



Agenda
Village of Arlington Heights
Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission
Commissions Room
33 S. Arlington Heights Road, AH, IL 60005
August 2, 2021
7:30 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Minutes of June 28, 2021

IV. REPORTS

- A. Chairman's Report
- Fall Community Bike Ride
 - 2022 Budget Overview

V. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Project Update - Staff

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Village of Mt. Prospect Proposed Overpass at Melas Park -
Informational/Discussion

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Persons with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services, such as an American Sign Language interpreter or written materials in accessible formats, should contact David Robb, Disability Services Coordinator, at 33 S. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005, (847)368-5793 (Voice), (847)368-5980 (Fax) or drobb@vah.com.



**Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission
8/2/2021**

Item: Minutes of June 28, 2021

Department: Public Works

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

minutes

Type

Minutes

***Minutes of the Arlington Heights Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission
Monday, June 28, 2021 in the Commissions Room at Village Hall***

COMMISSION MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Charlotte Obodzinski, Chairman
Richard Lenski
Alan Medsker
Lyn Sakata

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Paul Danko
David Easley
Juergen Juffa

STAFF PRESENT:

Briget Schwab, Engineering Liaison, VAH

OTHERS PRESENT:

Madeline McCarren, League of Women Voters

RESIDENTS IN ATTENDANCE:

CALL TO ORDER:

A quorum being present, C. Obodzinski called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

C. Obodzinski acknowledged that COVID-19 precautions prevented the Community Bike Rides from taking place in 2020 and is looking to have a fall Community Bike Ride in 2021 and wanted to make sure that the Village would support that initiative. B. Schwab said she will confirm with the Village Manager's Office. Commission members briefly discussed possible dates and September 25, 2021 was tentatively decided.

C. Obodzinski acknowledged that COVID-19 was challenging with a lot of negative outcomes. However, she felt one positive outcome was the Village's decision to close streets in the Downtown District for increased restaurant seating which allowed for a more walkable and pedestrian friendly atmosphere. She inquired if this is something that the Village would consider implementing every year since it was so well received. A. Medsker and L. Sakata stated that the Village Board agreed to keep it through this year, but no decision to continue beyond that has been made official. L. Sakata shared that she knows a lot of the businesses were very supportive of Arlington Alfresco and very happy with the outcome. C. Obodzinski shared that she has seen on her Facebook mom's group and heard from various other resources that there have been some concerns about bicycles and scooter encounters with pedestrians. C. Obodzinski acknowledged that it is closed up very well with barricades from vehicular traffic. C. Obodzinski asked if any complaints were coming to the Village regarding bicycles, scooters, and skateboards. B. Schwab indicated that no complaints have come directly to her, however, has heard some of the same complaints. In advance of the meeting, B. Schwab reached out to Sergeant Mandel to report on how the Arlington Heights Police Department is patrolling this area. B. Schwab read aloud his response to the BPAC :

"As the Traffic Enforcement and Bike Patrol Unit Supervisor, I have provided a brief roll call reminder to our patrol division regarding the bicycle ordinances as they relate use of bicycles in the downtown business district. Additionally, I reiterated the "No riding of bicycles" in the Alfresco area and requested the Patrol Officers and Bicycle Officers educate the public of the ordinances and restriction. So far, so good!"

C. Obodzinski was encouraged by Sergeant Mandel's response and happy to hear that there is a plan for enforcement for cyclists and scooters going through the downtown area. C. Obodzinski also shared that the City of Chicago took away a lane and made an impromptu bus lane and thought the decreased vehicular traffic during COVID shutdown presented opportunities for tactical urbanism and asked if the Village had any more plans for this. B. Schwab stated that there was previous discussion of putting up temporary barricades to show what the bike lanes could look like for the Windsor Road Diet but nothing official.

OLD BUSINESS:

B. Schwab informed the BPAC that the Village submitted a total of four applications for the Illinois Technical Local Assistance Program grant. The Planning Department submitted an application for a \$1.2 million Streetscape and Pedestrian Improvement plan and the Engineering Division of Public Works submitted three preliminary engineering applications for three infrastructure projects identified in the Village's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (2017); the Windsor Road Diet, Goebbert Road bicycle infrastructure improvements, and a multi-use path in the Commonwealth Edison right-of-way. Unfortunately, none of the projects were awarded. However, B. Schwab shared that the Village Board did approve \$50,000 in Village funds for preliminary engineering to explore the Windsor Road Diet project and the Engineering Division intends to go out for a request for proposal soon. C. Obodzinski asked if the Village put in for any other grants this fiscal year. B. Schwab answered that the Village has put in for several other grants and even enlisted the help of a couple of consultants to go after additional funding sources but have not been successful this year. C. Obodzinski shared that it was just announced the Illinois Department of Transportation will no longer require a local match for pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and asked how that will affect the Village and will it be helpful. B. Schwab stated that it will be helpful because the Village will no longer have to share in the cost of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure on state routes.

C. Obodzinski asked B. Schwab to inform the BPAC of the status of the bike route signage project. B. Schwab briefly gave background on the project and explained that Commissioner Juffa had put together a detailed bike route plan for the Miner Street bike route and the proposed Kensington Road bike route which included "destination" signage that identified specific areas of town. B. Schwab shared that she presented this plan back in February of 2020 to the recently retired Director of Public Works, the Assistant Director of Public Works, the Village Engineer, and the Traffic Foreman. While all parties agreed that an improved bicycle route signage system could be useful, they felt that identification of "destination" signage should be decided by a committee that definitely included the Planning Department. Staff did agree that current signage could be improved by increasing the number of signs and including arrows at decision points. Staff asked B. Schwab to present this idea to BPAC to see if they would be receptive. Since COVID precautions prohibited the BPAC from meeting this was the first opportunity to present this to BPAC to see if they were receptive to the more general approach, or if the BPAC preferred to wait for staff to determine destination points with a bigger planning effort. C. Obodzinski stated that she felt something was better than nothing and most commissioners agreed with that position. A. Medsker was interested in hearing J. Juffa's thoughts since he put a significant amount of effort into the bike signage plan, but shared in C. Obodzinski's opinion. C. Obodzinski asked if Staff had any thoughts on specific areas of towns to target. B. Schwab stated that at the meeting with Staff the only bike signage plans that were discussed were the ones J. Juffa had planned but B. Schwab did have interns work on additional bike signage plans for the main trunk routes identified in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan including Kennicott Ave and Douglas Ave but nothing specific has been discussed past the original presentation.

NEW BUSINESS:

B. Schwab shared that the Buffalo Creek Multi-Use Trail project was substantially complete on June 8, 2021. The project was awarded in June of 2020 but experienced delays because of COVID and material deliveries for the traffic signals. A. Medsker expressed his satisfaction with project and was very happy with the results. B. Schwab stated that the Kensington Road project which includes a multi-use trail on the north side for a portion of the project was awarded. Construction was supposed to start this week but was delayed because of rain. B. Schwab was unsure of the completion date but thought it should be completed by the end of the summer.

B. Schwab recapped the grants that were applied for that included bicycle and pedestrian improvements. One of the grants not mentioned earlier was an STP grant for White Oak and New Wilke Road but those also did not receive funding.

B. Schwab shared that the rapid flashing beacon (RFB) at Kirchhoff and Dwyer has been approved by the Illinois Department of Transportation. The Village will install the RFB as soon as the materials have been received.

B. Schwab briefly discussed the Active Transportation Plan that is being developed by the Northwest Municipal Conference and reminded the BPAC that an e-mail was previously sent and encouraged all of the commissioners to participate and share comments.

C. Obodzinski inquired if anyone from Village staff would be attending the Cook County open house for their active transportation plan in mid-July. B. Schwab stated she would try to attend but was not sure if anyone else from Village staff was planning to attend for certain. A. Medsker stated that he forwarded the e-mail regarding the open house to the BPAC in case they were interested. B. Schwab and C. Obodzinski encouraged everyone to attend.

OTHER BUSINESS:

L. Sakata shared that her husband and her walk a significant amount in addition to cycling and noticed there are a lot of bushes that are hanging in the walkway and blocking the route along Kirchhoff Rd and Arlington Heights to the point that a stroller cannot get through. L. Sakata asked if trimming the bushes was the responsibility of the homeowner or the Village. B. Schwab explained that it can be reported either through "See, Click, Fix" on the Village's website or directly to the Engineering Division and the location will be analyzed to determine if it is something the Village needs to trim, or a letter will be sent to the homeowner to trim. A. Medsker shared that he has used "See, Click, Fix" several times and the Village has been very responsive.

R. Lenski asked if the BPAC could provide any feedback on the Arlington Racetrack. R. Lenski would like to make sure that whatever development goes in that active transportation improvements are considered and that a multi-use trail is included as part of the redevelopment. B. Schwab said if the BPAC wishes they can share a letter with the Village Board expressing their support or desire for what the redevelopment would include. B. Schwab did state that it is now standard for Village Staff to look for pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure to be included in all development projects.

M. McCarren introduced herself and she is from the League of Women Voters. Her purpose for attending is to make sure that the bicycle and infrastructure is equitable and inclusive for all users. Last year she interviewed several pedestrians and cyclists that depend on active transportation to get to work and shopping. During the winter months it was noted that crossings are inaccessible because of snow piles and they have to walk in the street and wants the Village to prioritize clearing the crosswalks of snow so they can be useable to everyone. She further stated that walking is a right but driving is a privilege and right now with the Village's snow clearing system crosswalks are not prioritized and is asking for the BPAC's help to encourage the Village to change its policy.

ADJOURNMENT:

L. Sakata moved to adjourn the meeting. A. Medsker seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

APPROVED:

Secretary

Date



Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission
8/2/2021

Item: Project Update - Staff

Department: Public Works

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

Type

No Attachments Available