# WAUSAU

# OFFICIAL NOTICE AND AGENDA

of a meeting of a City Board, Commission, Department Committee, Agency, Corporation, Quasi-Municipal Corporation, or Sub-unit thereof.

Meeting: BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Members: Gary Gisselman, Doug Diny, Susan Schmidt, Tyler Wildman, Chris

Filtz, Ben Gerhards, Veronica Hope

**Location:** Board Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of Wausau City Hall, 407 Grant Street.

Date/Time: Monday, February 27, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Public Comment

- 3. Approve the Minutes of December 5, 2022 Meeting
- 4. Discussion: Opportunities for Bicycle Education at schools
- 5. Discussion and Possible Action: 4<sup>th</sup> Ave Monk Gardens Sidewalk request
- 6. Discussion and Possible Action: Changing MPO Bike Routes in the City
- 7. Discussion and Possible Action: UniverCity Year Program Pedestrian Priority Study
- 8. Planning for Bike Month May 2023
- 9. Next Meeting Date: February 27, 2023
- 10. Adjourn

It is likely that members of, and a quorum of the Council and/or members of other committees of the Common Council of the City of Wausau will be in attendance at the abovementioned meeting to gather information. No action will be taken by any such groups.

Questions regarding this agenda may be directed to the City Planning Office @ (715) 261-6760.

#### This Notice was posted at City Hall and emailed to the Media on 02/23/2023

Any person wishing to offer public comment may e-mail **City Clerk Kaitlyn Bernarde at clerk@ci.wausau.wi.us** with "BPAC Public Comment" in the subject line prior to the meeting start. All public comment, either by email or in person, will be limited to items on the agenda at this time. The messages related to agenda items received prior to the start of the meeting will be provided to the Chair.

Other Distribution: Media, Alderpersons, Mayor, City Departments

#### CITY OF WAUSAU BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Time and Date:** The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee met on Monday, December 5,

2022 at 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room of Wausau City Hall.

Members Present: Gary Gisselman, Doug Diny, Tyler Wildman, Chris Filtz, Veronica Hope, Susan

Schmidt

Others Present: Brad Lenz, Andrew Lynch, Cord Buckner, TJ Niksich, Lance Mueller

In compliance with Chapter 19, Wisconsin Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and transmitted to the *Wausau Daily Herald* in the proper manner.

# Welcome and introductions

Chair Gisselman called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

#### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

# Approve minutes of previous meeting(s)

Motion and second by Wildman/Hope to approve the minutes. Approved unanimously.

# **Discussion: Bicycle Safety and possible ordinance changes**

Chair Gisselman brought up the need, in the light of the fatal crash in September, to examine the city bicycle ordinance and look at other programs that could help avoid another tragedy. Lynch noted that after such an incident it is a good idea to look at the physical environment and determine if there was a contributing factor or something that could be changed. Since that was not the case the committee could look at the education and outreach that is being done or could be done. Schmidt noted that the ordinance hadn't been updated in years and didn't mention e-bikes. Officer Buckner explained that the registration system is used to identify and return lost or stolen bikes but there are no inspections or other requirements. Lynch noted that many communities are getting rid of their registration systems and using an online database such as Bike Index. Filtz questioned if there were any school biking instruction or instruction during driver's education. It was suggested to discuss the Safe Routes To School plan that is being written by NCWRPC at a future meeting. The committee also wanted at future meetings to hear about the Aspirus program that is mentioned in the updates. Lynch noted that was tentatively scheduled for the January meeting. Gisselman closed the conversation and voiced his desire for the committee to take some action on this in 2023 and that they could continue to gather information.

# Discussion and Possible Action: Traffic Safety Request 7th and Bridge St

Chair Gisselman had received an email from a resident which noted multiple near misses between pedestrians and cars at the intersection of 7<sup>th</sup> St and Bridge Street. Staff noted that this intersection is likely being crossed by children preparing to use the school crossing at Bridge and 6<sup>th</sup> St one block away. Schmidt did note that there are times during the day that she will not ride her bike on 7<sup>th</sup> due to the volume of traffic. Many cars use it as an alternative to 6<sup>th</sup> Street and to potentially bypass the turn lanes at 6<sup>th</sup> and Bridge. Niksich offered to place traffic counters at the intersection in the spring and if the volume is high enough it may warrant an upgrade to a four-way stop. It can also be put on the list for painting crosswalks. The committee will likely revisit this item in the spring after the traffic counts are performed.

# **Updates and Information**

Bike/Ped Advisory Committee June 27, 2022 — Page 2

Lynch relayed the updates on items from the previous meeting. This was included in the packet.

# **Future Agenda Items**

Aspirus Safety Programs

Offset intersections safety concern at 9<sup>th</sup> and Forest Park, 11<sup>th</sup> and Crocker. These were noted by Gerhards as dangerous crossings in his neighborhood.

# **Adjourn**

Motion and second to adjourn by Diny/Schmidt. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

Next Meeting is January 23, 2023

#### CITY OF WAUSAU BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Time and Date: The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee met on Monday, January 23,

2023 at 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room of Wausau City Hall.

**Members Present:** Gary Gisselman, Tyler Wildman, Ben Gerhards

Others Present: Andrew Lynch, Lance Mueller, Allen Weslowski, Amanda Tabin, Fred Heider,

Ian Whaples

In compliance with Chapter 19, Wisconsin Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and transmitted to the *Wausau Daily Herald* in the proper manner.

### Welcome and introductions

Chair Gisselman called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

A quorum of members is not present. No action will be taken.

Welcome to Lt. Jill Kurtzhals as the new police liaison. She replaces Cord Buckner who has retired.

# **Public Comment**

Ian Whaples is a student a West High School and questioned the number 7 bike route use of 17<sup>th</sup> Ave between Bridge and Stewart due to the hill and lack of bike lane. He wondered if it could be changed. Chair Gisselman asked staff to investigate it and make it a future agenda item if necessary.

### Approve minutes of previous meeting(s)

No action taken.

### **Update: E-Scooter Ordinance**

Lynch reported that the City of Wausau Ordinance Code now included Chapter 10.41 covering electric scooters. This was due to the efforts of the committee. It passed unanimously through both the Public Health and Safety Committee and the City Council. Wildman asked if Bird Scooter was involved. Lynch said this issue originally came up during talks with Bird, however a future vendor for that service is a separate discussion since there are multiple scooter companies.

#### Presentation by Amanda Tabin from Aspirus on the Teach Safe Bicycling program

Tabin is the Injury Prevention Coordinator for Aspirus Hospital which to maintain a Trauma Level rating must also work on prevention of common injuries. Her office coordinates helmet fittings and giveaways with the Kiwanis Club and Wausau Wheelers. They also do the Caught Being Safe program that gives away 500 coupons for ice cream to kids that are wearing their helmets or behaving properly while biking. For 2023 Tabin is rolling out a program called Teach Safe Bicycling in conjunction with the Bike Fed. This posts signs around travel corridors. The signs have messages about safe riding and QR codes that will show videos related to the message. Tabin is working with the Parks Dept to determine the best locations for the signs, likely along the River's Edge Trail. She is also looking to expand the number of Fixations available in the City.

### **Update from Fred Heider on the Safe Routes to School Plan**

Fred Heider, Planner at NCWRPC, is writing the Safe Routes to School Plan for the Wausau School District. This encompasses the urban elementary schools and the middle schools. Heider described his work as evaluating the programs and information available to students at each school as well as doing site evaluations with the principals at each school. He has found the principals receptive to campus and surrounding streets changes as there may be funding from the referendum. Student and parent surveys have

Bike/Ped Advisory Committee June 27, 2022 — Page 2

also been taken to determine how they travel to school. Heider will also be looking at the areas around schools to find likely routes students use to walk to school. Weslowski noted that a list of desired striping or sidewalk improvements would be best to have by June to include in the 2024 budget. The plan is expected to be complete by Summer of 2023.

### **Planning for Bike Month May 2023**

Lynch noted that this was an early heads up on planning events for May. The Mayors Bike Ride is traditionally done, but not much else. Gerhards and Wildman suggested doing a bike polo game downtown and Gisselman suggested closing a street for festivities. Lynch will put this item on the February and future agendas and is looking for a committee member to take the lead on this project.

### **Adjourn**

Motion and second to adjourn by Wildman/Gerhards. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Next Meeting is February 27, 2023

From: <u>Darcie Howard</u>
To: <u>Andrew Lynch</u>

 Cc:
 Susan Lang; Whitaker, Paul; Derek Burdick

 Subject:
 Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Sidewalk on 4th

 Date:
 Wednesday, February 22, 2023 2:18:09 PM

#### Hello Andrew:

Monk Botanical Gardens would like the City to look into adding a sidewalk from campus drive up fourth ave to our new entrance off of fourth ave. Many Wausau citizens walk and bike to the Gardens when they visit. We want to continue to encourage this behavior. However, fourth ave does not have a bike lane or a sidewalk for people to use. The road tends to be dangerous to walk because 3M trucks travel fast down fourth ave to their business site.

The Gardens plans to move its entrance from 1800 N 1st ave to 4th Ave in September 2023. We will be conducting a variety of improvements to the Gardens, including installing a parking lot with a gatehouse along 4th ave. In addition, the entire 30 acres will be fenced in, and security will be added to increase safety and security for the botanical gardens.

Please let me know if I can provide you with any other information. I appreciate your consideration,

Darcie E Howard she/her/hers Executive Director Monk Botanical Gardens Office: 715-261-6309 Cell: 715-680-9485

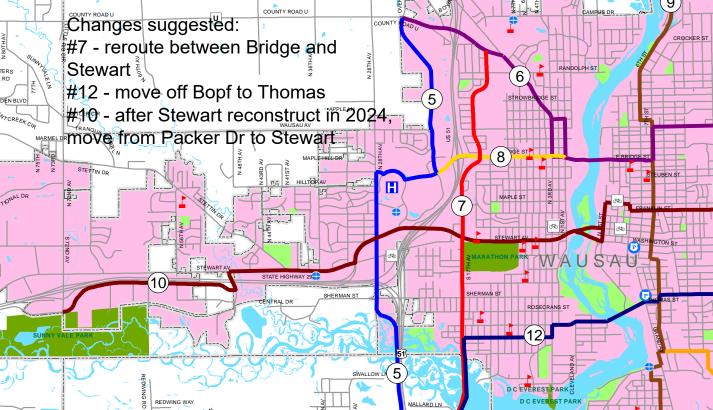
Mailing Address: 518 S 7th Ave, Wausau, WI 54401 Physical Address: 1800 N 1st Ave Wausau, WI 54401

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UniverCity Year program partners with nine communities in 2023 (https://univercity.wisc.edu/2023/02/15/univercity-year-program-partners-with-nine-communities-in-2023/)

# UniverCity Year program partners with nine communities in 2023

Posted on February 15, 2023 (https://univercity.wisc.edu/2023/02/15/univercity-year-program-partners-with-nine-communities-in-2023/)

In a record-setting cohort, University of Wisconsin-Madison's UniverCity Year program is partnering with nine communities across Wisconsin during the 2022 to 2025 academic years and leveraging university resources to move forward their goals.

<u>UniverCity Year (https://univercity.wisc.edu/ucy-snapshot/)</u> (UCY) is the hallmark program of <u>UniverCity Alliance (https://univercity.wisc.edu/)</u> – an initiative that connects local governments across Wisconsin with resources at the university. During the three-year program, students and faculty work with communities toward locally-identified goals.

"Communities are hungry to get fresh ideas and a jump-start on project ideas they have," UniverCity Alliance Managing Director Gavin Luter said. "UW-Madison is a unique partner for these communities because we hopefully are perceived to be a neutral third party whose only interest is to help the communities improve."



UCY is partnering with nine communities from 2022-25. Credit: Shannon McManus.

The nine communities include the villages of Cottage Grove and Shorewood; the cities of Marinette, Milton, River Falls, and Wausau; and Eau Claire, St. Croix, and Wood counties.

"We're excited to partner with the UW system and tap into the innovative minds of our next generation of leaders," said Jason Stroud, assistant city administrator for the city of River Falls, said. "The resources provided by UniverCity Year will be invaluable in developing creative solutions to the complex challenges we face as a local government."

Through 2025, these partners will work with UCY staff to identify projects and partner with UW-Madison faculty as their students complete tangible deliverables that can be implemented into Wisconsin communities.

"I am thrilled to work with UniverCity Year on some of Wausau's strategic challenges," Mayor Katie Rosenberg said. "Smaller cities like Wausau typically run very lean and it doesn't take much to disrupt longer term planning and positioning initiatives, so we're excited to work with eager students on projects that will have lasting impacts on both our internal staff and our residents, business owners, and visitors."

The communities applied to UCY to address a range of issues, including public health, sustainability, social support services, electric vehicles, historic preservation, and equity.

"Working with UniverCity Year will elevate our health priorities and bring additional capacity to this important public health work," said Kristie Egge, supervisor of strategic initiatives for the Wood County Health Department. "It will allow students to get real-life experience working on initiatives to improve the health of rural Wisconsin residents."

City of Milton Mayor Anissa Welch said she believes partnering with UCY will solidify the city's commitment to creating a caring, thriving, and equitable community for all.

"The partnership will allow the city to leverage projects that align with our strategic plan and lead to not only stronger community engagement with the city but also fortifying connections with other foundational organizations throughout Milton," Welch said.

While each community has unique needs, the UCY program has seen an increase in requests around child care issues, EMS recruitment and retention, affordable housing, program effectiveness, and environmental sustainability.

In the wake of the pandemic, Luter said communities have learned that the typical ways of doing business no longer holds.

"This is a huge moment for our local communities across Wisconsin as they come out of the pandemic," Luter said. "The UniverCity Year program is here to help these communities rethink their standard ways of doing things."

#### 'New and innovative solutions'

Since its first partnership in 2016, 20 communities have partnered with UCY. The new cohort brings the total to 29 communities, with 15 counties and 14 cities, towns, and villages participating.

The program illustrates the Wisconsin Idea in action, fostering active engagement between UW-Madison and Wisconsin local governments.

"UniverCity Year can be a program that brings these on-the-ground issues directly to faculty and students,"
Luter said. "This helps us continue to stay relevant across the state, while also improving how we train students in applying their fields to public issues."

UCY takes community-based scholarship and teaching to the next level by responding directly to community needs with university resources. Communities shape the deliverables that will meet their needs, and students receive a high-impact learning experience.

Community leaders are excited to work with students, both to consider new ideas and to contribute to their highimpact learning experiences.

City of Marinette Mayor Steve Genisot said the community hopes the process will bring "new and innovative solutions to the many projects we are working on," while St. Croix County Justice Services Director Phil Galli said working with UCY will bring a "fresh perspective" to challenges facing the community, like increasing access to housing and treatment options for justice-involved individuals.

"I am eager to begin the partnership with UW through the UniverCity Year program," added Cottage Grove Village Administrator Matt Giese. "Through our partnership, we will be able to provide experience, resources, and new connections for the UW students and bring innovations to staff and our residents alike."

After the projects are identified, UCY staff will match them with faculty members and instructors who will incorporate the work into their courses or find other ways to get UW-Madison faculty, staff, and students working on these projects. UCY also provides support to participating faculty by facilitating meetings with the community and providing funding opportunities.

Students will present their recommendations to the community, however, the partnership does not end there. UCY staff will continue working with the communities to evaluate the feasibility of student recommendations and report on outcomes.

"The Village of Shorewood as an organization appreciates the lessons and progress that can be made from collaboration," Village President Ann McCullough McKaig said. "This program will allow us to partner with talented, capable student groups on high impact projects that the Village Board has prioritized to be reviewed. We're looking forward to the partnership and are excited for the work to start!"

By the end of the partnership, Eau Claire County Administrator Kathryn Schauf said she hopes the UCY experience "highlights what we can accomplish as we partner with diverse partners to solve problems."

"We hope that the community will gain additional insight into the benefits of the UW system and the meaningful outreach that it can have to communities such as ours," added Norb Kirk, finance director for Eau Claire County. "We believe that the completion of the projects we have outlined will enhance the citizens of the county and be an example of how communities can partner with the UW System for the betterment of both parties."

 $Posted in Community (https://univercity.wisc.edu/category/community/) \mid Tagged City of Marinette (https://univercity.wisc.edu/tag/city-of-marinette/), City of Milton (https://univercity.wisc.edu/tag/city-of-milton/), City of River Falls (https://univercity.wisc.edu/tag/city-of-milton/), City of River Falls (https://univercity.wisc.edu/tag/city-of-wausau/), Eau Claire County (https://univercity.wisc.edu/tag/city-of-wausau/), Eau Claire County (https://univercity.wisc.edu/tag/city-of-wausau/), Eau Claire County (https://univercity.wisc.edu/tag/st-croix-county/), UniverCity Year (https://univercity.wisc.edu/tag/univercity-year/), Village of Cottage Grove (https://univercity.wisc.edu/tag/village-of-cottage-grove/), Village of Shorewood (https://univercity.wisc.edu/tag/wood-county/)$ 

# **PROJECT DESCRIPTION FORM**

Complete this form for each proposed project.

E-mail completed forms to <a href="mailto:qavin@cows.org">qavin@cows.org</a> by November 1, 2022

Project Title	Pedestrian Priority Study	
Project Sponsor Authorizes project, provides resources, removes obstacles	Name	Andrew Lynch
	Email address	Andrew.lynch@ci.wausau.wi.us
	Phone number	715-261-6686
	Communication preference	Email
Project Lead  Main point of contact for faculty and students.	Name	Andrew Lynch
	Email address	
	Phone number	
	Communication preference	Email
Oversight Committee Who else from the community or your local government should be involved?	Name	Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
	Meeting schedule	4th Monday. Every month as needed.
Project Description What questions need answering? What goals need to be achieved? Why do this now? What has already been tried?	The City of Wausau would like to become more pedestrian friendly and reduce barriers for differently-abled and older adult residents. While there are sidewalks throughout most of the city there are significant areas without and gaps in the network. The high pedestrian traffic downtown and riverfront area are also areas that need attention, especially at intersections and crossings. The City has adopted the Wausau MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan that briefly touches on pedestrian needs. The City is soon to adopt a Strategic Plan that focuses on creating an age friendly community.  Goals:  Develop a listing and map of all sidewalk gaps in the City, a prioritization list, and a budget for completing all sidewalks within a to be determined timeline.  Examine all intersections and crossings in the downtown and riverfront area for pedestrian accessibility and safety.  Develop a proposal of inclusive pedestrian improvements that the City is not already doing, budget and suggested locations.	

Final Deliverable(s) What should students produce? Report? Video? Spreadsheet? Presentation?	Final deliverables should include a report and presentation to the oversight committee. Include whatever materials the students feel would be relevant to the discussion and decision.
Project Implementation What would successful implementation of this project look like in the community?	The City would begin implementing the various recommendations by either budgeting for improvements, changing processes, adopting new policies.
Project Budget How much could the community allocate to project implementation?	
Data What information can the community share with students? What information should students collect?	City has a GIS layer of sidewalks, the road network, and aerial images. Other data is available upon request.



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#### NATIONAL BIKE MONTH

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# NATIONAL BIKE MONTH

May is National Bike Month, promoted by the League of American Bicyclists and celebrated in communities from coast to coast. Established in 1956, National Bike Month is a chance to showcase the many benefits of bicycling — and encourage more folks to giving biking a try.

READ ABOUT THE FIRST EVER NATIONAL RIDE A BIKE DAY IN 2021 »

#### SIGN UP FOR THE NATIONAL BIKE CHALLENGE »

In 2023, we'll be celebrating ways to #BikeThere during National Bike Month and National Ride A Bike Day on May 7, 2023. There are so many ways to celebrate Bike Month and to #BikeThere: during Bike to Work Week (and Day!), biking to coffee or around the block, and riding on May 7 for #BikeDay.

Bike to Work Week 2023 will take place May 15-19, 2023, and Bike to Work Day is on Friday, May 19!

With a focus on individual and community wellbeing, **we'll be highlighting how you can #BikeThere during Bike Month**. Whether you're riding for fun, fitness or with family, or taking essential trips to work or shop, you are part of our movement for safer streets, connected communities, a healthier planet, and happier people.

As a national sponsor, the League provides resources to help you and local organizations in your area plan an event, and each year the number and diversity of Bike Month celebrations continues to grow, accelerating the momentum around bicycling nationwide.

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