

In attendance:

J. Blackwood, Alderman R. Grosch, J. Vitale, R. Ford and G. Pascucci.

Also Present:

Deputy Clerk A. Hurd

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Blackwood called the meeting to order at 4:30pm and requested everyone stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Public Comment

No public comment was made.

3. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the Meeting Minutes of the Bike & Pedestrian Planning Committee Dated October 24, 2018

The meeting minutes were not available yet.

4. Discussion Related to the 2019 City Budget and Possible Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements

Mr. Blackwood stated both projects were approved for next year. Mr. Grosch noted that the money was approved but the projects could change if the update is made to the Bike Path.

5. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Use of Bicycles and Scooters on Sidewalks

Mr. Blackwood summarized the discussions from the previous meeting. The Committee discussed a speed limit of 35 miles per hour and talked about allowing kids up to 14 years old to use sidewalks at all times regardless of the speed limit. The Committee had also previously discussed allowing electric scooters to be used on sidewalks, but only going slightly greater than walking speed. E-bikes should have the same rights as bikes with a specific speed or a suggested riding responsibly.

Discussion took place regarding the various definitions of a shared/mixed use path. The Committee felt a combination of the two definitions would be a good mix and it could be phrased as a form of infrastructure separated from motor vehicle traffic with an open space or barrier to be used by pedestrians, bicyclists, in-line skating, people in wheelchairs, electric scooters and electric bicycles.

The Committee then discussed potential barriers, such as a painted line.

Mr. Blackwood then summarized the definition of a shared use path as a form of infrastructure that is physically separated from motor vehicle traffic that supports multiple recreation and transportation opportunities such as walking, biking, in-line skating and other non-motorized activities. If a new activity comes out that is an acceptable use, they would have to re-write the ordinance. Electronic bikes and electric scooters are acceptable uses.

The Committee defined a sidewalk as a paved walk for pedestrians adjacent to a street.

Discussion took place regarding speed limits and the Committee agreed that 35 miles per hour seemed reasonable. It was clarified that if a road has a speed limit that is greater than 35 miles per hour, then pedestrians should be able to use the sidewalk if the roadway does not have an adequate bicycle facility.

Mr. Pascucci stated he did not want to put an age limit on anything. Mr. Blackwood felt it lessens the chance of a conflict between someone riding a full size bike and a child riding a bike. Mr. Pascucci suggested possibly defining how big the bike can be rather than limiting the age. The Committee agreed to leave it off and amend the ordinance in the event that issues develop in the future.

It was questioned if the Committee wanted to put any restrictions on electric scooters. The scooters could be allowed but must maintain a similar speed to adjacent users. Mr. Grosch questioned if they should include a general speed limit for bikes on the sidewalk, and it was decided that electric bicycles and electric scooters should maintain a speed of 10 miles per hour or less when using a sidewalk. The Committee agreed this should be the case for all types of bicycles on the sidewalk. It was noted that people should ride in a manner that is safe and prudent for all pedestrians. A statement would be added to note that electric bicycles and electric scooters shall be able to use the same facilities as manually powered bicycles.

6. Discussion Regarding the Creation of a Bicycle and Pedestrian Handbook

Mr. Blackwood felt they should have some sort of guidelines that should be a basic outline of the starting point for sidewalks and paths and on-road facilities that would be the Committee's preference so that the consultants have basis of the starting point. The Committee could specify the basics such as width and the types of materials to be used.

Mr. Grosch suggested that the goal be a mile or half a mile of path per year.

7. Discussion to Select the Next Meeting Dated and List Possible Future Items

The next meeting was scheduled for January 16th, 2019 at 4:30pm.

The handbook will be kept on the list for the next meeting.

8. Public Comment

No public comment was made.

9. Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded (R. Grosch, G. Pascucci) to adjourn the meeting at 5:27pm.

Motion Passed: 5-For, 0-Against.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ami Hurd
Deputy Clerk