



3RD WARD MEETING MINUTES – ALDERMAN DENISE RODD

September 9, 2015

AGENDA

- Bike & Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Tour Des Plaines – River Trail Bike Ride
- Pedestrian Issues

GUESTS

Bike & Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Wharton Sinkler, President
Members: Judy, Jim and Cheryl

WELCOME

Thank you for coming. Our guests are from the Bike & Pedestrian Advisory Committee to talk about upcoming bike rides in Des Plaines, input on pedestrian crosswalks in town and tell us what DPBPAC is all about.

BIKE & PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Organized in 2013 as a Bike and Pedestrian Commission, which was not sanctioned by the city became a Grassroots organization to make Des Plaines a better place for walking and biking. Wanting to change Des Plaines' label from "Profoundly Un-Bike able" to a non-vehicle friendly community for its residents. City of Des Plaines is quite supportive of our organization and good for the City to hear from constituents on what is wanted. Des Plaines has more bicycles and pedestrians out and about the town than ever before, making Des Plaines a better place for those living, working and biking in Des Plaines.

A recent accident of at a pedestrian vs. car resulting in a fatality, in the downtown area, brought awareness to the hazards of walking and biking. The Bike & Pedestrian organization is looking at ways to educate drivers on how to watch for pedestrians and bicyclists and have bicyclists, pedestrians and drivers learn how to share the roads....safely.

DPBPAC provides valuable assistance and information to the City of Des Plaines Engineering Department in assisting with crosswalks in downtown area. Warton, President of Des Plaines Bike & Pedestrian Advisory Community feels Des Plaines is a good town and the organization (along with the Des Plaines) is making it easier and safer to get around town for residents without a motorized vehicle, would also be a benefit to local businesses...It is the way of the future!

How did you get started? 2013- Started as a Bike & Pedestrian Commission, again, not sanctioned by the city, became an organization meeting the 1st or 2nd Tuesday of each month at the History Center. We are always accepting new members.

DES PLAINES RIVER TRAIL BIKE RIDE

The 4th annual Des Plaines River Trail Bike Ride is to be held this coming Saturday, September 12, with registration at 9:00 a.m. organized by the Des Plaines Bike & Pedestrian Advisory Committee with the City of Des Plaines Special Events Commission. Ride will start at 10:00 a.m. with a 4 mile ride starting and ending at the Historic Methodist Campground (1250 Joseph Schwab Road). Routes will take riders 2 miles to Touhy Avenue then 2 miles to Golf Road. Helmets are required. If you do not have a helmet or need to buy a new one, Lutheran General Hospital Emergency Room will be at the event with a table selling helmets. There will also be other bike accessories available to buy at the bike ride. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Entertainment, Refreshments and a Raffle will be held afterwards.

How are you able to fund these rides/events? We do have funds and fundraising comes through local businesses. Food is donated for Saturday's event and we (DPBPAC) use our funds to make up any difference.

Is riding a bicycle on a sidewalk allowed? Yes it is but not in Downtown area – only outside business areas. Bicyclists do need to watch out for pedestrians if riding on sidewalk.

Committee's Wish List:

- Working with District 62 to do a Walk or Bike to School Day sometime next year (2016).
- Are there any plans to have a bike path along Algonquin or Oakton through the Forest Preserve areas? There is a group that is focusing on paths in this area but it is not easy because of jurisdictional issues and funding. Ballard is one route that goes through Forest Preserve. Oakton would be tough.
- Would Park district help with going through Forest Preserve. No.
- Bike Trail on Central Road with a bike shelter running Wolf Road E to River Road. There is a 27 mile trail from Barrington to Wilmette. There are other trails but not all trails connect. The cost would come to \$1.7M with a grant of \$1.3M ... we would need to make up the difference.

Any ideas? Suggestions? Des Plaines Bike & Pedestrian Advisory Committee would like to hear from you, list is open. DPBPAC can be reached at www.dpbpac.org.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS

Miner Street pedestrian crossing between the Sugar Bowl and Train Station is being considered for reconfiguration by the Engineering Department. Crossing would have the medium or refuge area to be more of a diagonal, thereby turning the pedestrian to view traffic upon crossing. Plan was to go with flashing lights when a pedestrian was to cross, this was disallowed by IDOT because flashing lights do not come under their street specifications. (Miner Street is under IDOT jurisdiction and requires their approval for signage.)

Crosswalk is being considered at Wolf and Hoffman Parkway. There would be a light and a refuge in the middle. Derek from Engineering is also wanting to build up the medium as a barrier to prevent vehicles from hitting pedestrians. Without the CDBG Grant, this project could not be completed. For more information on CDBG see bullet point under CITYWIDE section.

S Curve Pedestrian Walk: Overhead Bridge is cost prohibitive. City sent out an RFQ (Request for Qualifications) to Engineering Firms with a request of 10 different criteria, which includes having the Engineering Firm communicate with the Railroad. Requests are due this year.

Des Plaines Engineering Department is working very hard on pedestrian walkway improvements. Alderman Rodd is a chair on the Engineering Group and getting involved with the projects. Denise became an Engineering Chair from the last election, each election, approx. every 4 years, Aldermen change chairmanship.

CITYWIDE

- Des Plaines received a grant from CDBG (Community Development Building Group) which allows for the city and community to make improvements. Des Plaines submitted a proposal that covers 4 years (October 2015 to 2019) for homeowners that fall or below home income threshold.
 - Extremely Low - \$20K or Less
 - Low is \$60K for a family of 4.
 - Funds allocated are approximately \$276K and have to be used within the 4 year timeframe. No carrying of funds over into another period. Funds need to be for improvements to moderate, low income areas.
 - Park District using funds to move forward to update Apache Park
- Council Meeting was held Tuesday, September 8, delayed a day by the Labor Day Holiday.
- Budget Season is starting. Not sure on how Illinois State cuts will dwindle down to City of Des Plaines and State cuts are "cutting" deeply. With the Legislative not moving, State can come at us.
 - State is withholding Casino Revenue. We are operating in the rears and using money we received from Casino 2 years ago.
 - State is withholding motor vehicle fuel tax from pumps in Des Plaines.
 - E911 Surcharge being withheld.
- What is opening at Algonquin and Wolf? Hot Dog Stand. Meeting scheduled with city building department regarding property.
- Crossing Guards are needed for the City. Those interested, please contact the Police Department at the non-emergency number.
- Leela Theatre located in the old Mason's building is a possible site for our next 3rd Ward Road Trip.
- ERA Tools on North Avenue has moved. Property is being considered for a retirement facility. A draft of future property has been reviewed, but nothing formally submitted.

NEXT MEETING

Date October 14.

Submitted by Ruth Bethscheider, volunteer

TO CONTACT DENISE

- Phone Number: 847.514.6318. Please call Denise at this number with issues, questions and concerns.
 - Email: denise@3rdward.org
- Facebook is set up for the 3rd Ward. Search DP3 in Facebook.
 - Twitter's hash tag is @Denise Rodd
 - Web Site: www.3rdward.org