

Nampa Bicycle & Pedestrian Citizens' Advisory Group
Minutes

Tuesday, June 17, 2008, 7:00 p.m.

Attendance: Worth Montgomery, Barbara Hull, Jerry Hull, Kathleen Cookman, LaRita Schandorff.

Guest: Jennifer Nye-Yost, City of Nampa, Community Development planner.

Most of the meeting was spent hearing Jennifer Nye describe the plan that is in process for an urban trail along Indian Creek in Nampa. A question and answer session followed about trail and street development, city budget processes, and suggestions about how citizens can make their concerns known to city leadership. It was a very valuable time; Jennifer was very helpful and encouraging. We appreciate her time and willingness to attend the meeting.

Indian Creek Urban Trail

- An urban trail along Indian Creek from Sugar Creek to North Side Boulevard has been part of the North Nampa Neighborhood Master Plan since the plan was developed.
- The trail is expected to be wide enough for both bicycles and pedestrians, much like the Boise Green Belt.
- This section of trail will be another piece towards a long range plan that exists within the City of Nampa Trails & Pathways Master plan as well as within the valley to have a trail that will go from Kuna through Caldwell along this natural creek.
- City Council has approved funds to be used to match funding being offered by the Army Corps of Engineers for plan development.
- Funds will be used to hire a consultant to work with hydrologists and biologists with the Army Corps of Engineers by the end of July and a plan should be available from them in 4-5 months.
- Indian Creek's flood plain status is complicating the planning, but this proposed floodplain zoning is being appealed. It is unclear what the outcome will be, but it is not expected that the zoning will return to the previous zoning.
- Once a plan is developed the city will be able to seek grants for funding the project.
- Projected completion is 10-15 years, which (according to Jennifer) is actually sooner than the 20-30 that these things usually take! By working with Army Corps of Engineers now with the planning process it will eliminate the step of having them approve a plan that they were not involved with from the beginning.
- LaRita will send Jennifer and Linda Clark information about EPA Community Environmental Improvement Grant and Bikes Belong Grants which might be helpful to this project or others like it.

Additional info from Q & A session with Jennifer -

- July 15-18 are the dates for the City of Nampa Budget Workshops. These are public meetings so anyone is welcome to come and "listen in" but not speak. This is a good chance to learn the process and hear priorities decided.

- Jennifer encouraged us to influence these priorities by direct contact (phone, face to face, letter, or email) with members of the city council and the various commissions as well as City Staff, and Planning & Zoning. The most effective approach is to build a case for the economic benefits of an infrastructure that supports bicycling and walking.
- August 18 is the Budget Meeting where the budget is approved. This is a "public hearing" but most decisions will have been made by then, so public comment will be weighed, but probably not effectively change any priorities at that point.
- In response to "how can our group be more effective?" Jennifer suggested that we submit proposals requesting changes to codes and ordinances that control on-going decisions rather than responding to individual decisions after they have been made. Jennifer also encouraged the group to contact Planning and Zoning staff to ensure involvement in the development of the Comprehensive Plan for the City.

Old Business -

- Data report on Bike/Walk Day was presented. Data has been posted on the website at www.bikewalknampa.org. 53 registered, 18 businesses represented, 478 miles traveled either biking or walking.
- Slideshow of Bike/Walk Day photos were shared (also available on the website).
- Fall event with Old Nampa Neighborhood Association - no new information available at this time. Waiting for a response from association members.
- Report to City council on Bike/Walk Day will be done at first July council meeting.
- LeBow Tour - Street Smarts booklets were supplied to the Terry Reilly Health Clinic who organizes the ride. They offered them at the registration table the day of the ride.
- Tyler Welshimer wrote letters to Councilman Thorne and Kren expressing our disappointment in the Midland road work and striping decision and explaining how it will have a negative impact on cyclists and pedestrians.
- Tyler also has written some excellent articles on cycling lately for the Idaho Press Tribune, especially in the June 17 edition on how to overcome excuses and get out there and ride. Nicely done, Tyler!

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.