

## **RECREATION COMMITTEE**

**APRIL 11, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Rick Rettig. Committee members present were Jim Matuszak, Rick Rettig and Jonathan Smith. Also present were Bridgette Kabat, City Administrator and Jon Eckel, Service Director.

### **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF U.S. BICYCLE ROUTES**

Mr. Rettig said that this item was previously discussed at a committee meeting and is a nationwide project involving TMACOG and ODOT to create a numbering system for cross country bike routes. ODOT will put up signs labeling the routes, and it does not involve bike lanes or bike paths, just signage. Ms. Kabat said that the resolution does not obligate the City to anything and no dollars will be received or expended by the City. TMACOG provided a template for the resolution and the Law Director put it into our format. Mr. Rettig said that he believes Perrysburg Township has already approved the resolution. The Committee discussed the routes within the City which will be labeled as U.S. Bike Routes 25 and 40A. Route 25 will come into the City on Hull Prairie Road and go to SR65. Route 40A comes from SR582 west to Five Point Road and cuts across to SR65. Mr. Smith asked if there are any mandates attached to this. Ms. Kabat said there are none at this time, and she spoke with ODOT, and they do not see any coming in the future. Mr. Smith said his only concern is with the traffic as bikers try to go from Hull Prairie Road to SR65. Ms. Kabat said that these are the routes that have been chosen and she doesn't believe they are open for discussion. She said that the City has the choice to either support or not support the project. She added that the corner that Mr. Smith is concerned with is not in the City. Mr. Rettig said that he has no concerns with supporting the project since bikes are allowed on the roads just like vehicles. Mr. Matuszak clarified that the resolution does not approve the routes, it just shows support for the concept. Ms. Kabat said that is correct. Mr. Smith said since we are not approving the routes, he is in support of the resolution. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the resolution supporting the project.

### **A LOOK AT BIKE FRIENDLY STREETS**

Mr. Rettig shared pictures of the pavement markings at the intersection of East Boulevard and Bellflower streets at Case Western Reserve. Mr. Smith said that the same thing is on Monclova Road. Mr. Rettig said that this would be one way to create what he would call a bike friendly street. He added that losing parking for bike lanes is a huge disadvantage and there is new State legislation that requires vehicles to pass bikes with 3' of clearance. Mr. Matuszak asked if this means bike lanes are off the radar. Mr. Rettig said that he thinks they are a moot point. Ms. Kabat added that the minimum width for bike lanes is 5' and they have to be on both sides of the street. Considering the cost of moving poles and utilities, it is very costly. Mr. Matuszak expressed concern that if we start marking the pavement indicating it's safe for bikes, the City may have some liability should an accident occur. Ms. Kabat said that she will have to do some research and talk to ODOT about the pavement markings because we follow the Uniform Traffic Control manual.

Diane Friess, 311 West Indiana Avenue, said it is her understanding that Mr. Rettig is not supporting anything in the old part of town. Mr. Rettig said that as far as multi-use paths and bike lanes, that is correct. Becky Williams clarified that he is interested in looking at these pavement markings, and Mr. Rettig said that is correct.

Tom Friess, 311 West Indiana Avenue, asked what happened to the bike route signs that used to be on Sixth Street. Mr. Eckel said that he doesn't know, but they might have been pulled out during one of the sewer separation projects.

Ms. Friess said that the Fort is one of our biggest resources regardless of who owns it and we should do whatever we can to maintain it.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Rettig, Chairman  
Recreation Committee

***Next meeting: Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.***