

CITY OF OSKALOOSA
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 13, 2015

A regularly-scheduled meeting of the Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Commission for the City of Oskaloosa was called to order at 4:32 p.m. on Monday, April 13, 2015, by Pamela Blomgren at 220 South Market Street, Oskaloosa, Iowa.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Pamela Blomgren, Wyndell Campbell, Andrew Jensen, R. D. Keep and Sarah Tarbell. COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Holden Barnhart. CITY STAFF PRESENT: Dylan Mulfinger, Akhilesh Pal and Marilyn Johannes. OTHERS PRESENT: Tom Walling, David Krutzfeldt, representatives from Blue Zones and several other citizens.

Minutes from the March 19, 2015 Planning and Zoning Commission special meeting.

It was moved by Campbell, seconded by Keep to approve the March 19, 2015 Planning and Zoning Commission special meeting minutes. The vote was: YES – Blomgren, Campbell, Jensen, Keep and Tarbell. No – none. Motion carried.

Minutes from the March 9, 2015 Planning and Zoning Commission regular meeting.

It was moved by Jensen, seconded by Campbell to approve the March 9, 2015 Planning and Zoning Commission regular meeting minutes. The vote was: YES – Blomgren, Campbell, Jensen, Keep and Tarbell. No – none. Motion carried.

Consider adoption of the “Walk, Run, Ride Oskaloosa: Oskaloosa’s Active Transportation Plan.”

Mulfinger gave a power point presentation on the plan that was included in the Planning and Zoning Commission agenda packet. He explained the major costs involved in implementing the plan are for sidewalks (80%) and crosswalks (15%) and funds will come from various sources as well as the city: the George Daily Trust, the IDOT TAP Program, Mahaska County Community Foundation, various grant programs and private donations.

Blomgren asked how the plan plays in with current sidewalk construction and new construction that requires sidewalks. Pal explained the city has received a \$232,000 grant for construction of sidewalks and the plan is flexible, not necessarily as outlined.

Jensen said the plan is to connect current sidewalks with new sidewalks over time, part of bigger network.

Keep said he liked what he saw in the plan instead of “sidewalks to nowhere.” Keep also asked about metered signs. Pal said for new traffic signals only at this time, not going to change existing signs until they need replaced. If sidewalks are installed, can install metered signs for pedestrians when signals are upgraded.

Jensen questioned the number of performance measures and wondered if the map could show the route of future recreation trail development. Mulfinger indicated future development of the trail had not been mapped out yet, but is being worked on. Jensen also said it would be nice to reference

the maps in the text. Jensen said should emphasize want to connect to current sidewalks, first priority to avoid “sidewalks to nowhere.”

Tarbell said she is glad the routes avoided heavy traffic areas and asked if the bus route was taken into consideration, felt the bus route should be outlined on the map, that the bus route be put on walking path, could increase bus route participation. She asked if there were bike mounts on the buses. Mulfinger said no but he did not believe they would object if you bring your bike on the bus.

Keep asked if sidewalks were going to be put in on both sides of 11th Avenue West eventually. Pal said yes.

Campbell said it would be helpful to put up way-finding signs showing route to priority destinations, access points on map, that signs need to direct people where to go to find priority destinations, should be highlighted on the map. Campbell said objections would come from citizens who were going to have to clear the sidewalk of snow in the winter due to the installation of the sidewalks, often a hardship for the handicapped and elderly but he felt the advantages outweigh the disadvantages.

Pal said priorities are not set in stone, plan is flexible. Council has already adopted the Safe Routes to School Plan which is the city’s first priority and it will be implemented as funding is available. Second priority is to connect new sidewalks to existing sidewalks. Pal also indicated the bus route can be incorporated on plan.

Blomgren asked the audience if anyone would like to comment. Sharon Ferguson, Tom Walling, Natalie Spray and Roger Bean commented on the plan.

Blomgren asked how the city plans to continue making progress toward the project. Mulfinger said the bicycle coalition that will keep making recommendations.

Blomgren said she is in favor of the plan and recommended a motion in favor. Keep made a motion to recommend that City Council adopt the “Walk, Run, Ride Oskaloosa: Oskaloosa’s Active Transportation Plan.” Campbell seconded. Campbell said he is anxious to see progress on the plans. The vote was: YES – Blomgren, Campbell, Jensen, Keep and Tarbell. No – none. Motion carried.

It was moved by Campbell, seconded by Keep that the meeting adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Minutes by Marilyn Johannes