
Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2009
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: City Council Chambers, City of Urbana, 400 S. Vine Street, Urbana, IL

Members Present: Brandon Bowersox, Rick Bernotas, Gary Cziko, Susan Jones, Barak Rosenshine, Audrey Ishii, Gary Biehl, Bryan Lake
Staff Members Present: Jennifer Selby
Absent: Gary Engelgau, Dana Macuso

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Brandon Bowersox called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Roll call was taken by verbal record and a quorum was present.

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. Upon voice vote the motion carried unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Rick Bernotas and seconded by Gary Cziko to approve the minutes from November 18, 2008. Upon voice vote the motion carried unanimously.

V. Public Input

No public input. Rick Bernotas mentioned that he has noticed a problem with people driving straight through the four-way stop sign at McHenry Street and Vine Street. Discussion ensued. Brandon Bowersox mentioned two ideas to help with this problem: pass this onto the police to put in an extra step detail and observe and ticket if necessary; and we contact the traffic commission.

VI. New Business

A. City of Urbana Bicycle Parking Ordinance – Robert Myers

Robert Myers presented regarding the Bicycle Parking section of the Urbana Zoning Ordinance, which was updated December 2008. The ordinance applies to private development. The zoning ordinance implements the Comprehensive Plan and the Bicycle Master Plan. Robert reviewed the plan including bicycle parking requirements by use. This policy is enforced as part of the plan submittal. Discussion ensued about retrofitting this policy and the group was informed if we find a business that does not comply then contact Robert Myers.

A discussion of existing bicycle parking throughout the city ensued. There are 181 bike parking spots in downtown Urbana and more spaces will be installed at Lincoln Square Mall and the parking deck this year. Urbana School District is interested in changing over to better bicycle racks but funding is an issue. They are planning on working on this issue with their upcoming budget to get all the schools upgraded to new bicycle racks as they have installed at King School. They applied for money from Safe Routes to School to install all new bike parking at all the schools in 2007 but did not receive the grant.

Discussion ensued about ideal bike parking in Urbana. Mandate bike parking for every 10 parking spots. Install more covered bike parking. Add bike parking to the central business district. Install better signage and require the bike parking be within 50 feet from front door of businesses. Jennifer Selby is in the process of updating the design guidelines.

B. Roundabouts – Gary Cziko

Gary Cziko presented. Gary feels that there are designs to make street safer including – bike lanes, roundabouts and back in angled parking. Roundabouts have been around since 1970 in Europe. Gary noted a publication by the Federal Highway Administration that asks why roundabouts should be considered: designed to slow traffic down and reduce conflicts and accidents. Gary pointed out that there is a roundabout workshop on February 23, 2009 at the I-Hotel. Discussion ensued.

C. Back-In Angled Parking Discussion – Gary Cziko

Gary Cziko presented. Gary stated that the advantages of backing in are that you can see the traffic as you exit, you have a better field of view, and there are fewer accidents. It is safer when you open the doors, children are prevented from going out in the street and you can load your trunk from the sidewalk side. Disadvantages include: exhaust directed at the sidewalks, collisions with parking meters and poles, license plate visibility and lack of education of back in angled parking.

Gary Biehl would like to find out more information about the negative feedback regarding back in angled parking that was expressed in the Urbana Parking Study. Jennifer Selby will investigate when this will come to council. Discussion ensued.

VII. Old Business

No old business.

VIII. Announcements

Mark Fenton will be in town on April 8, 2009 – April 9, 2009. He was a speaker at the Safe Routes to School conference that Jennifer Selby attended. He is an Olympic race walker and involved with fitness.

Gary Cziko announced there is a Big 10 parking and transportation meeting at U of I in May. He also announced his website www.transitionchampaigncounty.org

IX. Adjournment

Brandon Bowersox adjourned the meeting at 8:50

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Hoffman
Recording Secretary