



City of Petoskey

PLANNING COMMISSION

November 12, 2015

A special meeting of the City of Petoskey Planning Commission was held in the City Hall Community Room, Petoskey, Michigan, on Thursday, November 12, 2015. Roll was called at 7:00 P.M. and the following were:

Present: Gary Greenwell, Chairperson
Dana Andrews
Dean D. Burns
James Holmes
Emily Meyerson
Rick Neumann
Cynthia Linn Robson
Eric Yetter

Absent: Elizabeth Looze

Staff: Amy Tweeten, City Planner

Also Present: Christian Janssens, 1021 E. Mitchell Street

Upon motion and support, the minutes of the September 10, 2015 special meeting minutes were approved.

As Mr. Janssens was here to comment on the Non-Motorized Facilities Plan, the Old Business agenda item was moved up.

Non-Motorized Facilities Plan

Staff reviewed the current draft and changes that had been made. The new Figure 4 was reviewed, as these were the specific short-term improvements being recommended. In particular, the Commission believed that the West Lake Street improvements need to be made to eliminate this gap in the Little Traverse Wheelway. Discussion then occurred on an idea that had been raised through the Emmet Streetscape project, which was to continue the Downtown Greenway Corridor to Washington Street through easements and then make Buckley Avenue a bike route. Commissioner Meyerson explained that while the intersection of Buckley and Sheridan is not ideal, it could be improved with signage and that because Buckley is a lower traffic street and has less topography, it is better for bikers.

Map changes recommended were to add W. Lake Street as a part of the Little Traverse Wheelway in Figure 2, and to add the proposed property easement for the extension of the Downtown Greenway Corridor on Figure 4.

Commissioners commented that the plan addressed public input on the need and desire for a walkable community; that more education is needed on bicycle facilities but that changes need to start somewhere and the plan is a good beginning; that pedestrians should take precedent; that

there has been negative feedback from bicyclist on the new downtown bike corrals; that it is good our community is addressing non-motorized instead of only vehicle transportation; that Marquette is an example of a city that has an emphasis on bikes; that it is necessary to direct bikes where not to go as well as where to go; and that promotion of the plan is needed.

Christian Janssens noted that as a cycling advocate he sees great benefit in adding biking facilities in addition to the non-motorized trail system; that he thinks the greenway corridor will be a great asset to bicyclists as it will be a flat connector; and that designating bike routes will redirect bikes away from streets that are more challenging for shared use such as E. Mitchell Street.

Staff will make changes and bring the plan back at the November 19 meeting.

Public Participation Plan

Staff reviewed changes recommended since the current document was drafted, including eliminating specific staff names and removing the statement that audio tapes of city council meetings would be available. Commissioners suggested removing specific social media names and noting that video broadcast of council meetings is available through public access television, as well as some grammatical changes. Upon motion and support, the plan was approved by the Commission on a 8-0 vote.

Updates

Staff reviewed the status of the two Charlevoix Avenue site plans approved by the Commission, due to the delay of sidewalk installation in conjunction with the street project. The connector sidewalks were missing from both the Advance Auto Parts and Fletch's sites. Advanced Auto Parts would be completing the connector in the spring, but staff had not heard a response from the Johnson Family. Commissioners discussed the connectors and decided that the installation should be enforced.

The meeting then adjourned at 8:40 p.m.