

Report

BPAC Meeting

December 17, 2015

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) on December 17, 2015 at The Greater Clark Foundation, 204 Floyd Clay Drive, Winchester, Kentucky at 10:00AM. Those in attendance were:

Attendees:

Mr. Stephen M. Berry, GISP, Clark County GIS, Walk-Bike Clark County

Ms. Olivia Whitman, Clark County Health Department

Ms. Beth Willett Jones, Greater Clark Foundation

Mr. Jeff Lewis, Winchester-Clark County Parks and Recreation

Mr. Steve Foley, Winchester Sun, Citizen

Ms. Linda Barrett, Citizen

Ms. Bobbie Newell, Citizen

Mr. Jon Walker, Citizen

Mr. Bill Esarey, Citizen

Ms. Cindy Banks, Chamber of Commerce

Ms. Clare Sipple, Bluegrass Trails and Greenways

Ms. Cora Heffner, Clark County Community Education

Mr. Chris Chaney, Bluegrass Area Development District

SESSION CONTENT:

Stephen Berry stated that the BPAC has received funding from the Kentucky Department of Public Health and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, in the amount of \$3,000 to create a Master Walk-Bike Transportation Plan.

He stated that the BPAC has received plan assistance from Planning Communities, a planning company from Raleigh, North Carolina. He stated that one of the items that Planning Communities has produced is a "Planning /Outreach Approach" document. The draft document included objectives, BPAC roles and meeting schedule with suggested outcomes, stakeholder and community meeting objectives and timeline, and other suggestions for involving key community stakeholders. Discussion was had on multiple sections of the draft planning/outreach approach.

Additional suggestions from the BPAC group for outreach included the involvement of The Clark County Cooperative Extension Agency, including 4-H and rural land owners, and Clark County Public School students. There were suggestions from Planning Communities to change website layout to increase ease of use. The BPAC group suggested that the planning outreach include boosting facebook posts on social media, to increase visibility.

Mr. Esarey suggested that the BPAC create a plan, based on input from prior meetings, and use this as the beginning point for public design meetings. Ms. Sipple suggested that we incorporate the regional trail ideas, created by the Bluegrass Tomorrow organization, as part of the proposed project plan.

Ms. Barrett shared her idea for "Build a Better Trail". She stated that the BPAC could create a temporary linear park to market the idea of a rail-trail. She stated the plan would include finding property owners, adjacent to current abandoned rail bed, and receiving permission to do a temporary installation. Research needs to be done on the exact liability of this type of event. Mr. Chaney suggested that the BPAC and property owners may be exempt from liability under public use statutes of the KRS. Ms. Sipple suggested contacting the new owners of the property at the Veterans Memorial Parkway / Mt. Sterling Road intersection for this event, and suggested that if this property were used, then Lykins Park could be included in the trail event.

Mr. Chaney stated that the BPAC include "rail banking" of existing, active railroad bed to capture rail bed property, as it becomes abandoned.

Action Items:

Ms. Barrett will investigate the feasibility of the "Build-A-Better-Trail" event, along with Mr. Walker and Ms. Sipple. Ms. Sipple stated she would contact the new owner of the former Quisenberry Estate property to get permission for rail-trail event.

Ms. Jones will contact the Bluegrass Cycling Club to investigate recreational rides in 2016. Ms. Jones will examine the liability of the recreational rides. She will also request that the BCC become involved in the Winchester-Clark County Parks and Recreation Wellness Challenge. She will also create a timeline of 2016 State\Federal grant schedules to allow the BPAC jump ahead of the curve on grant funding.

Ms. Heffner will assist in the planning of a walk-bike design meeting with George Rogers Clark High School students.

Ms. Newell will investigate local ordinances as they relate to pedestrians, bicycles, sidewalks. She will also investigate other community ordinances to compare to Winchester and Clark County. (Suggestion was to look at Royal Oak, Michigan ordinances). Mr. Berry will investigate number of ordinance violations in Winchester over the last 10 years, related to sidewalks.

Ms. Sipple will reach out to the horse-riding community to help develop rail-trail projects. She will also contact Don Pasley about involvement in BPAC.

Mr. Foley stated that he would market the BPAC meetings in the Winchester Sun through photographs, articles on BPAC public meetings, events, and outcomes.

Ms. Whitman will assist in the creation of surveys for the Master Plan. She will work with Mr. Berry to establish a "user survey" and a "business survey". This survey should be ready for review at the next BPAC Meeting.

Mr. Berry will coordinate with Ann Steedly of Planning Communities to plan the large community design meeting in February. The preferred date for the public meeting is February 25, 2016. Mr. Berry will also coordinate with Main Street Winchester on the Downtown Development Plan transportation sections.

NEXT BPAC MEETING: January 21, 2016, 10 AM, Location: TBD