



GREENWAYS COMMISSION of BOWLING GREEN and WARREN COUNTY MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES

December 11, 2017

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Jennifer Tougas – Chair

Felicia C. McLean

Jason Marshall

Jeff Stein

Johnny Johnson

Tom Lawrence

Senad Veletanlic

Nellie Franz

NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Linda Dickerson

Phil Lienesch

Tim Robinson

Chip Winger

EX-OFFICIOS:

Josh Moore – WC Public Works

Deneatra Henderson – KYTC D3

STAFF:

Karissa Lemon

Rachel Hurt

Ben Peterson

1. CALL TO ORDER / DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

With the arrival of enough members for a quorum, Chair Jennifer Tougas called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

A quorum was determined with seven (7) Commission members in attendance. Jeff Stein arrived after role call making attendance eight (8) members.

2. APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES, September 11, 2017

Chair Tougas asked the Commission members for comments or edits on the minutes of the September 11, 2017 Commission meeting. With no corrections, she asked for a motion.

ACTION: A motion to approve the September 11, 2017 Minutes of the Greenways Commission Meeting was made by Tom Lawrence and seconded by Senad Veletanlic. With no further discussion and all in favor, the Summary Minutes were APPROVED.

3. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Tougas called on Karissa Lemon, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Coordinator, to present the first item of new business. Ms. Lemon provided a handout to present Greenways Commission members. Ms. Lemon explained that staff has been communicating with sister agencies, the MPO committees, and previously discussed with the Greenways Commission the redistribution of the Greenways Commission to become part of the MPO. It was explained that reason for this change allows for more efficient planning efforts throughout the transportation planning realm. It takes a more collaborative and communicative approach to bicycle and pedestrian planning activities and duties within the community by keeping all efforts under the umbrella of the MPO. Ms. Lemon explained the process of establishing the MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) and abolishing the Greenways Commission. She stated that at their November 27, 2017 meeting, the MPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) made a recommendation to the MPO Policy Committee (PC) to establish a Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), as a sub-committee of the TAC. The BPAC would make recommendations to the TAC, and the TAC would take those recommendations to the PC for final approval, as the PC is the decision making body of the MPO. The PC will approve the establishment of the BPAC at their January, 2018 regular meeting. Ms. Lemon explained that upon the motion by the Greenways Commission to abolish the formal committee, the motion

recommending the abolishment will go to City Commission and Fiscal Court to abolish the Greenways Commission and any associated ordinances. The motion also states that all Greenways interests, activities, and duties will be represented by the newly created MPO BPAC. Ms. Lemon asked for questions from members. In response, Ms. Lemon added that the MPO PC discussed the redistribution at their October 9, 2017 meeting, where all members were supportive of changing the organizational structure and establishment. City and County ordinances associated to the Greenways Commission include language about the establishment, duties, and appointed members of the Commission – these ordinances will be abolished as part of the transition. Ms. Lemon restated that all current work done under the Greenways Commission will essentially rollover to the MPO BPAC. It was emphasized that the new BPAC will be more informal and act more as a committee. All existing Greenways Commission members will be invited to represent bicycle and pedestrian advisory matters on the MPO BPAC. Additionally, any MPO TAC members or other interested community members wishing to participate in bicycle and pedestrian planning, advisory, and/or advocacy efforts will be invited to attend the MPO BPAC meetings. It was proposed to meet bi-monthly, the second Monday of the month at 4:00 PM. The following language was provided for the motion:

The Greenways Commission motions to recommend to the City of Bowling Green and Warren County governments to abolish the Greenways Commission. This motion additionally recommends abolishing any associated City and/or County ordinances related to the Greenways Commission, in consideration that all Greenways interests, activities, and duties will be represented by the newly created Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC).

The MPO BPAC will make recommendations to the MPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), comprised of local agencies and officials influenced by and associated with the community's transportation network. The MPO TAC then makes recommendations to the MPO Policy Committee (PC), comprised of the Mayor of Bowling Green, Warren County Judge/Executive, and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet District 3, Chief District Engineer. The redistribution of bicycle and pedestrian planning and advisory duties into the MPO integrates all forms of transportation into one comprehensive and collaborative planning process. It represents a true multimodal system, recognizing bicyclists and pedestrians as a part of the transportation system, and not just recreation.

Action: A motion to abolish the Greenways Commission with the establishment of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) to represent and address all bicycle, pedestrian and Greenways interests, activities and duties, with the contingency of approval by the MPO Policy Committee, was made by Jeff Stein. Senad Veletanlic seconded the motion. With no further discussion and all in favor, the Motion to abolish the Greenways Commission was APPROVED.

The BPAC Focus Areas, as provided on the handout, outline several areas to concentrate work efforts. These categories include, but are not limited to: Advisory, Advocacy, Education, Events, Marketing, and Work Plan. Many of these focus areas should be driven by committee members with the leadership of staff. These focus areas will be discussed further at the February 12, 2018 meeting. It was added that grant applications for greenway facilities will be written by the City and County grant writers, respectively, with the assistance of the MPO Coordinator or associated staff. Ben Peterson, City-County Planning Commission Executive Director, added that the hope is for various running or cycling organizations to lead participation efforts, host events, and/or seek opportunities to educate the public on bike/ped safety. It was also stated that funding for marketing materials will come from grants. Maintenance of existing Greenways was of concern. Mr. Peterson stated that the City has recently committed to prioritizing and budgeting for maintenance of Greenways trails. This is typically the responsibility of the City, County, or respective Parks and Recreation Department. The West End Greenway connections project commenced with a preliminary design meeting last week. Chair Tougas requested regular updates, participation in, and review of the proposed design plans.

Ms. Lemon moved onto the next item of business. In response to a developer's interest in formulating a Greenways trail plan for the Lovers Lane Corridor, Ms. Lemon proposed several suggested route connections to present to the developer. With the Lovers Lane Corridor growing quickly in recent years, and months, encouraging Greenways connections has become of concern. It was stated that with the increase in residential development in the area, trails need to be created for the residents to walk or ride within the area. Access to the Lovers Lane corridor would be required, along with connections to existing trails. Concerns were stated regarding a disinterest in hearing I-65

traffic; however, Lovers Lane has a number of conflict points for bicyclists and pedestrians and already has sidewalks. Jeff Stein added that sidewalks and Greenways have always been a separate discussion, but they are often redundant and the BPAC give a unique advantage to have conversations to create meaningful trails with connections – having Greenways or sidewalk, and maybe not both. The Greenways projects may potentially be funded by the developers along Lovers Lane, as stated in the individual development’s binding elements. The connections may need to be funded through grant opportunities. Should the Greenways connection be preferred along Lovers Lane, the likely solution would be to add five (5) feet of sidewalk to the existing five (5) feet of sidewalk. Alternatively, a trail could be constructed on the backside of the developments, along I-65, making connections between the Lovers Lane Soccer Complex, the existing LifeSkills trail, and reconnect to Lovers Lane between Fruit-of-the-Loom and the cemetery. Josh Moore added that the original plan sought to provide connections from Lovers Lane to the Three Springs Road area. After much discussion on the pros and cons of encouraging a trail along Interstate-65 or Lovers Lane, the Commission unanimously decided to maintain the five (5) foot sidewalks as-is along each side of Lovers Lane, improve a bike/ped crossing at Olde Towne/Lovers Lane Soccer Complex, and encourage the construction of an asphalt trail along I-65.

4. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS & PROJECT UPDATES

Ms. Lemon stated that the November 11, 2017 Greenways clean-up day was cancelled due to poor weather. It was added that the clean-up could be rescheduled for January, 2018, weather permitting. The consensus of the Commission members was to try to have a January clean-up day, with the date pending on weather circumstances.

Due to time constraints, Public Concerns/Comments were not addressed, but Ms. Lemon stated that at each meeting there will be an opportunity to share concerns or comments voiced by the public regarding the bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure or other transportation-related issues.

5. ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on February 12, 2018.