

BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

August 2, 2023

5:00 PM

MINUTES

Approved: Susan Hume

Date: 9/6/23

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Edwardsville Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee was held at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall located at 118 Hillsboro Avenue in Edwardsville, Illinois.

I. ROLL CALL:

Present

Jo Gibson, Chair

Danielle Adair

Greg Brumitt

Emily Morrison

Stephanie Robbins

Jason Stacy

Absent

Susan Hume, Vice Chair

Mary Vandevord, Secretary

Paul Brazier

Musonda Kapatamoyo

Steve Stuart

Breana Buncher, Staff

Steve Stricklan, Staff

Cathy Hensley, Staff

Claire Iott, Staff

II. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A correction was requested to IV.d.2.ii. "policy department." Robbins made a motion to approve the minutes of July 5, 2023, second by Morrison. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

- a) *Bike Bus*: Stacy provided an update. The bike buses are still planned for the previously proposed dates. The Lincoln school route has been modified to pick up at one location in the Esic neighborhood and include the Goshen Trail to approach the school. Stacy has emailed both the Liberty and Lincoln school principals. BPAC is still waiting for confirmation whether background checks are required for all volunteers. Cathy Hensley is working on developing a city website page for the event; the draft was shared. Registration will not be required but will be encouraged for logistical purposes. Some discussion considered whether MCT/City approval would be needed to use the trails and sidewalk.
- b) *Partnerships Discussion*: Gibson visited Tourism and Cool Cities Committee meetings. She suggested that meeting together quarterly could prove helpful and this was well received. Potential overlap of topics could include master plan development and property purchase/use.
- c) *Policy Development*:

Leading Pedestrian Intervals: Buncher provided an update following BPAC's request in July. All of the recommended changes are at IDOT controlled intersections. They would likely charge up to \$15,000 per intersection to modify. They may also require a traffic study to substantiate the recommendation, which could cost around \$25,000. The city did not expect that our pedestrian usage would support the changes. The committee discussed how the intervals do seem necessary at the recommended intersections and how we might be successful in changing the signals. Buncher recommended that engineering staff be present at an upcoming committee meeting to field and address questions.

Crosswalk Blitz: Buncher emailed Major Mike Lybarger regarding the potential of Edwardsville Police conducting crosswalk right-of-way enforcement. Gibson shared his response. He stated that the city does not have data to support that we have pedestrian-related issues and believes they would cite more pedestrians for not using crosswalks. He also shared that overtime would likely be needed to conduct such enforcement. An in-person meeting was recommended later to follow-up. The discussion also considered if any grants could be obtained to help fund such enforcement.

The committee agreed to have engineering staff at an upcoming meeting to discuss the signals as well as get an update on their projects and priorities. The goal is to help understand how the committee can be more effective achieving its policy aims.

- d) *Bike and Hike Event*: Brumitt asked for the City's approval to sign a contract with Chris Cakes for the 2024 event. He is also working on widening the committee's circle of influence.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

- a) *Criterion*: Alderwoman Grant offered BPAC a table at the upcoming event. Morrison volunteered to be the point person. The committee discussed what could be provided to attendees.
- b) *Bike and Hike Point Person*: The committee agreed that Megan Reichmann could organize the 2024 event.
- c) *SRTS Grants*: The grant deadline to pursue funding for non-infrastructure projects is coming up soon; if missed, we could not apply again for two years. It did not seem likely that we could apply this year.
- d) *Social Media*: Cathy Hensley posted the recommended content for July. Hume provided back-to-school-related content to be posted during August.
- e) *Variance and Special Use Permit Review Process*: Strickland gave a presentation on the City's processes.

Special Use Permits: Staff first receives applications for SUPs and makes a recommendation to the Zoning Board of Appeals if follows code. ZBA makes recommendations to the ACS Committee. ACS would make recommendations to City Council who would ultimately approve/disapprove.

Variations: Requests for variations are first received by Staff. Staff makes a recommendation to ZBA. Variations have a higher bar for approval than SUPs and need to justify a hardship from the code. ZBA can approve or disapprove of variations and City Council will be notified of the outcome. (An exception is variations pertaining to signs, which are approved by Council).

Adair shared that ZBA will invite residents to share their support/opposition during their meetings, whereas the only opportunity to speak at a Council meeting is during Public Comment.

Stacy asked if there is a uniform definition of hardship; Stricklan said there is and it is not based on project expense. Morrison shared that BPAC relies on uniform adherence to code to help uphold our goals. Adair asked if the staff recommendations were subjective; Stricklan did not believe so. Staff was not sure if they would be able to provide information on the ratio of approve/disapprove recommendations issues. Buncher explained that a lot of commercial development is accomplished through the PUD process, which is different yet.

- VI. ADJOURNMENT:** With no further business to discuss, Morrison made a motion to adjourn the meeting; second by Stacy. Meeting adjourned.

