

Bicycle Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2007

Attendees

Board: Bob Lutz, Kim Burkland, Kurt Niven, Sam Campogno, Bill Bender, Jerry O'Neal, Cindy Green

Guests: Bob Turner, Loren Dudley

The meeting started late due to a meeting beforehand with the City.

February meeting minutes were approved.

Updates

Pilcher meeting follow-up: Bob L. said the meeting was generally positive, after some initial reluctance from the City. A commitment was made by the City to have Planning work with BAB to create a Master Bike Plan. A meeting was scheduled for Friday with Leroy Eadie, the interim Planning Director.

Kim arranged for a woman at Mountain Gear to assist John with the BAB website design.

League of American Bicyclists (LAB) National Bike Summit: Loren attended the event and described some of the highlights.

- Bike Friendly Cities – Loren handed out a copy of the American Bicyclist Magazine listing the Bike Friendly Cities. He asked people to list what qualities Spokane has in common with these cities and what qualities we would like Spokane to have and e-mail the responses to him. Loren supports the idea of Spokane becoming a Bike Friendly City.
- Smart Mobility Program – This is a four-city pilot program from 2006 – 2009 providing up to \$25M to each city for bicycle and pedestrian facilities and programs to encourage non-motorized transportation. The results of the program will be measured to determine the extent that biking and walking can carry a significant portion of the transportation load and represent a major portion of the transportation solution. Loren said that Spokane was used as the Control for this program, and if Spokane makes improvements in bicycling over this time period it would diminish the improvements made by these four cities and therefore have a negative impact on future funding for bicycle programs around the country. It was agreed that the BAB should not be constrained by this assignment that we knew nothing about.
- Bikes Belong – Loren gave information on this group to Cindy.
- The Bush Administration has tried to rescind funding approved for Transportation Enhancements.

- Loren suggested someone from Spokane attend the Trail Link Conference in Portland Aug 8-10 organized by the Rails to Trails Conservancy and the LAB's National Bike Rally at El Tour de Tucson November 15-17.
- The LAB lobbied Senator Maria Cantwell who will sponsor a Bill to provide tax deductions to bicycle commuters.

City Street Bond: Bob L. gave an overview of his meeting with the City on this issue. The City says the Bond only can be used for paving for auto improvements. BAB needs to identify overlap between the Comp Plan and the Bond Projects to target specific bike facility projects and then search for funding for them.

Interest Areas: Bill is interested in a Bike Event modeled after the "Bike the Drive" event in Chicago. The event is supported by the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation which is a non-profit group. Proceeds go to the City to be used for bicycle amenities. Bill, Jerry, Loren and Kim will investigate further for a route and plan for a Spokane event. The event should be coordinated with the Bike the Bridges event. Loren will discuss with the Friends of the Centennial Trail who organize Bike the Bridges.