



West Lafayette Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

Minutes of Meeting held Thursday February 17, 2011 6:00 PM
Board Room, West Lafayette Public Library

Present: Curt Ashendel (presiding), Pat Boling Stewart Frescas, and Nick Harby

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm.

2. **Corrections were requested for the minutes** of the previous meeting (November 11, 2010) which were posted to the WLBPC web site (<http://www.westlafayettebikeped.org/Committee/Minutes.html>) on November 15, 2010. None were noted in the meeting.

3. News of developments since the last meeting:

There were APC CPC meetings held December 7 and January 25 – Curt reported that these mostly dealt with issues unrelated to cycling and pedestrians, including a housing plan and a proposed traffic circle for intersection of the old and new SR25 in Lafayette.

Pat reported that the 24 hour bicycle ride to raise funds for CASA will be at SIA in August. The group is looking for riders willing to participate and help with fundraising. Contact Pat (boling@purdue.edu) if interested.

4. Open forum for problems and ideas for new actions

Snow removal from sidewalks – A position paper on this topic prepared by Curt was made available on the Committee's website (<http://westlafayettebikeped.org/Committee/Documents/2011/SnowRemovalPositionPaper.pdf>) for background information and analysis of stakeholder positions. The discussion quickly raised the issue that the City's street plows often plowed snow onto the sidewalks at corners such that crossing the street from the sidewalk or entering the sidewalk from the street was impossible (Ron Baker sent this picture (right) showing how the clearing effort of a resident (including the accessibility ramps to the street) were nullified by the City's plows. One benefit if having the City employees clear the sidewalks (if a way could be found to do this) is that it would make the plow drivers more aware of this problem and would likely reduce or eliminate the problem.



In the discussion to decide what to do about sidewalk snow removal, Curt raised the concept of trying to get the Council to rescind the ordinance that requires the adjacent property owners to clear snow from the

sidewalks. In support of this, Curt argued that Purdue University manages to afford the cost of removing snow from sidewalks (and indeed, they rarely have problems with plows clogging the sidewalks with more snow). However, this approach (rescinding or amending the current ordinance) was deemed by most present as unlikely to succeed even if it could be restricted initially (or permanently) to sidewalks along major roads.

Another idea proposed was to have the City work collaboratively with Purdue University to try find a way to make a deal in order to clear the sidewalks nearest the University, such as in the "island" area between Russell Dr. and N. University Street that is surrounded by University owned property. This could also include the part of the City near Mackey Arena for basketball games. This might get the City more comfortable with being involved in snow removal from sidewalks and might open the way to expand the effort elsewhere in the City. Curt said he would put together an action plan to how to proceed based on this concept.

The status of the trail along Lindberg during bridge construction was raised. Curt thought that while they might have been able to leave it open for some of the time, the plan was to close it the entire construction period. However, the north-south trail also appears to have been closed near Lindberg. Curt mentioned that this is funded entirely with local funds and thus bypassed a lot of the public input process that is normally associated with projects that receive federal funding.

5. Projects Only projects with activity were discussed

- a. Bike to work day 2011. Will be May 20. The same committee as last year (Pat Boling, Bill Arthur, and Andy Hirsch). It either will be at Riehle Plaza (as previously) or Tapawingo Park.
- b. CLEAN City challenge. Curt presented the status of this (it is waiting for Curt to get a survey of WL City employees put together and implemented), but he also mentioned that Bike to Work day efforts by the City of West Lafayette count towards this.

6. Upcoming meetings:

The normal scheduled date for the next meeting of the APC Citizens Participation Committee's (CPC) will be Tuesday March 22 at 7:00 pm in the Grand Prairie Room of the County Office Bldg, 20 N. Third Street, Lafayette. However, the meeting has not been scheduled at this time. Curt will not be able to attend that meeting due to a conflict.

The next WL Traffic Commission meetings are at 5:00pm on the second Tuesday of each month in the WL City Hall

The next APC Technical Transportation Meetings are at 2pm on the second Wednesday of each month in the County Office Bldg.

7. Other business and announcements

A seminar by Mia Birk, formerly the Bike-Ped coordinator for Portland OR will be at 2PM on Feb. 28th at the State Government Center in Indianapolis. This has been arranged by the Health by Design group (www.healthbydesignonline.org)

The next meeting of this committee will be Thursday, April 14th at 6pm.

The WL Bike-Ped Committee is normally scheduled to meet the second Thursday of every other month beginning in January. However, Curt postponed the January meeting until February, and he will not be able to hold the meeting March 10th, so that is also postponed until April 14th. The regular schedule resumes in May, with meetings scheduled for May 12, July 14, September 8, and November 10.

8. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm

These minutes were submitted to the website on April 12, 2011 by Curt Ashendel.