

**City Commission Special Call Meeting
Bike Lane Discussion—Walnut St
City Hall, 101 S Hickory St
November 16, 2015—6:30 pm**

The Governing Body met at 6:30 pm this date with the following members present and participating to wit: Mayor Skidmore, Commissioner Dickinson, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Reed, and Commissioner Graves were all present. A quorum was present.

Mayor Skidmore called the meeting to order.

Opening/Welcome

Mayor Skidmore stated the purpose of the meeting was to continue discussion regarding bike lanes to be painted, as well as drive lanes, on Walnut from 1st to 5th enhancing the safety of bicyclists.

Mayor Skidmore stated a group of citizens focused on issues downtown along with staff, who gave consideration to resolving the “trail gap” along Walnut. This committee recommended to the Governing Body to have the Prairie Spirit Rail Trail formally installed in the middle of Walnut Street. The Governing Body voted unanimously to approve this request at the Regular Commission Meeting on October 21, 2015.

Presentation by Downtown Development Team

The Governing Body heard from Jack Maxwell with the Downtown Development Team. Mr. Maxwell gave a background of how the team became developed and how they reached the optimal recommendation to place the bike lanes in the middle of Walnut Street to resolve the “trail gap”.

Community Development Director Wynndee Lee spoke that the final design for this project has not yet been created. This means the loss of all parking along the 100 and 200 block is not definite at this point in time.

Presentation by City Engineer

The Governing Body heard from City Engineer with BG Consultants & Engineer David Hamby regarding the bike lane installation on Walnut Street. Mr. Hamby stated the drawings that are currently available are not final drawings. These are done off of aerial photos. The surveying has not been completed at this time.

Public Comments

Community Development Director Wynndee Lee read comments from the following citizens provided by email to City Manager Richard U Nienstedt:

- Christopher Rech, Emporia, KS—For the bike lane installation
- Randy Rasa, Iola, KS—For the bike lane installation
- Susan Muro, Kansas City Area Cyclist—For the bike lane installation
- Eddie Davalos, Out of town Cyclist—For the bike lane installation
- Jason Puett, Topeka, KS—For the bike lane installation
- Elizabeth Stewart Burger, Lawrence, KS—For the bike lane installation
- Greg Burger, Lawrence, KS—For the bike lane installation

Kenny Suffron, 1713 S Ash Street, owns a business at 418 Walnut. Mr. Suffron spoke regarding eliminating parking in front of his business.

Garry Brown, 322 S Main, owns apartments between 3rd and 4th street on Walnut. Mr Brown stated parking on the east side of Walnut in the 300 block is critical for his tenants. Mr. Brown stated the lack of parking is the most frequent reasons he gets for declines from potential tenants.

Charlie Adamson, 2209 Nevada Road, owns a business in the 100 block of Walnut. Mr. Adamson spoke on the lack of communication he received regarding this project. Mr. Adamson does not want to lose parking in front of his business.

Becky Gregg, 416 Walnut, spoke not in favor of losing parking along Walnut.

Delbert Jamison, 225 S Walnut, spoke not in favor of losing parking along Walnut in fear of Drivers License Bureau not having sufficient parking.

Clayton Boyles, 603 N Mulberry, spoke in favor of the bike lanes project on Walnut.

Bo Killough, owner of the 424 S Walnut apartments, suggested others routes for parking if the bike lanes would eliminate parking on Walnut.

Louis Reed, representing Ottawa Main Street as well as a member of the Downtown Committee, spoke in favor for the bike lane project on Walnut.

Richard Deitz, 4840 Nevada Rd, owns a building in the 400 block of Walnut. Mr. Deitz spoke in favor of the bike lane project on Walnut.

Randy Joust, 939 N Birch, would like to see a common ground met to meet parking needs and biking needs along Walnut.

Commissioner Discussion

The Governing Body had discussion with City Staff and Citizens regarding the bike lane project on Walnut. A decision was not made at this time, and it was agreed to place this item back on a study session agenda.

Adjournment

There being no further business to go before the Governing Body, Commissioner Caylor made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dickinson to adjourn the meeting. The motion was considered and upon being put, all present voted aye. The Mayor declared the meeting duly adjourned at 7:59 pm.

Carolyn S. Snethen, City Clerk

November 16, 2015