

BIKEWAYS AND WALKWAYS COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes – September 14, 2021 at 12:00 PM
Council Chambers – Virtual Meeting

Member Attendance:

Keith Yoho (Chair)
Bob Lange (Vice Chair) - Late
Lesley Orr
Chip Dennerlein- Late
Cliff Kuhlman - Absent
Dana Christensen
Craig Rodenmayer
Melissa Pingree - Absent
Eric Parrinello – Absent
Benjamin Betterly

City Staff/Council Liaisons:

Brian DeLaGrange (City Council)
Darin Fowler (County Commissioner)
Wade Elliott (Public Works Assistant Director)
Rob Brandes (Jo Co Public Works)
Jenna Stanke Marmon (ODOT) - Absent

1. **Roll Call:**
 - Chair Yoho opened the meeting and took roll.
2. **Introductions:**
 - None.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** August 10, 2021

Member Orr moved, and Member Rodenmayer seconded the motion to approve the minutes from August 10, 2021 as written. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Chair Yoho, Members Betterly, Christensen, Orr, Parrinello, and Rodenmayer. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Members Kuhlman and Pingree. Vice Chair Lange and member Dennerlein were absent for the vote only.

The motion passed.

4. **Action Items:**
 - Chair Yoho asked Wade when this committee will be presenting to the City Council regarding the easements to the Rogue River that was discussed at previous meetings. That opportunity will be on Monday, September 20, 2021. Chair Yoho will not be able to attend but did write up a summary of the committee’s safety concerns regarding the three easement locations on SE Belle Aire Drive, Rogue Drive and Elm Lane and that they should be decided on separately. Their biggest concern being the access on Elm noting that the narrow and dead-end situation of that street has no pedestrian facilities and should not be opened due to the safety concerns. He will pass along his notes to whomever would like to volunteer to be at that Council meeting. Vice Chair Lange added that he feels the Belle Aire access would be good to keep open but abandon the others and doesn’t recommend parking at the street level for any of the access points. Member Rodenmayer volunteered to be the spokesperson. They would also like to provide a list of those citizens and residents that were in favor of the Belle Aire access location. Member Christensen asked if the easements run with the land, if they are on the deed and how easy is it to just cancel them? Wade said two of them are listed as dedicated right of way for storm water drainage. The one on Belle Aire is an easement on the deed as a condition for that subdivision. That could be a problem, but the City Attorney will be at this meeting to address any legalities such as this.

5. Public Comment:

- None

6. Matters from Committee Members and Staff:

- Updates from local jurisdictions –

County (Rob) – Chip sealing is done for the year. Beacon water line is a joint City and County project and is about halfway done. Once that is complete the County will begin the multi-modal project from Madrone to just below Savage. Flashing lights at Williams Elementary got great reviews and are very appreciated. Safe Routes to School (SRTS) at Williams Elementary, Lorna Byrne Middle School and IV High for future plans for SRTS funds. He has technical memos regarding the Hwy 199 study group with ODOT from the Applegate River to Illinois Valley to address all the accidents and fatalities. The goal is to raise driver awareness. The temporary construction on the bike trail next to the horse track has been brought up to better standards. Member Christensen stated it is better now and riders no longer have to cross gravel.

City (Wade) – Wade welcomed new member Benjamin Betterly. He stated he just moved here from Rogue River as Grants Pass has more opportunities for him.

Regarding projects, the site for the new water treatment plant is progressing after numerous hiccups. Beacon Drive is also progressing. There was a delay with getting Century Link's utility placed overhead but that has been done and completion should be 2-3 weeks out. They have a small waterline project up near the Beacon Hill trailhead to convert it from a 2" to an 8" line. Alley sewer replacement projects at D and E alley between 2nd and 3rd, the K Street alley between 3rd and 5th and the 5th Street alley between L and M Streets plus Outlook between 7th and 9th. These are all sewer lines that are in bad shape. The Schroeder Lane storm water project will have a 48" pipe all the way out of the park to Leonard Road. They are at about 60% completion on design and one of the gas lines will be replaced. That project will begin in the spring. Storm drain line replacement under some houses between C Street and Dimmick that will also include upgrade to the sewer, build a road and add sidewalk from C Street down to F street. That project should be for spring and summer. Lincoln Elementary got a grant for SRTS. They are in the survey data stage, but it has been slow due to Covid. It will include 9th, 10th, Riddle, Churchill, and Savage. Thank you to Member Orr for helping to obtain the grant. In addition, they are trying to complete the SRTS Master Plan from ODOT and Alta Planning. Member Kuhlman is on the steering committee for that. Fruitdale Elementary School will be included even though in District Three since it is more urbanized. B Street Jumps is moving along and is funding through Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) and is the last one in the access to transit grant. Should be done in October. The Allen Creek Road project scope of work is in the finalization stage. Hopefully the design will be complete in the next few months. Gilbert Creek Parking lot rehab will begin soon pending Council award. It needs new asphalt and storm water drain system and a valley gutter, then repaving some bad spots and curb repairs. Project begins in October or November. Crescent Parking lot for Dollar Mountain may not complete until spring. The project for Westholm Park has started. It will have a new drainage system and a new play structure. The State Marine Board issued a grant for the parking lot at Baker Park. It will get some work on the handrails, ramps, and paving. Member Orr asked about the SRTS funding that was discussed in the RVACT meeting and if any could possibly be leveraged for us. Wade indicated they are trying to complete the SRTS Master Plan in time to apply for funding but if that doesn't happen, they will probably do one

large project like they did at Lincoln. She also asked about the sidewalk infill and ADA funding that may be available outside the SRTS project. Is there a way to get some of that money to do more infill and ADA items. Wade said it may be contingent on the National Infrastructure Bill passing. If not, there may be funding through Surface Transportation Block Grant, Middle Rogue Metropolitan Planning Organization (MRMPO) they can use for sidewalk infill. Member Orr will try to get a copy of the presentation Jenna did at the RVACT meeting for this committee. There will be an open house they would like people to be involved in and that would be perfect the Bikeways members. It would be great to have representation from Grants Pass to encourage more funding for projects in our area. Member Orr also asked Rob Brandes if they have funding for the Hwy 199 Corridor project if there would be some funds available to leverage there. Rob stated it is a matter of convincing ODOT to reprioritize and seeing how much bang for the buck we get for a small section of 199 vs several city blocks in Medford. Member Orr pointed out the safety concerns along 199 in certain locations that could possibly carry more weight.

- Sub-Committee Updates
 - a. Chair Yoho stated he will provide information to member Betterly about how the 3 subcommittees are structured and how he may be able to help and our goals and priorities. Councilor DeLaGrange wanted to remind the committee that Council has empowered this committee to get things done with motions and to keep that in mind while talking about sub-committee updates so this committee can pull out some items to move them forward.
 - b. Pedestrian and Bicycle Commuting Connectivity subcommittee - Member Orr updated the group on the Rogue Valley Area Commission on Transportation (RVACT) meeting info and mentioned Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development, Inc. (SOREDI) that is offering grant writing opportunities. For the Greenway Foundation update, the bike ride was canceled, their chair has resigned, and they aren't sure what they are doing next week. Wade added that the MRMPO received about \$812k in COVID19 funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The intent is to split it 3 ways between Rogue River, Gold Hill, and the Greenway. Funds are earmarked for extending the trail from Rogue River to Grants Pass. That hasn't been approved yet but that is the hope. Councilor DeLaGrange added information about Rogue River Avenue, south of Bridge Street. There is a portion from Lee Lane all the way west that is rough and there has been some talk about getting it resurfaced for the bike traffic. He doesn't want to see it get forgotten. Member Dennerlein added that it was talked about before and it is the main connection for getting to the park. That section may be designated a bike route with sharrows. Wade added it is on the list to be done next year. The budget is about \$250k but with new regulations to update ADA facilities at the same time as an overlay, the funds don't go as far.
 - c. Trails subcommittee - Chair Yoho talked about Grants Pass trail updates. Elk Lane and Bolt Mountain. He reached out the person that does forestry for the County to get more info about the County property and the School District 7 property that between the County and BLM properties. The County land is currently for multi-use that has some timber harvesting that is begin done. The uses are for non-motorized use, hiking, mountain biking and firearm usage. The school property connects to the BLM land. The County had granted that property to the district for the purpose of a forestry program at the school. Once the program stopped, the County approached the district and tried to get the property back. The district sued the

County to retain ownership and won based on a piece of paper that didn't get signed initially. The district can do whatever they want with it even if outside of the original intent. For maintaining connectivity between those parcels it would require going to the School Board and ask them to maintain the consideration for use. Councilor DeLaGrange mentioned he is on the School Board, and they have a subcommittee for property. They are having a meeting today at 3 pm. He said he would bring up this property so it could be added to next months agenda.

Dollar Mountain – In addition to the update Wade gave about the parking lot, they are moving forward. Chair Yoho reached out to Chad Thorson for other updates and there isn't anything new on any of the grants. The award for the Recreation Trails Program grant did reach approval with the City Council for the matching funds as confirmed by Councilor DeLaGrange.

Loveless Park (B Street Jumps) is also moving forward. Funding from several organizations is in place. Rogue Valley Mountain Bike Association (RVMB) has a draft proposal on their website for trails, but it has not been finalized. It is just waiting for an award for a trail builder. There is a lot of potential for this property but need to figure out a way to navigate the old growth trees on the property.

- d. Outreach and Communications Subcommittee – Vice Chair Lange didn't have any updates but is planning to look at the website for updates.

Member Dennerlein mentioned getting together with the Parks Advisory Committee to pursue a master inventory of public land status (City or County) along the river so they can work together for a river corridor. He mentioned the City of Bend with trails all along the Deschutes River and would like to provide the City the combined advice about the vision for access and greenspace along the river. Chair Yoho suggested they meet up and talk about it further. Wade added that there may need to be a consultant involved and it could run up costs, but a first step would be to meet with the Parks Committee jointly to do some strategic planning and get it added to our goals.

7. Future Agenda Building for Next Meeting

- Subcommittee updates, river corridor discussion.

8. Adjournment

- Chair Yoho adjourned the meeting at 1:02 pm

Next meeting date: October 12, 2021 at 12:00 pm via virtual method to be determined.

Minutes prepared by Donna Anderson, City Public Works Department.