Edmond Bicycle Committee
Special Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2011 7:30 AM
10 S. Littler Public Works Administration
Building, Room 104

Members Present: Chairman Jeff Bennett, Members Addie Miller and Tim Tillman
Others Present: Kim Waggoner, Henry Holasek, Ryan West, Tony Sikes, Jeff Sikes, Emilee Bounds, Craig Wallace, Officer Bervis Littles, Jane Zimbelman, Kevin King and Tom Kuntz
Staff Present: Jan Fees, City Planner; Bob Schiermeyer, Planning Director; Steve Manek, Engineering Director; Harry Fenton, Project Engineer; Jim Smith, Assistant City Manager over Operations; Steve Commons, Assistant City Manager over Administration; Larry Stevens, City Manager.

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:30 AM. Chairman Bennett welcomed all in attendance and introduced new Youth Member Addison “Addie” Miller to the Edmond Bicycle Committee.

2. Introduction of members and guests: All present introduced themselves.

3. Approval of Minutes from May 13, 2011:
Motion by Tim Tillman, seconded by Jeff Bennett, to approve the meeting minutes from May 13, 2011. The minutes were unanimously approved as written.

4. Discussion and Consideration of Bicycle Master Plan
Chairman Jeff Bennett said there is good news in that the bicycle master plan has been funded. City Manager Larry Stevens said $150,000 has been identified to come from the CIP trails allocation for a bicycle plan since the existing Transportation Plan doesn’t adequately address bicycles. He said the city has been interested in this for a while but hasn’t had the money, but now, will be moving forward with a RFP for a plan. Mr. Stevens talked about the new economic reality for the City of Edmond to be a 2-5% sales tax growth not an 8%, as in the past, which means less money available for all public projects. He said he is supportive of the Edmond Bicycle Committee and bicycling and looks to move forward as quickly as possible.

Chairman Bennett asked who would be coordinating with the EBC on the plan. Mr. Stevens said Jan Fees would continue to work with the EBC along with Director of Engineering Steve Manek and Project Engineer Harry Fenton since the bicycle plan has to tie in with the Transportation Plan. Tim Tillman questioned what level of engagement the EBC can have with the plan. Mr. Stevens said there can be a role in the drafting of the RFP for the plan and projects relevant. Director of Engineering Steve Manek said his department puts out a RFQ annually for all engineering projects, which is in the process now. He said they would probably send out a second separate RFQ just for the bicycle master plan. He said it will take 3-4 weeks to get responses and then will review with Jan. He said they generally interview the top 3 firms, then work to negotiate a contract with one decided on and develop a timeline for the project. Tony Sikes questioned when the RFP would go out and Mr. Manek said it would go out before July 31.

Mr. Tillman questioned how ITS will work with bicycling. Mr. Manek explained the Intelligent Transportation System, ITS, and said it will take a long time to get it going but will be coordinated with bicycles also. Mr. Stevens said ITS has a cost of around $9 million - $10 million and will really be an enhancement to Edmond’s traffic system. Tom Kuntz said he
appreciated intersection signals in Edmond recognizing cyclists. Henry Holasek questioned when the last transportation plan was done and how the bicycle master plan will connect to it. Mr. Manek said the Transportation Plan was done in 2006. The proposed bicycle master plan will include bike routes, lane widths, etc, and find out what the needs are for bicyclists and then coordinate with the Transportation Plan. Mr. Kuntz questioned if the plan will also include pedestrians and Mr. Manek said engineering is trying to do that now, such as with Safe Routes to Schools sidewalks. Mr. Sikes noted that the recently formed sub-committee on the bicycle master plan reviewed plans from other communities and most plans considered pedestrians also.

Mr. Stevens questioned the group to see if the recent changes in the bicycling ordinances have had a positive impact on the safety of bicyclists. Chairman Bennett said yes, and he is seeing more bicyclists riding on the sidewalks. Mr. Sikes said he is seeing lots more people riding bikes and understands that the conflict between cyclists and motorists builds animosity. He said there are 3 groups of cyclists: children, those for recreation and commuters and not every road has to have bike lanes but there is a need for a coordinated bicycle system. Mr. Tillman said being bicycle friendly is not a unique thing, as Oklahoma City is getting ready to start a new bike sharing program and cyclists are starting to be looked at as part of traffic in OKC. Mr. Sikes noted that in Calgary, Alberta, 16,000 people commute and Devon is starting to look at bike lockers for their employees who commute.

Mr. Tillman questioned how enforcement of cycling laws is coming along and Officer Littles said he is not aware and to ask Lt. Linhardt. Kevin King noted that he is getting “buzzed” less but has had a couple of vehicles come close to him that were Edmond Electric vehicles. Jane Zimbelman questioned where to get the 3’ It’s the Law stickers and Mr. Tillman said to order them online. Mr. Holasek asked if money would be available to do what the bicycle master plan says once the plan is done. Mr. Stevens said the City of Edmond has major capital projects all over the community, with over $300,000,000 for road projects alone, but added that it would make sense to budget some money in the future for implementation of the plan. Chairman Bennett said he thinks shovel ready projects need to be ready and prioritized. Mr. Sikes said he is excited about the availability of funds and moving forward with the bicycle master plan and everyone agreed.

5. Discussion of OBS Streak – Sept. 11, 2011
Jan Fees noted that several months ago, Roger Welch with the Oklahoma Bicycle Society came to an EBC meeting asking the EBC to partner with the OBS by providing manpower for the rest stops for the OBS Streak scheduled for Sunday, September 11. She said so far, only 3 people have signed up and encouraged all in attendance to put their name on the sign-up sheet being passed around. She said 3-4 people are needed per rest stop. Supplies are provided but will have to be picked up at Mitch Park the morning of the ride and taken to the rest stops. She said she is coordinating the rest stops for the event this year since the EBC decided to provide the manpower for the rest stops.

6. Staff Report
Jan Fees gave an update on the Texas 4000 ride from Austin to Alaska. Craig Wallace with PureSport thanked the EBC for their support and participation with the event. Updates were also given on the UCO Endeavor Game-Cycling Event June 10, and the status of the ODOT Transportation Enhancement project on Route 66, noting a recent conference call on Route 66 bicycle touring and economic opportunities. Ms. Fees also updated the group on the 3’ It’s the Law signs with 4 installed and 20 more to go up around town. Mr. Fees noted that City Councilmember Victoria Caldwell received an inquiry about Edmond’s 3’ It’s the Law ordinance from the BBC. Trail updates were given for Fink Park, Coffee Creek, Fox Lake and a new preliminary plat Birnam Woods. Ms. Zimbelman questioned where you can get a map showing trails around Edmond. Mr. Sikes questioned the status of the Chimney Hill trail. Mr. Fees said
she recently had e-mail contact about this with a resident of Chimney Hill and will pass the information along to the Park Department. A new OETA video on bicycling in Oklahoma was also mentioned and a proposed Oklahoma Bicycle Coalition (OBC) Bike Summit proposed for November 4-5 at the Chesapeake Boathouse was noted.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 AM.

*Minutes are taken to be an overview of the meeting, not verbatim transcript of the proceedings.*

Approved Date: ________________

Chair Jeff Bennett     Liaison, Jan Fees