

MINUTES

MANHATTAN URBAN AREA PLANNING BOARD

City Commission Room, City Hall
1101 Poyntz Avenue

October 21, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ken Ebert,
Phil Anderson
John Ball
Debbie Nuss

Neil Parikh
Jerry Reynard, *chair*
Gary Stith, *vice-chair*

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

Chad Bunger, Asst. Community Development Director; John Adam, Senior Planner

1. CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1. Adam called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Staff called roll and stated there was a quorum.
- 1.2. Open Public Comments: there were none.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

- 2.1 Approve the minutes of the October 7, 2019 Manhattan Urban Area Planning Board meeting

Ebert moved that the Board approve the Consent Agenda; Ball seconded. Motion passed 5–0–2.

3. WORK SESSION

- 3.1. Review the draft BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN SYSTEMS PLAN and provide comments

Adam presented the Bicycle & Pedestrian Systems Plan

Stith asked if there were a concrete timeline. Adam said certain projects would be able to be implemented quickly if the funding were available. He said Community Development is looking into grants to help with funding. Adam said staff would be excited if the high-priority projects could be completed within five to ten years. Anderson said the City has no dedicated bike lanes currently and wanted to know where one of those could exist. Adam said Manhattan Avenue from City Park to Clafin would probably be a dedicated bike lane. Anderson was hoping for a dedicated lane

along Fort Riley Boulevard. Adam told the Board that there is a KDOT project happening in the next few years at the bridge on Fort Riley Boulevard, above Wildcat Creek. The new bridge would include a safe passage for pedestrians and would extend to Poliska Lane. From there, the City would likely utilize sidewalk gap funds to connect that stretch of sidewalk to 17th Street.

Ebert asked if graphics can be provided to show how these projects would look when complete, including cross sections. Adam said there another document that he would share with the Board that contains cross-sections and recommended improvements, but that would be primarily for internal use. The current plan presented is a general action plan. Ebert asked about Amherst Avenue and Miller Parkway. He said they appear to have lane markings for bicycles. Adam said that on arterial and collector streets, that is the preferred treatment. He said striped bike lanes and sidewalks are preferred but not required. In Kansas, there is no state law that requires it.

Parikh said he works in a building near one of the demonstration projects that staff did. He wanted to know if that was going to be built and what it achieves. Adam said bulbouts allow pedestrians to see past parked cars in order to cross more safely. Parikh said that motorists need to be able to see too. He said that in his opinion, it doesn't leave much space to make a right-hand turn going either direction. He felt that it made driving more dangerous. Parikh mentioned that there are a high number of large trucks and semis that navigate that area which have a difficult time making those turns.

Stith said that looking at page 15, there is a section of Kimball Avenue that is labeled "long term", but the City is actively working on that area. He wanted to know if they will be incorporating the bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure at this time as well. Adam said he will have to adjust the legend to "do now".

Nuss said on behalf of the Flint Hills Wellness Coalition, that health equity and connectivity have been on the forefront of the Coalition. She finds this to be quite reassuring. On the discussion on the intersection of Houston and 4th Street, Nuss asked if the town still had the truck routes. If not, she asked if they can be implemented again. Bunger said he believes there are still a few signed truck routes. He said it is something that can be looked into. Nuss said it could help with congestion and could be enforced. Parikh said that besides large trucks, there are school buses as well. He asked what the purpose behind the bulbouts were, besides pedestrians seeing further. Adam said that drivers are able to see pedestrians better; it improves intersection safety.

Stith mentioned that between page 60 and page 61 the terminology isn't the same. Adam said he would get that remedied. Stith also asked if bike lanes could be simply painted onto the existing street in the Candlewood area. He wanted to know why it was not green or dark green on the map since it would appear to be an easy and quick project. Adam said he would bring that up with the consultant too.

Nuss said she was pleased to see that the document showed areas where sidewalk gaps should be filled in. As far as new development goes, sidewalks will be developed

with the new development. Nuss wanted to know if this meant that new development would develop sidewalks on both sides of the street or not. Adam said that at this time, the city is still debating that topic. Ball recommended adding that into the Unified Development Ordinance. Nuss said she would like to see documents such as these to be mutually reinforcing.

Anderson mentioned electric bikes are becoming popular and they can reach speeds of 30–35 mph. He wants the city and Board to be thinking about how that will impact plans in the future. Adam said there will have to be City policy that determines the restrictions for that. Stith suggested adding the regional trails, citing a concept in Arkansas that has had benefits to economic development. If it could be documented and drafted, a regional trail could be established.

Colene Lind, 2048 Hunting Avenue, said she was excited to hear and see the plan. She said it is a great concept to help the City become a more pedestrian friendly place.

4. REPORTS AND COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF

- 4.1. Planning updates from staff: Bungler said there are a few PUD amendments coming before the Board soon.
- 4.2. Comments from Board members: Parikh and Ebert said they will be absent on November 4, 2019.
- 4.3. Next meeting. Chair announced the next meeting is November 4, 2019

5. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Submitted by Dre'Vel Taylor, Planning Intern