

## Fairhope Pedestrian and Bicycle Committee

Nix Center

February 7, 2017

Final

**Attendees:** Jeannie McCain, Katie Bolton, Jeff Hudson, Sietze Slinkman, Meredith Montgomery, Nancy Milford, Mike Groutt, and City Council Representative Robert Brown.

**Guests:** Gary Gover and several others.

**Review of Minutes from January Meeting.** Approved with no changes.

### **Bike Parking Subcommittee Report (Jeannie McCain).**

- Jeannie McCain presented a map of downtown Fairhope showing existing and proposed bicycle racks, at both public facilities and private businesses. Proposed sites were developed by the subcommittee based on recommendations from the committee and suggestions from the public.
- Based on discussion from the committee, bike racks at the Baldwin County Satellite Courthouse and Pro Bike and Tri Bicycle Shop will be added to the map.
- Jeannie also presented the subcommittee's recommendation for a uniform style bike rack for the city. Two styles were recommended: an 'inverted U' and a 'hitching post'. Both can be used as is, or customized with a logo or with a plaque recognizing a donor.
- Jeannie also discussed a bicycle parking initiative in New Orleans (WhereYaRack.com). A non-profit has been very successful in arranging the installation of many bicycle racks around the city, using private donations, sponsored racks, and fundraisers. Jeannie noted that the city of Fairhope has been looking for a new type of memorial installation (since they already have enough benches) and bike racks can often be sponsored for around \$300 installed.
- Nancy Milford suggested that a committee representative meet with Jennifer Fidler, Public Works, and Wayne Dyess, Planning Department, to talk about the plan and seek their input.
- Motion was made to move forward with the bicycle parking plan by first meeting with Fidler and Dyess. The plan lists 28 public sites around town, and offers five priority sites in downtown as a starting point (City Hall/Civic Center; Welcome Center; Delamare and Section; Delamare and Church; and the Bluff, near the Veterans Memorial).
  - Katie Bolton questioned whether it would be best to move forward with additional bike paths and sidewalks first, before trying to install additional bike racks. Members of the subcommittee explained that the plan to install additional bike racks has been a long standing goal of the committee as an inexpensive and fairly easily accomplished way to begin making a visible presence for bicycles in Fairhope.
  - Katie also suggested that parks in Fairhope be added as a priority for bike racks. The committee agreed to add the new Fairhope Soccer Park, Founders Park, Stennis Park (tennis center), and the toddler park on Fels to the list of proposed sites.
  - Suggestion that any proposal also include funding (how much, who would pay, etc.)
  - Committee voted unanimously to move forward by meeting with Fidler and Dyess.

### **Downtown Bicycle Lanes (Meredith Montgomery).**

- Meredith Montgomery presented a recommendation for additional bicycle lanes in downtown to connect existing lanes. Specifically, the recommendations included:
  - Church Street, on both sides from Fairhope Avenue to Magnolia;
  - Bancroft, on both sides from Magnolia to Fairhope Avenue and from Oak to Bayou;
  - Equality, east bound only, from Section to Bancroft (to include making the street one-way to all traffic); and
  - Magnolia, west bound only from Bancroft to Section (again, including making the street one-way for all traffic).
- There was discussion about one-way streets, and how they can make for a “downtown” feel. There was also discussion about the current use of “Sharrows,” with many expressing the feeling that less experienced cyclists are not comfortable when sharing the lane with motorized traffic.
- Committee decided that this topic would be added to the discussions with Fidler and Dyess.

### **What's Happening in Fairhope Facebook Posts**

- Katie Bolton and Meredith Montgomery mentioned that bicycling and bicycle safety were receiving a great deal of attention on the What's Happening in Fairhope Facebook group. The big issue is crosswalk safety (not enough crosswalks, cars not yielding to pedestrians in crosswalks, pedestrians not using crosswalks). The postings also discussed bike lanes.

### **Public Input**

- Member of the public mentioned that since the work on Fairhope Avenue has been completed (repaving, addition of islands), more motorized traffic has been using Mershon and Brown cut-throughs from Fairhope Avenue to Morphy. Pedestrians from the neighborhood are in danger from speeding traffic. Can sidewalks be added to provide a safe place to walk? (Committee consider making a recommendation to Jennifer Fidler in Public Works.)
- A member of the public questioned the committee going forward with any recommendations for bike parking or bike lanes until Fairhope has completed a new comprehensive planning effort; however, no details were available about any planning that is currently underway or proposed.

**Next Meeting:** 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 7, 2017, at the Nix Center.