

**Baraboo Bicycle Advisory Committee**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting**  
**March 23, 2022**

**Members present:** B. Koenig, C. Gabrielson, B. Hartup, S. Mordini, A. Workman, C. Harding, B. Konen

**Members absent:** T. Pinion

**Others present:** R. Lawrence, S. Taft

**Call to Order**

Workman called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. and confirmed compliance with the Open Meeting Law. Motion by Gabrielson, second by Konen, to approve the minutes of the Feb. 23 meeting. Motion carried.

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

**New Business**

a. DOT Project Inquiry: WIS 33 (Mulberry Street to County T), Baraboo and West Baraboo

1) 2024 road diet project - B. Koenig & R. Lawrence

Project scope: DOT had 3 intersections for refuge islands. Koenig thought there would be more, and especially at the Riverwalk by Hill St. (no crossing now). Will be heavy bike traffic in the future, so advises the committee to recommend options for more bike friendly crossing locations and options. Plans to use Google Earth to visualize where crossings are now and where crossings should be.

b. Review of draft input to the DOT

Hartup suggested a pedestrian refuge across from Sauk county Fairgrounds; perhaps Lincoln & Hwy 33 or Washington/33 would be good crossing locations. Washington may make more sense, but Lincoln has more parking. Hartup said doesn't know if there is a plan for sidewalks along 33 on the east side of town, but Pinion might. On the east-central side of town, N. side of 33, no good safe route to schools. Harding said in the Bike to School event a long time ago with Mayor Nelson, the route went through the Fairgrounds. With the Jackson property on the east side of Hwy T, how do we bring people into town safely? Harding asked if anyone knew where the 35 mph speed limit would be extended to (going east) with the new development going in (no one knew for sure). Koenig and Lawrence concluded in their discussions the best option would be to install pedestrian islands near left turn lanes. Koenig said cost depended on whether it was just paint, or concrete and trees installed. Lawrence said DOT already has 3 islands planned at Willow, Wheeler, and Camp (existing crossing guard/walk at Camp). Hartup asked how much input will the state accept in the design suggestions that we make? Koenig said they seem receptive because refuge islands are already in the plans, so the suggestions are not outside of the scope of what is already planned. What is unclear is if the "white paint" across Hwy 33 is sufficient to what they consider an official "crossing," and whether that is effective. Gabrielson asked if the City of Baraboo is interested/able to maintain medians? Hartup commented that we are a "Tree City," so recommends getting Mayor Nelson, Pinion, and Hardy on board. Gabrielson said that from the perspective of a traffic safety engineer, they want no trees. Koenig commented the less impeded the road is, the faster people will drive. Hartup said it's a safety, traffic modification concern, but it's also a beautification aspect. Harding suggested that perhaps the Sauk county Master Gardeners could be involved in maintaining the medians; Konen suggested Kiwanis used to plant trees and 4-H may be able to help too. Koenig said he would like to see the research on before and after trees installed in medians, and what the results really are. Harding suggested asking

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Pinion and also Sauk city, which has added a whole bunch of crosswalks since 12 was redone. Subcommittee members should send further feedback on the letter directly to Lawrence and Koenig to incorporate into the letter. Gabrielson recommended keeping the letter general in nature, not specific “tree here, curb this high here,” etc. **Workman, Koenig and Lawrence will set up further meetings with Nelson/Pinion/Hardy to gauge City willingness to maintain medians.**

c. Jackson property trail marking and building dates

Potential trail marking Saturday morning, March 26, by John Wright and most likely Pete Schmitz. Walk through by Director of Parks and City Forester and potentially Andy Zimmer during the week of March 28-April 1. First trail building date tentatively set for April 2, 2022. Pete will email Koenig and Gabrielson on a time. Also a name for the park is under discussion; will not be called “Jackson property” forever. Potentials include a Ho-Chunk name after a village that was close to the area.

d. Discussion of Bike to School Day (5/4) or Bike to Work Day (5/20) event

1) Public input at 6 pm - S. Taft & P. Schmitz

Schmitz reported in the past the setup had been record hours biked and win fabulous prizes (bike helmets and others donated by Wildside.) It was kicked off by the coffee shop, Vintage port, and Wildside set up the event tent. Began with a bunch of riders around the square and people left for work from there. Harding said she worked with Mayor Nelson on Bike to School. Nelson and Harding set up the event from East Elementary. Taft recommended a ‘soft’ approach as a test run and then promoting much more next year. **Harding volunteered to contact all the of principals of the schools to gauge what happened in the past.** Taft recommended giving crossing guards different stickers or stamps for students on bikes to collect and record miles. Schmitz recalled the “Bike Rodeo,” at the police department. Schmitz said not a bad idea to have a kick-off event on a Monday (May 16), but have further events during the week; perhaps a “Bike to Breakfast” at Birdie’s Cafe at 7am. Schmitz also suggested a bike to breweries event. Taft suggested changing up the starting locations, i.e. meet up at Bella Vita, have a coffee, then move on to work. Taft said Sunday market is only once a month, so would be great to do a Sunday bike ride; Schmitz said perhaps Wed evening could be a ride to Steinke Basin with a lap at the off road trail. Taft also suggested an Ice Age Trail representative could talk near the Ice Age Trail. Taft suggested bringing this idea to the Downtown Business Association for potential partnership. Schmitz said with a bike rodeo the police need to be involved and that there is police bike staff (Officer Pichler has been seen biking through Gabrielson’s neighborhood). Harding suggested having a bike to school event on Friday and then a Saturday event. **Workman will ask Pichler who to talk to in the PD about a bike rodeo.** Schmitz said Sauk City has a great rodeo, Lisa Wetzel (sp?) was in charge. Gabrielson referenced a Detroit style “slow roll” that has thousands of people where the PD shut down all roads with an escort. Hartup asked if something like that could be incorporated into a Sunday market event, open mornings until 1 pm. Koenig asked about a “bike bus” for Bike to School, where volunteers would be in the front and back to sweep. **Harding volunteered to draft a letter, work with Workman to review, to send on to Schmitz to do an email blast to Wildside patrons with kids.** Koenig suggested putting an article in the district newsletter.

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Tentative dates:

***“Bike Benefit” week all week, for Bike to work week***

**Monday, May 16 - Bike to Work kick off event, intro Bike Benefits, downtown Baraboo**

**Wednesday, May 18 - second bike event to participating businesses**

**Friday, May 20 - Bike to Work/School event**

**Saturday, May 21 - Bike rodeo event**

Taft will approach the Downtown Business Association, Hartup suggested a rotating set of hosts for Monday-Thursdays. Harding suggested a discount setup with businesses where if you bring in your helmet there's a discount (“Bicycle Benefits”). Koenig and Hartup both suggested more bike parking is needed. Hartup said Powered UP Baraboo would also be very supportive of the event, and partner with Baraboo Range Preservation Association for a bike to a preserve event (or ICF, night tour).

**Next Meeting Dates:** Wednesday, April 13, 5:30 pm, City Hall or Zoom.

Harding will generate and send out the Zoom invite for April 13.

Motion to adjourn by Hartup, seconded by Gabrielson. Meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm.