of-way. They suggested clarification in the ordinance regarding right-of-way with regard to crosswalks on bikepaths and in general that right-of-way rules be better defined and included as part of the educational materials. Dublin does not have a helmet law; however,

Columbus does pertaining to youth under the age of 18. Mr. Merritt thanked the officers for their presentation.

VII. Recommendation Review

The first draft of the BATF Recommendations document had been emailed to BATF members for review. Mr. Merritt suggested each member review the recommendations along with past meeting minutes to ensure specific ideas or strategies are included. BATF members were pleased with the overall format which is similar to the Community Plan and Parks & Recreation Master Plan.

BATF members discussed a potential date for presentation to Council. The March 14th, 2011 meeting was discussed, and staff will determine if a Resolution is needed or simply a motion by Council. BATF members questioned the best way to have Council become familiar with the content of the Recommendations prior to receiving it in the Council Packet. A workshop is probably not appropriate, but BATF members who are Dublin residents could certainly contact their Council representative to inform and promote.

It was noted in terms of process, the Recommendations are advisory in nature and if approved would lead to a work plan for implementation by staff and others as designated. Funding for various initiatives would be included in the Operating and CIP budgets but does not necessarily need to be part of the recommendations with the exception of the Bicycle Coordinator/Program Manager position. Proposing a new position will not likely be well received by Council during this stressed economy, but a request for funding would be needed in the Operating Budget if included. It may be better to state there should be a Bicycle Program Manager and request Council designate Jeannie Martin for this and include it as a part of her job responsibilities. It was noted she has currently been serving in this role; however, discussion ensued as to whether this being added to existing responsibilities (other duties as assigned) would really allocate enough time for implementing the work plan. In theory, all existing positions should already be 100% busy. There was question as to whether a full-time position is needed in this size of community. The key may be to integrate responsibilities into various existing jobs. The idea of including a recommendation for the continuation of a bicycle task force to assist with implementation was suggested. Ms. Crandall suggested one person could have the specific role as Bicycle Coordinator/Manager along with an internal working group which meets on a quarterly basis (or similar nature) to be on task with the Work Plan and moving it forward. She also noted the City Manager is supportive of bicycle initiatives as well as the Council Goal for promoting a Healthy Dublin which would go along with implementing these recommendations. In conclusion, BATF members agreed the recommendation should be to establish an internal cross-functioning working group along with the Bicycle Coordinator/Program Manager position to carry-out the Work Plan.

Mr. Merritt suggested going through the document to provide input. It was questioned whether the “strategies” are in any particular order. Ms. Martin requested input on the specific wording and order for the strategies. Suggestions are noted below.

- After the Introduction, include a general policy section prior to listing specific strategies within the 5 Es. Identify the need for a Bicycle Coordinator position and staff working

group, as well as some continuation of a bicycle task force. Address the recommendations promote multi-generational efforts. Ensure the language used reflects the recommendations pertain to all areas of Dublin.

- The Bicycle Friendly Community designation is noted in the introduction but not specifically listed as a policy. It was suggested to include it as Policy #1 in the Evaluation section.
- Designating specific time frames for implementation of initiatives such as applying for the Bicycle Friendly Community designation should be included.
- Wordsmith the policy for continuing educational programs (such as Bike Rodeo) and expand them to meet the needs of all ages/ skill levels – along with the need to identify funding.
- Revise wording about “Adult Learn to Ride Program” so it encompasses more general adult bicycle education programs.
- Engineering – Policy 1 – include wording to address continuation of identifying CIP projects/funding as the Bicycle Master Plan is developed. Bicycle parking identified in Policy 1 is duplicate and in Policy 2.
- Engineering – Policy 4 strategy – include wording to not only examine the system but also to fund and implement corrections.
- Enforcement – Policy 2 – regarding crash data, may need to evaluate process and provide officer education about what information is needed when completing the OH1 report. May want to establish some type of review board to evaluate crashes and suggest revisions to system.
- Questioned whether the Complete Streets policy is included and suggested reinforcing it in the general policy area. (should be included in Dublin’s multi-modal study)
- Discussed the need for the Zoning Code changes that address bicycle/parking issues. Ms. Martin will check the status.
- With regard to safety issues and the need for more specific wording, it was noted the recommendations promoting education and awareness are generally targeted at increasing safety.

Mr. Merritt suggested all BATF members and staff continue to review the Recommendations document providing suggestions back to Ms. Martin by January 26, 2011. Ms. Martin preferred to collect all comments and incorporate them into a revised document versus piecemeal editing.

On a side note, Ms. Sandoval noted the deadline for businesses applying for the Bicycle Friendly Business designation is January 14, 2011. It was noted Mr. Stevens (Consider Biking) had been working with Mr. Teets (OCLC) on OCLC applying, and Ms. Crandall will check the status.

VIII. Next Meeting – February 9, 2011 – 6:30 p.m.

At the next meeting BATF members will review the final Recommendations document and discuss the strategy for presenting it to City Council on March 14.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Reiner moved to adjourn the meeting seconded by Mr. Fishman. All in favor, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:55 p.m.