

**MINUTES
CITY OF WOODSTOCK
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

May 11, 2016
City Council Chambers

The regular meeting of the Woodstock Transportation Commission was called to order at 7:05 PM by Chairperson Andrew Celentano on Wednesday, May 11, 2016, in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

A roll call was taken.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Susan Hudson, Mark Indyke, Caron Wenzel, and Chairman Andrew Celentano.

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Jason Osborn (Commissioner Osborn joined the proceedings at 7:11PM.)

STAFF PRESENT: Public Works Director Jeff Van Landuyt

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Brian Sager and City Clerk Cindy Smiley

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by M. Indyke, second by S. Hudson to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2016 Special Meeting of the Transportation Commission. Ayes: S. Hudson, M. Indyke, C. Wenzel, and Chairman A. Celentano. Nays: none. Abstentions: none. Absentees: J. Osborn.

J. Osborn entered the Chambers and joined the proceedings at 7:11PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no comment forthcoming from the public.

COMMISSION COMMENT

In response to a comment from C. Wenzel expressing her wish that the Commission not lose track of the Bike Path project, Chairman Celentano requested that this be placed on the June agenda. He called attention to the meeting packet which included information on the old bike path and stated he is attempting to gather more information from other groups.

TRANSMITTALS

Chairman Celentano noted the McHenry County Transportation Committee voted down the round-about for the intersection of Raffel and Charles and also a 4-way signalization of that intersection, stating the cost of the round-about would be \$3.3 million and the cost of the signalization would be \$3.6 million. He further noted that \$400,000 and five years have already been spent on this project. He then called attention to the article in the packet entitled *French Revolution* which appeared in the April 23, 2016 issue of *The Economist*. He noted France has 22.2 round-abouts per 1,000 round-abouts with only 5.1 fatalities per 100,000 inhabitants while the United States, by comparison, has .9 round-abouts per 1,000 intersections with 10.6 fatalities per 100,000 inhabitants. Chairman Celentano stated this points to the safety of round-abouts.

Chairman Celentano stated multiple agencies are trying to create a network for McRide to work together to provide better transportation to handicapped individuals.

OLD BUSINESS

As the engineering students were present and prepared to make their presentation on the Bike Rental Plan, Chairman Celentano stated the Approval of School Project List would be discussed following the Bike Rental Plan Item.

Presentation of Bike Rental Plan & Bike Rack

Jordan Loacker, Spencer Stumpff and Sam Wright - Engineering, Design, and Development students from Woodstock High School, approached the podium and made a Powerpoint presentation on a Modular Electronic Bike Rack and Bike Rental System. Dan Regna, part of the team, was absent.

The students stated the intent of the project is to bring an eco-friendly and efficient form of transportation to Woodstock which would help relieve congestion and improve the health of the users. They noted that similar bike rental systems are available in China, Mexico, Washington D.C, and the Divvy Bike System in Chicago stating the Chinese system in one city has over 1,000,000 bikes. They stated a bike rental system would provide inexpensive transportation with less pollution while improving personal fitness and advancing bike friendliness in the community.

The students then discussed the target audiences which would include Woodstock residents, commuters, tourists, and persons going to the government center. Potential locations for the bike racks and rental bikes included the train station, the Public Library, Emricson Park, Bates Park, Centegra Hospital, a location adjacent to the Square, and the McHenry County Courthouse.

Discussion followed of the cost of the bikes and the racks, with the students noting the bikes are fairly inexpensive because all of the bikes are uniform and standardized. They stated, while the rental bikes are all standardized, they have custom aluminum frames which helps ensure against theft as the parts cannot be used in other bikes. The Commission members and the students then discussed the potential cost for the entire project based upon various scenarios and bike-rack configurations.

The students then provided information as how they designed and created the bike rack and also how it works, showing the prototype of the rack they brought to the meeting. In response to a question from the Commission as to how the bike would lock, the students stated that the bikes would lock into one of the bike racks as designed and would need to be left at one of these racks. The students confirmed that a bike could not be left where there is not one of the bike rack stations.

In response to a question from M. Indyke, the students indicated the power source for the racks would be solar panels installed on each unit. Discussion followed of potential liability with the feeling being that a user could provide a waiver when registering to participate in the program and rent the bike.

Discussion followed of the Divvy program in Chicago. The students noted that one of the questions was whether such a program could work on a smaller scale, such as in Woodstock. They stated they found that it was being used on college campuses which are roughly the same size as Woodstock. The overall cost to institute a program here in Woodstock was estimated at \$100,000 for fifty bikes which made the project possible.

In response to a question from the Commission, the students stated if other communities are interested in participating; it would not be difficult to place racks there as well to connect the communities. In addition, they stated bike racks could be placed on the proposed bike paths to transport people from one community to another. The students noted that all of the rental bike racks are designed to fit only the rental bikes but that all racks do not need to have the same number of bike stalls.

Mayor Sager commended the students for their work on this project, stating they are an impressive group of young people. He also commended the school district which is supportive of this type of program.

Mayor Sager stated the City Council was quite impressed with the project and look at it as an opportunity to interconnect communities. He stated a collaborative effort between municipalities and the Conservation District should be investigated, noting this could be reviewed by the Transportation Commission. The Mayor stated, when looking at the big picture, this could be a great opportunity and a good investment especially in a community that wishes to be environmentally sound.

In response to a question from Mayor Sager, the students stated an individual wishing to use the system could first go to the program's website to create an account and sign off on liability. They then would go to one of the bike racks at a pick-up site and swipe their identification card to check out a bike. This could somehow tie into the Recreation Department system. The students also indicated it may be possible to use the QR code on a Smartphone. When finished, the user would take the bike to one of the bike racks and again scan their card to return the bike. The students noted this is why the racks need to have several slots so that some are available for bike returns.

In response to a question from Mayor Sager, the students noted the Divvy Program is a subscription membership program with a cost of \$5.00 for a 30-minute usage period. They also noted the user is charged extra if the bike is kept longer. They stated the program has been very profitable for Chicago. The students also suggested that some users may wish to pay a monthly fee for unlimited usage.

The students opined that this would be a very desirable program in Woodstock, particularly in the area of tourism for the bigger events.

In response to a question from the Commission, the students stated the bikes could be outfitted with some sort of baskets would could be used when shopping.

The students were acknowledged with hearty applause by those present.

Approval of School Project List

Chairman Celentano stated, following review by the Commission, the Project List will be submitted to the next class so that they may choose the project or projects they would like to work on. The students then will provide a report and a critique. Mr. Celentano talked about the influence past projects have had on the students and their involvement in the projects. He stated the program started with four students which will grow to fifteen next semester, some of whom will work with the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Following a review, it was the consensus of the Commission that the list be submitted as presented.

Mayor Sager commended the Commission for this remarkable program, noting it provides an opportunity for the City to look at things they might have and because of this, things may be elevated to a priority.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Following discussion of the Future Agenda Items, it was the consensus of the Commission that they be placed on the agendas as follows:

- 1) Crosswalks on IL Rt. 47 – June. Chairman Celentano will provide information on this item, with J. Van Landuyt obtaining parameters from IDOT.
- 2) Microbus – June. J. Osborne will prepare a report concerning this item.
- 3) Pedestrian crossings IL Rt. about bicycle crossings – July

- 4) Loading & unloading zones in downtown – On student project list. No specific date.
- 5) Update of Master Bicycle Plan – will begin working on a chapter at a time beginning in June.

ADJOURN

Motion by M. Indyke, second by S. Hudson, to adjourn this meeting of the Transportation Commission to the Special Meeting scheduled for June 15, 2016 at 7:00PM in the Council Chambers at Woodstock City Hall.

Ayes: S. Hudson, M. Indyke, J. Osborn, C. Wenzel, and Chairman A. Celentano. Nays: none. Abstentions: none. Absentees: none. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:13PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Smiley
City Clerk