

**CITY OF WARRENVILLE  
BICYCLIST AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING**

**Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.  
City Council Chambers at City Hall  
28W701 Stafford Place, Warrenville, IL 60555**

**A G E N D A**

- A. CALL TO ORDER
- B. ROLL CALL
- C. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2023 MINUTES
- D. CITIZEN COMMENTS
- E. STAFF REPORT
- F. BUSINESS OF MEETING
  - 1. Debrief on Fall Trail Clean Up Event
    - i. What went well
    - ii. What to change in the future
    - iii. Other thoughts
  - 2. Select 2024 Bike Rodeo date
- G. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/REPORTS
- H. ADJOURN

**ADA ACCOMMODATION NOTICE: Requests for accommodations should be submitted to the Assistant City Administrator at (630) 836-3050 or [amorgan@warrenville.il.us](mailto:amorgan@warrenville.il.us) at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.**

**CITY OF WARRENVILLE  
BICYCLIST AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.  
Warrenville City Hall Council Chambers  
28W701 Stafford Place  
Warrenville, IL 60555**

**MINUTES**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Sikaras called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Commissioners Susan Kasprowicz, Kirk Tate, Mark Kasprzyk, and Charles Sikaras.

Also Present: City Council Liaison Alderman Craig Kruckenberg and Staff Liaison Paula Krapf.

Absent: Chairman Harlan Davis

**C. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 8, 2023 MINUTES**

Motion to approve minutes of August 8, 2023 meeting by Commissioner Kasprzyk and seconded by Commissioner Kasprowicz.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Aye: Commissioners Kasprowicz, Tate, Kasprzyk, and Sikaras.

Nay: None.

*MOTION ADOPTED.*

**D. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

No comments were submitted in advance of the meeting and no citizens offered comments in person.

**E. STAFF REPORT**

Liaison Krapf provided update on the CBS Special regarding the Mack Road Bike Project.

Liaison Krapf reminded Commissioners of upcoming Community Census, and encouraged involvement by the Commission to encourage participation by residents.

Liaison Krapf provided an update from Glen Ellyn regarding their Bike Rodeo. General theme was that numbers were down in years past, and they, too, are looking at ways to increase participation in coming years.

**F. BUSINESS OF MEETING**

**1. Discussion on Fall Trail Clean Up Event**

- a. Check in on Marketing – FB post, Hometown Happenings/Daily Herald

- b. Check in on plans for day of event – Commissioners discussed primary and secondary locations to send teams for cleanup, including East Side of River Trail south of Warrentville Rd, and then up through Warrentville Grove if numbers allowed.
  - c. Check on Supplies – Bags provided, Liaison Krapf to check with Public Works regarding pickup of bags along trails.
  - d. Waiver and release form for volunteers – Commissioner Kasprzyk handling these. Email in advance to participants who signed up.
2. Bike Rodeo Update
- a. Commissioners discussed the need to gather information regarding signage in order to set a budget.
  - b. Commissioners discussed marketing much earlier, along with connecting with another program already taking place.
3. 2024 BPAC Meeting Dates to review and approve.
- a. Commissioner Sikaras suggested amendments to Nov, Dec, and Jan meetings. Liaison Krapf to advise of availability.
4. Review of Action Plan Items
- a. None

G. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/REPORTS

- a. Commissioner Tate brought up wreck involving motorcycle victim at intersection of Mack Rd/Hwy-59, and the safety of the intersection considering the Mack Rd. Bike Trail Project.
- b. No other comments.

H. ADJOURN

Commissioner Tate made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:44 p.m., Commissioner Kasprzyk seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Aye: Commissioners Kasproicz, Tate, Kasprzyk, and Sikaras.

Nay: None.

*MOTION CARRIED*

*Respectfully submitted,  
Commissioners Sikaras, Kasproicz, Tate, and Kasprzyk.*

# CITY OF WARRENVILLE

## MEMO

To: Bicyclist and Pedestrian Advisory Commission Members  
From: Paula Krapf/Communications Coordinator/ BPAC Staff Liaison  
Subject: OCTOBER MONTHLY REPORT  
Date: October 3, 2023

PK

**This report is intended to provide communication from the Commission Staff Liaison to the Bicyclist and Pedestrian Advisory Commission members on a monthly basis. Please contact me if you have any questions or comments.**

### **Route 59 Multi-Use Path and Sidewalk Public Meeting (Community Development)**

*Strategic Plan Goals #4: City Infrastructure and #5: Public Safety*

As part of the Federal grant funding and IDOT requirements, City staff and its consultant will hold a public meeting and open house regarding the project on Thursday, October 12, from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Directly affected businesses and residents have been notified by mail. Staff has publicized the event with a newspaper notice, Hometown Happenings, as well as on Facebook and the City's website. The meeting will be an open-meeting style with staff and its consultants available to answer questions about the project using visuals like posters and preliminary plan sheets. Anyone interested can attend; no RSVP needed.

### **BPAC 2024 calendar**

After reviewing proposed dates for 2024 meetings, BPAC will keep the original January 2024 meeting date (January 9) because there was no meeting space available for alternate dates. The 2024 calendar is included in the meeting packet and will go to City Council for final approval.

### **Bike Rodeo Date 2024**

We should select a date for the 2024 event. Although BPAC is considering future changes these may take time to implement and may warrant discussion with City Council. We should proceed with a 2024 event at City Hall. Public Works will look at the current signage and make some recommendations. We might want to wait to hear from them before investing in new signage. We do have some funds available, but we also have other items to purchase (we have no items left to give away at events like National Night Out).

### **Bicyclist struck by vehicle in Glendale Heights**

Commissioner Sikaras shared this news item: <https://www.nbchicago.com/news/local/bicyclist-struck-by-vehicle-in-suburban-glendale-heights/3239612/>

### **Upcoming Meetings and Dates to Remember:**

Oct 02 7:00 p.m. City Council

05 7:00 p.m. Plan Commission / Zoning Board of Appeals

09 7:00 p.m. Public Works and Infrastructure Committee

**12 4 – 6 p.m. Rte 59 Multi-Use Path Project Public Meeting, City Hall**

12 6:30 p.m. Bicyclist and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

12 7:00 p.m. Tourism and Arts Commission  
16 7:00 p.m. City Council  
17 7:00 p.m. Environmental Advisory Commission  
17 7:00 p.m. Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Awareness Commission  
19 7:00 p.m. Plan Commission / Zoning Board of Appeals  
24 6:30 p.m. Police Pension Board Quarterly Meeting  
24 7:00 p.m. Board of Fire and Police Commissioners  
**27 *Records Clean-up Day – City Hall Offices Closed to the Public***



**PUBLIC NOTICE**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that REGULAR meetings of the BICYCLIST AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMISSION will be held at City Hall, 28W701 Stafford Place, Warrenville, IL at 6:30 p.m. on the following dates:

January 9, 2024  
February 13, 2024  
March 12, 2024  
April 19, 2024  
May 14, 2024  
June 11, 2024  
July 9, 2024  
August 13, 2024  
September 10, 2024  
October 8, 2024  
November 12, 2024  
December 10, 2024

This notice is given pursuant to 5ILCS 120/1 (1991).

Dated: September 12, 2023

\_\_\_\_\_  
Julie Clark, City Clerk

**ALL INTERESTED PARTIES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and other applicable federal and state laws, the City of Warrenville meetings will be accessible to individuals with disabilities. Persons requiring auxiliary aids and services should contact the Assistant City Administrator/Accessibility Coordinator, 28W701 Stafford Place, Warrenville, IL, call (630) 393-9427 or email [amorgan@warrenville.il.us](mailto:amorgan@warrenville.il.us) prior to the meeting to inform of their anticipated attendance.

FOR EDITORIAL INFORMATION ONLY:  
Suburban Tribune, and the Daily Herald

## Illinois Prairie Path marks 60 years since the start of rails-to-trails movement

Illinois Prairie Path marks 60 years since the start of national rails-to-trails movement



An Illinois Prairie Path cleanup crew in Aurora takes a break on April 29. *Courtesy of Illinois Prairie Path Corp.*

**By Ralph Banasiak**  
**Along For the Ride**

Posted 9/19/2023 6:00 AM

Inspired? Speak up!

Thanks to naturalist May Theilgaard Watts's vision, bikers and trail users are now reaping the benefits in Cook, DuPage and Kane counties.

Her September 1963 letter to the Chicago Tribune proposing a nature corridor to replace the abandoned Chicago, Aurora and Elgin electric rail line led not only to "a proud resource," the Illinois Prairie Path, but also a national rails-to-trails movement.

Watts imagined abundant native prairies and woodlands, Scouts earning badges, students observing nature, bikers riding "far and fast without being endangered by cars."

Fast forward 60 years and her vision is spot on. The 62-mile [Illinois](#)

[Prairie Path](#) welcomes bikers, runners, birders, and nature lovers.

Three main branches converge at Wheaton's zero mile-marker: the Main Stem west from Maywood and the eastward branches from Aurora and Elgin on the Fox River.



**The recently installed Founders Memorial salutes May Theilgaard Watts and colleagues at the Warrenville trailhead.** - Courtesy of Jeremy Behnken/Recycled Cycling Bike Shop



The Batavia spur trail connects to the Aurora branch, one from Geneva to the Elgin branch.

To honor its 60th anniversary, the Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation (IPPC) and [Glen Ellyn Park District](#) are hosting family bike rides on Saturday, Sept. 30.

The leisurely 3- and 10-mile rides roll from 1 to 4 p.m. from Glen Ellyn's Prairie Path Park, between Forest Avenue and Park Boulevard, with frequent stops to explain prairie path history and amenities. Nonriders are welcome.

Per IPPC board member Ken McClurg, ride leaders will include DuPage County amateur historians Brian and Joyce Ostberg.

Since retiring, respectively, as scientists from AT&T Bell Labs and Abbott Labs, the Ostbergs have researched the Illinois Prairie Path as part of their [BeHistoric video channel](#).

"Our first series focused on the CA & E Railroad and Winfield Mounds -- sites of historic and prehistoric interest," Brian Ostberg said. "Many railway artifacts still linger along the former right-of-way: bridges, culverts, signal bases, etc.

"We've spent many hours cycling and walking, looking for and documenting CA & E artifacts. Along the Elgin branch alone, we've documented about 80 artifacts thus far -- a bit of a treasure hunt."

A good summation is their video: "[History and Prehistory along the Illinois Prairie Path.](#)"

The celebration also includes music, games and giveaways, anniversary souvenirs, food from [Heavenly Hot Dogs](#), and goody bags for registered participants.

Five anniversary sweatshirts will be raffled. Register for the free event at [gepark.org/gepdevent/illinois-prairie-path-family-bike-ride](http://gepark.org/gepdevent/illinois-prairie-path-family-bike-ride).

### **Rails-to-Trails Movement**

In his 2023 edition of "Best Rail Trails Illinois," Chicago author [Ted Villaire](#) provides maps, trail characteristics -- length, surface, difficulty -- parking access and historical notes, among other information, for more than 40 rail-trails across Illinois, including two sections covering the Illinois Prairie Path.

Villaire notes that Watts's letter, and the outpouring of local support it generated, helped inspire the national rail-trails movement.

While some argue Wisconsin's 32-mile Elroy-Sparta State Trail opened before the Illinois Prairie Path, Brandi Horton, vice president of communications for the [Rails-to-Trails Conservancy](#), declared the Illinois Prairie Path very significant to the national movement.

Located in densely populated metropolitan Chicago vs. rural Wisconsin, Illinois Prairie Path's underlying concept garnered widespread public attention.



**The Warrenville trailhead at Butterfield and Batavia roads was dedicated on July 27.** - Courtesy of Jeremy Behnken/Recycled Cycling Bike Shop

Today, more than 2,000 U.S. rail-trails exist, extending over 25,000 miles, roughly 10% of the nation's total railroad network at its height.

Illinois currently claims 1,063 miles of rail-trails, eighth among U.S. states in mileage.

**Volunteers are key**

From an original 14 founders to over 800 members today, Illinois Prairie Path volunteers have played important roles working alongside numerous governmental organizations. Watts and colleagues spread the corridor preservation notion widely, collaborating with regional authorities, plus state and federal legislators.

While most trail maintenance is done by governmental entities, volunteers continue similar collaborative efforts like scheduling cleanups and weed/brush removal events at trailheads, resting areas, kiosks and near mile markers. Approximately 400 volunteers turned out April 29 for the annual cleanup headed by 19 site coordinators on both the Illinois Prairie Path and nearby Great Western Trail.

"IPPc purchases some amenities," like informational signs, benches, kiosks and mile marker posts, McClurg said, noting a new water fountain at Wheaton's mile zero.

"But municipalities and the county also purchase and install amenities."

IPPc recently donated \$23,000 for the Founders Memorial kiosk unveiled at the July 27 ribbon-cutting of the new Warrenville trailhead. While IPPc did not lead that trailhead project, it still shaped the outcome along with multiple municipal and county entities.

Trail advocates continue to envision even more improvements. An eastern extension is proposed, leading from its First Avenue terminus in Maywood to Forest Park's CTA Blue Line, less than a mile away.

IPPc board member Ralph DiFebo said, "Construction of this extension is key to closing the gap between the Salt Creek Path, Prairie Path and proposed Des Plaines River Trail."

A Forest Park resident, DiFebo has fostered this extension since 2017-18.

"Brandon Johnson (now Chicago Mayor Johnson) had just been elected Cook County Commissioner in 2018. I approached him before he was sworn in. He really liked the idea and has been one of its biggest backers ever since," DiFebo said.

"He and his staff helped us navigate various county departments to get us to where we are today. Commissioner Tara Stamps succeeded Johnson and is as committed as he was to see the project completed."



**Runners take off at the 2022 Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley Superhero Hustle: Run for the Kids. This year's event will be held Saturday, Sept. 30, beginning in Villa Park.** - Courtesy of EasterSeals DuPage & Fox Valley

## **Superhero Hustle**

Watts's "proud resource" will host another anniversary celebration on Saturday, Sept. 30.

[Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley's](#) 20th Superhero Hustle: Run for the Kids, a 5K run and 2-mile walk along the Illinois Prairie Path and streets in Villa Park, starts at 7:30 a.m. at the Rosalie Dold Center, 830 S. Addison in Villa Park.

Besides superheroes, this fundraiser boasts live music from Northern Trust's band The Exceptions, the Legoland Discovery Center, LaGrange Area Department of Special Education, and the Jesse White Tumblers.

Cost is \$30. Register by Thursday, Sept. 28, at [easterseals.com](http://easterseals.com).

- Join the ride. Contact Ralph Banasiak at [alongfortheridemail@gmail.com](mailto:alongfortheridemail@gmail.com).