Morgantown Municipal Bicycle Board

General Monthly Meeting

Thursday, November 1, 2018

6:30-8:30 pm, Public Safety Center Conference Room

## Participants

**Voting Members\*:** Drew Gatlin (Chair), Chip Wamsley (Vice Chair), Frank Gmeindl, Harry Grandon, Jonathan Rosenbaum, Jing Zhang\*\*

**Ex-Officio Members:** Barry Wendell (City Council), Jing Zhang\*\* (MMMPO)

**Guests:** Bill Kawecki (Mayor), Clair O’Neil (WVU Journalism Student)

\*Participation in this meeting did not meet quorum requirements

\*\*Jing Zhang serves as both a voting member and as an ex-officio rep

## Agenda

1. Response to City request for e-scooter input
2. The Spine Network (development and review)
3. 2018 accomplishments celebration: sharrows/bike lane ribbon cutting
4. The bike/ped facilities closure policy
5. Board member recruitment
6. Hazel Ruby McQuain Park
7. The Regional Bike/Ped Plan process

Action Items (Generated from this meeting)

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Owner | Due Date | Action Item Description |
| All BB members | 11/12/18 | Send F. Gmeindl e-scooter recommendations for the City |
| Frank Gmeindl | 11/15/18 | Receive BB member input; draft e-scooter recommendation memo to Assistant City Manager; deliver memo to BB for finalization. |
| Chip Wamsley | 11/12/18 | Gather ribbon-cutting committee |

# Minutes

As noted above, a quorum was not present but discussion proceeded.

## Agenda Item 1. Response to City request for e-scooter input.

**Background:** At the most recent City Council of the Whole meeting (30 October 2018), the city manager’s office notified council that they had received an application for a business license from a well-known electronic rideshare scooter company. See video of that meeting here: <http://morgantown.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2>

Council discussion takes place from minute 0:44 to minute 1:12

The discussion at the council meeting ended with a request to receive input from various stakeholders which included the bike board.

**Board Discussion:**

Discussion centered on how electric scooters might fit into our vision of Morgantown’s mobility system. There’s a lot to learn. Municipal codes may have to be changed to facilitate e-scooter implementation (see Appendix A, memorandum provided to city council during their meeting). At the moment, they are likely unable to operate anywhere within city limits due to their likely classification as a “toy vehicle.” Other toy vehicles that are currently prohibited from streets, sidewalks, and other public places are skateboards and roller blades. Some city councilors are concerned that sidewalks are too narrow and that haphazard scooter parking would impede other public space users.

Motorists and pedestrians are not the only users of public space. The advent of electric assisted and powered bicycles and scooters has blurred the dividing line between “motor vehicles” and “non-motorized vehicles.” With many alternative modes of transportation appearing and more to come, it’s time to re-allocate and redesign public space, update ordinances governing the use of public space to optimize the transportation system for all users, educate users on the changes, and enforce the changes. This is the Complete Streets concept. The City, the County, and the State have established Complete Streets policies.

Jing Zhang described e-scooter programs in Kansas; Charlotte, NC; Washington DC and San Francisco. He provided a San Francisco model application for e-scooter share vendors. The BB will provide recommendations to Assistant City Manager (Emily Muzzarelli) in a response memo.

Frank Gmeindl volunteered to collect BB member input and reduce it to a draft BB response to Emily Muzzarelli’s request for BB input on policies/ordinances that would address electric ride-share scooters in Morgantown.

## Agenda Item 2. The Spine Network (development and review)

Drew Gatlin explained the Spine Network (originally presented at the September 2018 board meeting) using a map of it that was posted on the wall. The Spine Network is a graphical plan for using, adapting and modifying existing infrastructure to create efficient, effective and safe bicycling network in Morgantown.

Chip Wamsley illustrated how a user of the Spine Network could provide input that could be used to improve the network.

Participants discussed what to do with the Network now. One attractive use is as a frame of reference for entities such as the Public Works and Engineering Departments when planning street maintenance and construction to see how bicycle infrastructure can be integrated in the planning process.

Bill Kawecki recommended presenting the Spine Network to Google in Pittsburgh to consider incorporating in Google “by bicycle” routing in Google Maps. Arrangements might first have to be made with property owners of unconventional network routes that cross their property to indemnify them against bicycling mishaps on their property. Participants decided to give the Network map to Alta Planning & Design to use in their new contract with the MPO to update the Greater Morgantown Transportation Plan.

## Agenda Item 3. The sharrows / bike lane celebration

Participants decided to produce two celebrations: one soon, primarily an information release and another next Spring which will include a ride. A Morgantown Minute YouTube video has been produced and published on the City website: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v0GeaYgFGoQ> .

Chip Wamsley is the owner of this action item and Marilyn Newcome and Harry Grandon are working with him to make it happen.

## Agenda Item 4. The bike/ped facilities closure policy

Short non-conclusive discussion about the need for an established process for providing detours for trail and sidewalk closures at a level of service similar to that for motorists when roads are closed.

## Agenda Item 5. Board member recruitment

Turnover of board members due to graduation, job changes, birth of children leaves membership comprised of mainly retired people. Members discussed the changing role of the Board over the years particularly that the City government is doing some of the activities that the BB formerly did. Members expressed an interest in re-establishing the Board as an advisory board to the City Council, the City Manager and the City Manager’s staff. The role and responsibilities of the Bicycle Board and its members need to be reviewed. To attract new members, positives / accomplishments need to be emphasized. A fun event could attract candidates. Participants discussed without conclusion hiring a city staff bicycle/pedestrian coordinator.

## Agenda Item 6. Hazel Ruby McQuain Park

If BB members have specific wishes for the upgrade, the BB should gather them and present them at Riverfront Taskforce. There are monthly meetings somewhere at 9 am but the day and location was not identified. There’s a meeting Nov. 16, 9-12:30 at Marilla Center involving the “River Life” group which has broader scope than the Hazel Ruby McQuain Park and broader than the Morgantown riverfront.

## Agenda Item 7. The Regional Bike/Ped Plan process

The MPO has signed a $260,000 2-year contract with Alta Planning & Design to update the Greater Morgantown Transportation Plan. Data collection will begin in December, 2018.

Appendix A, Scooter Memo



