

Minutes

Jacksonville Bicycle Advisory Committee

January 15th, 2013

Present: Henry Campeaux, Ron Wilson, Jack Plunk, Chief Thompson, Mayor Smith, several citizens from the 11th St./Reynolds Ave. neighborhood.

Chairman Campeaux called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm after having to wait a few minutes to get additional copies of the JBAC minutes from Nov. 12, 2012. After a review of minutes, Mr. Wilson made a motion to adopt which was seconded by Jack Plunk.

Chairman Campeaux address the citizens present and said the JBAC would not be pursuing the 11th St. connection to the Chief.

Henry mentioned to the Mayor that several of our members have failed to participate and that maybe we could use some replacements or additional members.

Next, Henry called for a report on the T-shirts from Mr. Wilson. Ron said the t-shirts have been distributed to four locations to sell; the Depot, the Library, City Hall and the Rec. Center. So far we have sold 14 for a total of \$168 and that he and Henry needed to open a bank account to hold our funds and will be looking into that. There was a suggestion to try to locate a place with more traffic, like maybe at the Farmers Market in the Spring.

Next Jack mentioned that the bicycle parking rack had been installed at Mama Goldbergs and that he was pleased it had been completed. Ron suggested that maybe a bike rack on the Chief at the State Line would be used.

Henry mentioned that we were still distributing the Campus and Community Bicycle Riding guide and said he would revisit JSU PD and the Student Info Center to make sure they were supplied. Chief Thompson mentioned that maybe his School Resource Officers would assist in distributing these too. The Mayor suggested exploring a way to have some at Germaina Springs Park.

Next Henry asked for an update on the proposed sidewalk along G. Douthit Drive. Mayor Smith said he had contacted the manager about WalMart contributing to the project but now the store had a new manager and we may have to begin again. This sidewalk is planned for the South side of G. Douthit from the Chief spur past JHS to the back entrance of WalMart.

Henry asked about the degraded signs at the State line and on the JSU kiosk. Jack said he had emailed and/or talked to Pete Conroy and Dr. Meehan and to the best of his memory he thinks that Dr. Meehan had allocated \$5,000 to Pete to repair and replace as necessary but has not heard from Pete since before the last meeting. Jack said he would follow up with Pete.

Jack mentioned that he has seen new Sharrow markings on Park Avenue and they look great. He mentioned that this seems to be working well and repeated the desire of the

Committee for the City to add more on those streets done initially under Phase One during 2012.

There was a short discussion on the Pros and Cons of pursuing the Bicycle Friendly Community designation from the League of American Bicyclists. Jack mentioned that there doesn't seem to be more grant funds available but the real benefit is in the community putting in place the policy, process, facilities and effort to accommodate bicyclists. He also mentioned that one of the important steps is for the JBAC to have law enforcement representation and the Council to take action on a Complete Streets ordinance similar to what Anniston has recently passed.

Chief Thompson then briefed the JBAC on the JPD's interactions with bicyclists, saying that from time to time his officers have to warn bicyclists in neighborhoods about riding in the middle of the street or making turns in front of autos and that these were almost always children. He mentioned that sometimes adult bicyclists would go through a stop sign and usually his officers would make a judgment call based on the traffic volume on whether it is ignored or a warning or ticket is issued. There was a short discussion on whether the City has a helmet law for 16 and younger. Chief Thompson concluded by saying that it seems that bicyclists who ride to and from the Chief into town seem to be very conscientious and safe and have caused no problems and thankfully there have been no accidents.

There was a short discussion about business signs at the Depot and perhaps a food/drink vendor. Mayor Smith said they had considered a vendor inside the Depot but this had been ruled out because of space.

Mayor Smith also mentioned that the Mountain Street NW resurfacing project will begin in the next few weeks. While it will be disruptive for a while, Mt. Street will eventually have new and very smooth asphalt and new striping at the intersection with the Chief.

Jack reemphasized the importance of having bicycle accommodations and parking institutionalized so that facilities are on the checklist that the Planning Commission uses when reviewing plats and development plans. Developers usually have no issue spending \$200 on a bicycle parking rack for a development of several hundred thousand if they know about it up front and design it into the plans. This is important so the JBAC will not have to be reactionary and try to follow each new development. Mayor Smith agreed to look into this and also check and see if bicycle parking can be installed at the proposed new site of Jack's Hamburgers

Jack suggested that perhaps we could move forward with another round of 10 Share the Road signs this spring if we could convince Commissioner Abbot to provide funding.

Chairman Campeaux mentioned the next JBAC meeting is scheduled for March 19th, 2013.

Since there was no more business to discuss the JBAC meeting was adjourned at 7:43 pm.

