

Medina County Bicycle Transportation Task Force
Jan. 25, 2018
Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Present were: Phillip Gabel (ODOT Dist. 3), John Gladden (Medina County Park District), Bill Hutson (Medina County Commissioner), Mike Kubek (NOACA), Patrick McNamara (Brunswick community representative), Lynne Nawalaniec (Century Cycles), Patrick Patton (Engineer, City of Medina), Tony Ratejczak (NOACA Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Medina County representative), Tom Ries (Wadsworth community representative), Co-Chair Beth Schnabel, Katie Sieb (NOACA), Co-Chair Tim Smith, Suzanne Swain (Friends of Medina Parks) and Jansen Wehrley (Director, Medina Parks and Recreation).

Call to Order

The meeting was held in Balcony Room A of the Medina County Administration Building, 144 N. Broadway, Medina. Co-Chair Tim Smith called the meeting to order at approximately 11:30 a.m. Co-Chair Beth Schnabel asked John Gladden to record the minutes. After introductions for the benefit of new attendees, minutes for the Jan. 4 meeting were approved with corrections to the name spelling of Dr. John Surso.

Old Business

Beth opened discussion concerning the website and pursuit of non-profit status. Lynne has spoken with Christina, who said she is willing to continue to update the web page. A meeting still needs to be scheduled with Sherri Meinke to discuss potential improvements to the website and to get additional input on the possibility of obtaining non-profit status. Beth expressed concern with the time commitment and expense of obtaining and maintaining non-profit status. She has spoken with park district Director Tom James about Friends of the Parks continuing as the task force's fiscal agent and perhaps formalizing that relationship. Beth said Tom James indicated the group would be willing to do that.

Beth hoped there still would be dialogue with Sherry Stell with the Medina Board of Realtors about potential grant dollars it may be able to use to support the work of the task force.

Tom reported on the public bike rack inventory for Wadsworth. He's found two -- one at the middle school and one at city hall. There is not one at the new Silver Creek Trail as of yet.

Beth proposed the task force advocate for the creation of a connector trail between the Silver Creek Trail and the County Line Trail, which is just over the Wayne County border in Rittman.

She also suggested the County Line Trail be placed on the new NOACA bike map, since it's so close to Medina County.

Tim said he would conduct a bike rack inventory in Brunswick.

Beth suggested including the locations of public bike racks on the new NOACA bike map. All agreed. She noted racks in smaller communities should be included, too.

Beth opened discussion on the planned multiuse trail to be built along state Route 18 in Montville Township. It may be too late to persuade the township to change the surface from concrete to asphalt, but she suggested the issue be brought up again at our March evening meeting, which Dave Blosser should be able to attend. Phillip said ODOT doesn't require one surface or the other. It's a local decision. He agreed asphalt would be the better choice, given the bumps caused by expansion joints in concrete. He said he would look into it.

Beth reported on the response to the proposal she and Tim made to county commissioners to earmark a new countywide tax for bike and pedestrian infrastructure construction. The county prosecutor's office said the tax as proposed would not be legally permissible. Beth noted she received some negative messages from the public regarding the idea.

Patrick McNamara noted the Carpenter Road project in Brunswick is set for construction later this year and widening the sidewalk into a multiuse path is not part of the plan. Katie confirmed that. Patrick added that the political and financial priority in Brunswick is on roads. City laws do, however, permit bicycles on sidewalks. Tim said he will talk to newly elected city council member Joe Delsanter to advocate for support of cycling infrastructure projects.

Tony noted the key would be to get Carpenter Road residents on board with the idea of expanding the sidewalk into a multiuse path. Bill noted that may be a difficult sell, since property owners likely would be assessed to pay for the project.

New Business

John said he would like to see the task force continue to investigate obtaining non-profit status and make an informed decision when we learn more about its potential costs and benefits. If it were to formalize a relationship with Friends of the Parks, John suggested a donation to the group be made in recognition of the resources it expends in assisting the task force. He also noted he didn't think it would be appropriate to again ask Friends to cover the cost of event insurance for the Lake to Lake Harvest Tour. He believes that cost should be built into the ride registration fee.

Tim noted the Brunswick Optimist Club successfully went through the process of obtaining non-profit status. The club was fortunate enough to have a member who is an IRS agent to help guide them.

Bill said the application process is time-consuming and includes IRS fees of up to \$800. He noted there are varying levels of nonprofit status and some of those may not be quite as intensive to obtain. Bill said the services of an attorney are not required for most of the work.

Suzanne agreed we should continue to explore the process with Sherri's help. Tim suggested If Sherri is unable to assist us, we could put out an appeal to others for help. He would be willing to reach out to his fellow Optimist Club member for assistance. Suzanne will contact Sherri for further discussion.

Beth noted the state is calling for project proposals to be funded by the capital budget, including trails. John said the park district has submitted a request, as has Montville Township, per a recent news article.

Katie and Mike gave an update on the process of creating the new NOACA bicycling map for Medina County. They have been busy incorporating feedback from cyclists. Additional public input sessions are planned in the coming weeks and months.

At the conclusion of the meeting's agenda items, task force members are invited to give feedback on the draft of the map. This will include reviewing the suitability of various roads for cycling and listing recommended bike ride routes in the Medina area. NOACA held a similar meeting in Brunswick and will hold another in Wadsworth on Feb. 12. The goal is to have the printed maps in hand by May 1.

Beth noted she needs members to sign up to work two-hour shifts in the task force's booth at the Medina County Earth Day Festival on April 21. The festival takes place 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Buffalo Creek Retreat.

Tim suggested the task force cancel its Feb. 1 meeting, since there would be relatively little new business to discuss. The next meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. March 1 at the Medina Library, pending the availability of a meeting room.

At 12:21 p.m., members adjourned from the meeting table to review the NOACA draft maps.