



BIKEEDINA

July 10, 2014 Meeting Notes

Present: Sally Dunn, Nick Essma, Don Eyberg, Jennifer Janovy, Peter Kelley, Larry Olson, Lori Richman

Guests: Mary Zarling

Recorded by: Sally Dunn

I. Meeting called to order at 7:35 p.m.

II. Action items —

- a. June meeting notes put on file.
- b. Motion made by Lori and seconded by Larry to recommend Mary Zarling for membership. All voted in favor.

III. Discussion Items

- a. City communications regarding bicycling—The Mayor's column in the most recent issue of AboutTown was mentioned. The column highlights Edina's Bicycle Friendly Community Award. Lori noted that the League of American Bicyclists (LAB) has a standard list of recommendations for mayors to champion to help make a city more bicycle friendly. A good place to start is by making City Hall and the Public Works facility bicycle friendly to employees. It was noted that the City has a facilities manager and that the LAB recommendations for mayors could be prioritized and then distributed to the Mayor, Mark Nolan, and the facilities manager.

Bike Edina page on the City's website—the group reviewed the page and made suggestions for improvements. There was consensus on the following:

1. Remove the paragraph at the top right (What Is the Bike Edina working group?). The paragraph says Bike Edina “supports an active biking culture.” It was noted that our mission is to “advance bicycling in Edina.” The preference was to use the language in our mission when describing what Bike Edina is/does.
2. Modify the next paragraph (Get involved...). It gives the impression that the only way to get involved is by completing a Bike Edina membership application. It was noted that the membership application still says BETF and Jennifer explained that MJ Lamon in Administration is working on a standard application that will replace the current application. Once ready, the link will need to be updated. The group discussed different ways interested residents can get involved and suggested the following as a starting point:
 - a. Be part of Bike Edina—attend a meeting, become a member
 - b. Attend or help with a Bike Edina event (it was noted that there are no events currently scheduled, but when there are events, there can be a link to information. Nick volunteered to contact nearby bike shops to ask whether they have regular rides that meet in or near Edina. A schedule of rides could then be posted.)
 - c. Sign up for our email list

The group discussed possible additional content and wanted to spend more time developing the ideas. Jennifer will send the suggestions to date to the Communications Department.

3. Meeting notes link—No meeting notes have been posted since February. Needs to be updated with more current information.
4. Rules of the Road link—this same page is titled “Biking in Edina” when linked to from the Transportation section under Engineering.

There was discussion about ways to improve this page. Jennifer stated that the ETC communications committee had already provided similar feedback.

5. Add a Report A Pothole link and/or Edina To Go link to the Bike Edina and Biking in Edina pages so residents and others can easily report unsafe conditions.
6. Bike Facilities Handout—Lori noted that the content is more suitable for people who already have some understanding of bicycling rules. She noted that some pages need to be updated (for example, where it says that riding on sidewalks is not allowed).
7. Videos—members questioned why the City is producing its own bicycling videos when there are excellent videos from sources such as LAB that can be linked to.

Members will take another look at the bicycling information on the City's website and send additional comments to Jennifer by Thursday, July 17.

The need for communications efforts/messages re: cycling (from all departments) to be coordinated with Mark Nolan and the importance of utilizing those most familiar with the subject matter and projects in the development of the content was discussed. Jennifer noted that the ETC/ETC communications committee have stated similar concerns and have, at different times, provided feedback and asked for the opportunity to provide input on content before it is distributed. The consensus of the group is that they would like the involvement of subject matter experts in both the development and review of the content. Bike Edina is interested in serving as a resource for City staff in this area.

Lori knows a retired police officer who is now a consultant who works with police departments on bicycling-related issues (bike patrols, bike education, bike enforcement, etc.). She plans to meet with him soon to "pick his brain."

Members noted the very important role the EPD has in bicycle education and enforcement and again stated an interest in having a collaborative relationship.

- b. Ordinance updates—Jennifer noted that the City Council adopted a modification to the bicycling on sidewalks ordinance that now makes a violation of that ordinance a petty misdemeanor rather than misdemeanor. Members asked whether there are any educational efforts re: biking on sidewalks in the works. Jennifer noted the Madison handouts could be adapted. There was brief discussion about how information could be distributed. Ideas included through the schools/PTOs, youth athletic associations, and mountain bike team.

The group discussed the section of City Code that makes it illegal to ride a bicycle in a municipal parking facility. This includes both ramps and surface lots (City Hall, parks, other facilities). Members understood the probable intent of the ordinance but believed that it is written too broadly. Mary moved and Peter seconded the motion to recommend striking the word “bicycles” from Sect. 24-399: “No person shall use a skateboard, roller skates, in-line roller skates or blades, bicycles, scooters or similar devices within any municipal parking facility.” The group agreed that, just as with biking on sidewalks ordinance, safety education should go along with the ordinance change.

Jennifer gave the group an update on the bicycle registration ordinance. A couple of years ago when BETF made a recommendation to modify the biking on sidewalks ordinance, it also recommended eliminating the bicycle registration requirement. This requirement was based on a repealed state statute and the City provided no way for people to register their bicycles; therefore, the ordinance was not enforced. Jennifer noted that in a recent review of the code she did not see the section, yet the

Council had not had a discussion to repeal it. On checking, she was told that the section on bicycle registration was excluded from the code when it was recodified last year.

- c. Work plan discussion—Consensus was to wait until the City receives detailed feedback from LAB to finalize the work plan. Feedback is expected sometime in July.
- d. Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail update—Members looked at the information shared with the ETC at the June meeting. The trail will be constructed during 2015 and 2016 and is expected to open in 2017.
- e. T-shirts—Nick checked with a coworker at QBP, who provided information about t-shirt pricing. There was discussion about whether to order extra t-shirts and whether Bike Edina could sell the t-shirts. Lori will check with Karen Kurt re: selling t-shirts. Lori will also check with people in the marketing department at QBP to see if they can work on a t-shirt design on a volunteer basis. Jennifer will send Lori the logo file.

IV. Next meeting—August 14, 2014

V. Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.