

City of Spokane



Citizens Street Advisory Commission

Tuesday, June 21, 2005
1:00 p.m.
Street Department Conference Room
901 North Nelson

MEETING MINUTES

Commissioners Present

Dallas Hawkins, Chair
Stan Stirling, Vice Chair
Donna Jilbert
Chuck Kearney
Max Kunej

Commissioners

Absent
JoAnna Butler
John Talbott

City Staff Present

Roger Flint, Director, Public Works & Utilities
Mark Serbousek, Street Department
Jim, Laughtland, Engineering Services
Charlotte Thacker, Admin. Asst.

Guests Present

David Bauermeister
Greta Gilman

Commission Chair Dallas Hawkins opened the meeting at 1:00 pm.

I. Introductions

Mr. Hawkins explained that the Meeting Agenda would include a presentation by members of the Citizens Bicycle Advisory Committee regarding accommodations that might be considered for the bicycling community during new street construction. He stated that he has explained to those representatives that the scope of the Commission's responsibilities doesn't include development of more extensive biking facilities, but the Bicycle Committee has asked for guidance from the Commission regarding which City offices they might interact with to ensure that new streets could incorporate bicycle needs where possible and appropriate. Mr. Flint noted that he would wish to direct the Bicycle Committee to Jerry Sinclair, Capital Programs Engineer responsible for the City's 6-Year Street Plan.

II. Review and Approval of Minutes of May 17

Upon motion by Mr. Stirling, seconded by Ms. Jilbert, the Minutes of the meeting of May 17 were accepted as presented.

III. Replacement of John Talbott on the Street Commission

Mr. Hawkins announced that former Mayor John Talbott would be resigning from the Commission due to his impending move from the City. Once his formal letter of resignation is received, the Mayor will request suggestions from Council Members Rodgers and Shogan, who represent Mayor Talbott's district. Clay Schueman, a member of the former Streets Committee, has expressed interest in joining the Commission, and Councilwoman Rodgers has endorsed his interest.

IV. Update on Street Projects

Roger Flint introduced Jim Laughtland, principal engineer for construction management in Engineering Services, who provided an overview of current projects, highlighting the ones to be toured by the Commission members following their meeting. Mr. Flint noted that prior to the bond election, staff and citizens had discussed the correct dollar amount to request from the public for street projects that wouldn't overwhelm their capacity to tolerate impact to traffic. He stated that capacity has probably been reached in the projects that are presently active; citizens have expressed a level of frustration with the impacts to traffic in the City, but many positive comments have been received, as well.

Mr. Laughtland pointed out that the contractors have been working positively with the business community to minimize the impacts to their environments, and have been planning to make whatever accommodations possible to the upcoming HoopFest weekend. Mr. Laughtland noted that the Crestline project, scheduled to be completed by July 4, would be first on the tour and the location where a press conference would be held at 2 p.m. He discussed the other sites to be visited (attached). Mr. Flint pointed out that on the Government Way project, the City was cooperating with the County in order to provide a good surface from curb to curb (in response to the requirements of the pavement cut policy), with the City utilities funding a major portion and approximately \$50,000 being requested from the bond funds. Tom Arnold will be corresponding via e-mail with Commission members to receive their comments in that regard.

V. Report from Bicycle Advisory Board

Greta Gilman, former member of the Bicycle Advisory Board, discussed a handout (attached) providing background relating to the formation of the Street Commission and the mission of the Bike Board as described in the Comprehensive Plan, explaining that the Bike Board's role is to make recommendations to the City Council consistent with the Comp Plan, and the Commission's role is to provide policies based on the Comp Plan, as well. She showed on a map that most of the bike lane grid is dependent on existing streets within the City, and expressed the hope that the Commission would make an effort to accommodate cyclists within the limitation of the bond issue. She hoped that the Bike Board would be able to work with the Commission to see what could reasonably be done on each project to accommodate cyclists.

David Baumeister joined the meeting, and he provided a handout describing the Bicycle Advisory Board purpose and function, and how biking and pedestrian routes could

improve the quality of life for citizens. He emphasized that since the City has fallen so far behind on street repairs, it might be another 20 years before the grid is looked at again in the way it is being examined now. He pointed out that in Portland, Seattle, and Boise efforts are being made to set up long-range facilities for bicyclists. He stated his belief that in overseeing street projects, the Commission is also charged with the biking component, and that with the Streets Department, the All-City Traffic Committee, the Council, the Bicycle Board, and the Streets Advisory Commission all working together, there could be a framework for an excellent program.

Commission members pointed out the need for the Bicycle Board to emphasize education, especially in regard to cyclists following traffic regulations. Mr. Baumeister agreed, and noted that recently over 20 people had taken a 20-hour class to learn how to instruct cyclists in traffic safety. Mr. Hawkins pointed out that Mr. Kearney, as a former police department official in Seattle, spoke for a number of the Commission members in having concerns regarding safety issues with bike lanes. Mr. Hawkins summed up the Commission discussion by pointing out that the Commission's role, limited to those streets selected to redone in 10-year bond projects, doesn't limit an interest in helping to find solutions to bike issues.

Mr. Flint suggested that funds the City will receive from the newly passed State gasoline tax were not all earmarked, and that possibly some of those funds could be programmed into the 6-Year Street Plan to address bike issues. He pointed out that Jerry Sinclair in the Capital Programs section of Public Works and Utilities was the individual whom the Bicycle Board should work with in that regard. Mr. Sinclair is responsible for the 6-Year Street Plan, and work is being done with the Planning Commission regarding bike lanes, even though its lack of funding does not allow the bike lanes to appear on the list of 6-Year Plan projects.

VI. Adjournment

The business meeting concluded at 2:00 p.m. in order for Commission Members to tour the street construction sites.