

**BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
CITY HALL ROOM 302A  
10 N. DIVISION STREET  
BATTLE CREEK, MI 49014  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2016  
3:00 PM**

**Members Present:** Commissioners Dave Walters, Kevin Smith, Stacey Schueler, Mike Wood, Mike Miller, John Macfarlane, Bill Dugan, and Sam Gray

**Absent:** Commissioners Andy Helmboldt, Chris Dopp, Blewett Smyth, Rod Burke, Chuck Donnell, Lt. Steve Bush, Chad Curtis

**Staff:** Victoria Houser, City Clerk: Jill Steele, City Attorney

**A. Call to Order/Recognition of Quorum**

Commissioner Walters called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm, noting a quorum was not present.

**B. Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Bill Dugan, supported by John Macfarlane, to approve the October 15, 2015 Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting minutes. All yes, none opposed. Motion approved.

**C. Ordinance Amendments regarding cyclists and cyclist safety**

Jill Steele, City Attorney, provided a handout of the proposed ordinance amendments, noting Grand Rapids has not adopted the Uniform Traffic Code (UTC) as Battle Creek has, stating the UTC was revised to take out references to the Motor Vehicle Code. Attorney Steele discussed the insertions she was recommending to the ordinance. Attorney Steele discussed Rule 490d regarding the minimum distance when overtaking or passing a bicycle, noting a violation would be a civil infraction, stating the City Engineer indicated the City's street dimensions are not adequate for a 5 foot rule, therefore the City would be adopting a 3 foot rule. Attorney Steele also noted the State statute already addresses how traffic should flow, noting the City would not preempt State statutes.

Attorney Steele discussed the insertion of Rule 498: Opening Vehicle Doors, noting this would also be a civil infraction. Attorney Steele also noted the State statutes include vulnerable user language, including careless or distracted driving and consequences to a driver's record. Attorney Steele noted a bill was introduced in the State legislature, but that it did not pass. Attorney Steele also commented on the "Where to Ride Law," which is also part of State law.

Attorney Steele stated she would introduce the amendments to the ordinance at the February 2, 2016 Commission meeting, with the adoption of the ordinance presented at the February 16, 2016 meeting.

Mayor Walters asked if the amendments to the ordinance should include "pedestrians."

Attorney Steele noted State law prohibits pedestrians from walking in a lane of traffic, which is where cyclists can ride.

Mr. Macfarlane asked if Grand Rapids included any additional language the City could consider.

Attorney Steele stated Grand Rapids adopted the ordinance amendments in September 2015, noting they restated what is in the Motor Vehicle Code regarding bicyclists, stating she added "due care" to the City's amendments.

Mayor Walters stated Grand Rapids' ordinance may be more extensive as they did not adopt the UTC.

A motion was made by Mike Miller, supported by Mike Wood, to recommend the proposed ordinance amendments to the City Commission. All yes, none opposed. Motion approved.

Committee members agreed a media release should be provided regarding the changes, along with other means of educating residents.

Attorney Steele stated she would also discuss the amendments with Chief Blocker so that all of the Battle Creek Police Department staff were aware of the changes.

**D. 2016 Committee membership**

Mayor Walters stated he would be reviewing the Committee's membership to ensure all the City wards were represented.

**E. Committee Discussion**

Mike Wood announced the "End of Winter Party 2016" would be marking its 23<sup>rd</sup> year, stating the event was planned for February 25, 26, and 27, stating this year's event would be a 3 day festival at Binder Park Golf Course. Mr. Wood stated they would like to work with the City to reintroduce Binder Park as a winter park, to include snowshoeing, cross country skiing, a fat bike course, and other opportunities. Mr. Wood stated this was a great opportunity to partner with the City to take this annual event to the next level.

Mike Miller recommended the Committee consider opportunities for "Slow Roll" events similar to the City of Detroit.

Mayor Walters informed members he was to talk at the Battle Creek Chamber Breakfast on Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, stating this would be a good opportunity to show everyone the City's recreational opportunities.

Bill Dugan discussed the Barry Roubeix, taking place April 16, 2016, stating this annual event has been very good for the City of Hastings.

John Macfarlane stated Battle Creek White Water has submitted a grant application to the Battle Creek Community Foundation for a feasibility study of the river. Mr. Macfarlane also informed the committee they have launched a website, [battlecreekwhitewater.org](http://battlecreekwhitewater.org), with a press release to come soon.

Mr. Miller talked about a company called Fix Station, stating they are put at strategic points along cycling trails for water dispensing, air, and accessories, stating this might help to elevate the Bike Friendly designation.

Mr. Wood stated the construction of a linear trail connecting Galesburg to Augusta was going well, stating the next big push would be to connect Bridge Park to Marshall, then to Albion.

Mayor Walters announced Bike Week would be May 16<sup>th</sup> to May 20<sup>th</sup>, with Bike to Work Day on Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, the same date as Spring into the Arts, and the Ride of Silence on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Committee members agreed to one route for the Bike to Work event, stating the ride would start at Culver's on Beckley Road.

**F. Next Meeting:** February 18, 2016 at 3:00 Room 302A

**G. Adjournment:** Comm. Walters adjourned the meeting at 4:05 pm.