

Minutes

Jacksonville Bicycle Advisory Committee

9/25/2012

Present: Henry Campeaux, Jack Plunk, George and Lynn Hoffman-Wirtz, Ron Wilson, Scott Edmiston, Mayor Johnny Smith

Chairman Campeaux called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and asked everyone to review the JBAC minutes from July 17, 2012 that Jack had passed out. After a review Ron made a motion to accept and Scott 2nd and the minutes were adopted.

Mr. Wilson explained that he had picked up 50 t-shirts from the printer and also received an invoice for \$400. He explained that we had probably an addition dozen and that they had cost about \$8 each. He suggested that we sell them for \$12 plus another \$1 for the larger xxL and xxxL sizes. Ron said these would be distributed to City Hall, the Library, the Rec. Center and the Depot to sell and he will deliver them Thursday.

Next Henry asked about the response on using the Chief logo from the Calhoun County Recreation Trails Board and Jack mentioned that it had been discussed at the meeting but basically it was up to the City of Piedmont. Since the City has apparently started an effort to copywrite the logo, who knows if or when we will get formal permission to use it.

The Mayor was running late and joined the meeting at this time.

The Chairman asked if we have had any feedback about the Campus and Community Bicycling brochure and mentioned that JSU President Dr. Meehan had liked it. Jack mentioned that JSUPD Chief Giddy had also responded positively and they would be giving it out as a warning and guide to bicyclists that they observed riding incorrectly or in a dangerous manner.

Henry then asked about the several connections to the Chief in the JBAC work plan. Mr. and Ms. Wirtz are concerned about the proposed 11th Street connection to the trail and voiced issues about auto traffic. Jack mentioned that auto traffic issues are JPD responsibility and not our concern and has nothing to do with the bicycle connection. Ms. Wirtz was concerned about parking at this connection and the committee assured her that no parking was planned. Mayor Smith mentioned that this was City property and a planned street RoW and that Mr. Carr had looked at it and thinks it can be done rather inexpensively as long as drainage along the Chief is accommodated, but that the City Council may postpone this because of another home owner. Jack emphasized that making connections to the Chief for bicycles and pedestrians from residential areas is the best way to improve access so that citizens will not have to drive to the trail or utilize AL 204 to get to it and this technique is emphasized in all of his trail building and management reference books. Some discussion followed about the specific design, the necessary bollards and signage which might be necessary to prevent parking.

There was short discussion regarding the proposed JSU pedestrian bridge. It is thought that this became so intrusive and costly and moved away from the intersection that it had been dropped from consideration.

Chairman Campeaux then asked about the proposed sidewalk along G. Douthit Drive. Mayor Smith mentioned that he had mailed the letter requesting Walmarts participation in this effort to Bobby Smith the manager and that he had not yet heard from her. He mentioned that we had considered a Safe Routes to School (SRtS) application but that federal money would push up the design and cost and it may be easier to fund with local money. Mr. Carr's estimate is \$52k for this sidewalk and if Walmart contributed then maybe the Council would approve the construction.

Henry then called for a discussion of Phase One of the 'Sharrow' project. Everyone seemed to agree this project went well and they were visible. Jack requested that the JBAC ask the City to do Phase 2 on the same streets so that the Sharrows end up about 300 feet apart. The JBAC seemed to agree and the Mayor seemed to think this would be able to move forward this fall and we would do the same streets with more Sharrows closer together.

Next the JBAC discussed the re-paving project on the Chief and Ron mentioned that he had already seen new cracks in the new asphalt. Someone mentioned that the bridge at MaxWellborn had a huge bump and Mayor Smith thought the PARD had an idea to fix it. Jack suggested getting several 'Slow' or 'Bump' signs to attach to the bridge structure and Ron mentioned several holes or bumps still present at MM 21. Jack asked Ron to report to the City of Piedmont or Jack Holder at the Eubanks Welcome Center.

Next Henry asked about the Thank you letter to Alabama Specialty Products who cut the two metal 'Sharrow' stencils for us and Jack reminded him that Yes it has been mailed.

Next Chairman Campeaux asked about the AL Trails Conference coming up on Nov. 1st and 2nd. Mayor Smith mentioned his trip to Fairhope for the last conference and that this one would likely be well attended. Jack reminded the JBAC that this would all types of trails including; water/river trails, off road trails, ORV, horse trails, hiking trails and so forth and that he had to be out of town for training on Nov. 1st and 2nd.

Jack then asked about the status of a bicycle parking rack at the new Mama Goldbergs and complained that he had asked the City about this months ago and received no response. He complained that this is low hanging fruit and a critical oversight in the site plan review process and it was across from JSU and the main bicycle connection between the Chief and the downtown. In addition we already have Share the Road signs and Sharrows on Mountain Street. The Mayor apologized for this and that he would drop in and see if the owner would still put in a bicycle parking rack. Jack offered to accompany him.

Ms. Wirtz asked about the status of completing the Chief into Anniston. Jack said the City of Anniston had received a grant to do a title and ownership search on the remaining segments of the corridor but it looked like Anniston would still need to utilized condemnation and eminent domain to re-assemble the corridor. Also this is a long time consuming process and the Transportation Enhancement (TE) program in Alabama was slowly withering away so that the necessary funds to complete the Chief may not be around by the time the City is ready to move ahead.

Mr. Wirtz suggested that some reflective tape on the middle bollards on the Chief may help to make it safer and Ms. Wirtz asked if anyone had tried to organize Trail Volunteers to patrol and report problems. Ms. Wirtz mentioned that she had seen a car backing down the trail. Mr. Wirtz recalled that the one side of the CrossAlert signal at Alex/Jville road was out and Jack mentioned that he had seen it and already reported it to the County Engineering Department to check on.

Ron asked about the status of camping areas along the Chief and Jack said this a real weakness for the project. He said he had heard the City of Anniston received a grant to build 8 – 10 RV spaces and Tucker Park but nothing has happened as of yet. The Mayor said he had thought about some camping in JSU's RV area or establishing some in the City property just north of the old mill.

Mr. Wirtz mentioned that the signs at the JSU kiosk and the state line were degraded and torn. Jack said he had notified Dr. Meehan and Mr. Conroy of this and JSU had allocated \$5k to repair and replace those at the kiosk and Mr. Conroy was attempting to have this completed before the AL Trails Conference.

Mayor Smith mentioned that no vandalism had occurred at the rest rooms at Germania Springs or the Depot and that was good.

The next JBAC meeting was scheduled for November 13th.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15pm.