

Baraboo Bicycle Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
November 11, 2021

Members present: T. Pinion, C. Gabrielson, C. Harding, B. Hartup, A. Workman

Members absent: B. Konen, B. Koenig, S. Mordini

Others present: M. Hardy, M. Stieve, B. Simmert (Sauk county Planning and Zoning) K. Barth, C. Fowler (Associate Planner, Sauk county)

Call to Order

Workman called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. and confirmed compliance with the Open Meeting Law. Motion by Hartup, second by Harding, to approve the minutes of the September 30 meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Hartup, second by Pinion, to approve the agenda as printed.

New Business

a. Discussion of Great Sauk State Trail proposed map routes

Simmert reported that the official planning process will be launched soon. Entities to coordinate with include the City, Village and Town of Baraboo, the WDNR and Baraboo School District. The WDNR/Devil's Lake State Park staff agreed to the Burma Rd route and the Town of Baraboo agreed to the S. Shore Rd to County Rd DL/Hwy113 route. The trail on South Shore Rd will be off road, with separation between trail and road. The current favored route takes a hard right on Park Rd to the entrance to park, crossing DL there. There is a planned spur trail into the park down the main entrance to the exit road and back up DL (loop).

Gabrielson provided an overview of the recommended routes agreed upon by the committee. Simmert reported the existing plan shows the route proceeding north on Vine St to a newly constructed bridge over the Baraboo river. Pinion commented that the RR is planning to close the Vine St. crossing which will close it to all traffic (bike, car, or otherwise). Simmert listed one of the goals of the grant funding of the trail is economic development for downtown businesses, and a Vine St access to a bridge would provide a straight route to downtown. Based on studies Simmert had seen, many visitors to Devil's Lake do not visit downtown businesses. Gabrielson reported that in his experience the opposite was true; based on working at his wife's business and talking to patrons, many came from Devil's Lake.

The route on Lake St was discussed in detail, particularly the switch from industrial to residential and the number of driveways, plus elevation factors. Simmert said the Gall Rd route would require going back to the Town of Baraboo for approval (moving utilities would be an expensive factor, but the south side Gall has far fewer driveways than the north).

The Hwy 33 crossing was discussed in detail. Fowler reported that a tunnel under Hwy 33 was not feasible because the slope of the tunnel would be 16%. Simmert/Fowler presented the alternative of going through Attridge Park (an improved 'Old Manchester bridge' crossing), going up to Upper Oschner using the land area to make several switchbacks to reduce the grade. Simmert proposed a Safe Route to School at Draper St, which Harding, Gabrielson, and Workman all spoke against due to the traffic and congestion already occurring at that intersection. Workman asked if the development funds available could still be applied to improving a crossing west of Draper St; Simmert confirmed they could. Workman, Pinion and Harding reiterated the Shaw to Willow St option with a center turn lane crossing of Hwy 33. Simmert said the Village of Baraboo would need to

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approve an on-street trail on Willow St (few driveways on Willow and fairly wide street). Fowler said the Shaw St bridge isn't wide enough, but another pedestrian/bicycle bridge could be added parallel to the Shaw St bridge. Harding said this could also be used to accommodate the extra traffic from the future Splashpad.

The riverfront property south of the river was discussed in detail. Simmert presented the current plan of crossing the river to the riverwalk trail on the north side. Simmert and Fowler reviewed the obstacles in staying south of the river, and the reasons why the Monona trail example was not necessarily analogous to the property south of the Baraboo river here (wetland as opposed to a floodplain), so a trail may not be able to be constructed. Simmert said easement access would need to be granted from the RR, St. Vinny's and the Historical Society. The utility line south of the river is owned by American Transmission Company (ATC). The old rail line is mostly owned by the Historical Society, and since it is unused, they might be amenable to a "Rails to Trails" conversion. The GSST must maintain 30 ft. of separation from existing active RR, so an elevated bike trail would need to be that distance as well (not enough space to accommodate a raised bridge). The only option would need to follow the City Hall sidewalk to an at-grade crossing of Broadway/South Blvd. to the north side of St. Vinny's and continue west from there.

Gabrielson asked about the exit plan from Baraboo. Simmert reported the current plan is to connect to the 40 acre former City forest west of the BooU campus.

Next Meeting Dates: Next scheduled meeting is a walking tour of the proposed areas, meeting in the parking lot of City Hall at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, Nov. 17.

Motion to adjourn by Pinion, seconded by Gabrielson. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.