

Public Safety Committee meets again to discuss potential new scooter ordinance

By Sean Douglas

The Public Safety Committee had its second meeting on Tuesday, furthering discussions on a potential new ordinance which will encompass scooters and other types of wheeled vehicles, including mopeds, lawnmowers, golf carts, bicycles, and much more.

In terms of roadway regulations, the committee stated that no person shall operate on interstate highways, highways, expressways, sidewalks, alleys, within the designated boundaries of a special event, greenways, the

Riverwalk, and non-street trails.

Committee member Brian Cowgill argued that in some areas, like Washington and Adams streets, sidewalks could be utilized due to higher traffic. However, Marion Head of Engineering Mike Graft argued that many sidewalks in Marion are hard to traverse on foot, much less a motorized vehicle. Additionally, according to Graft, a bike lane from the Marion village proper to downtown would cost \$85,000, and would be expensive to up-keep.

Furthermore, the committee discussed how they would let permit scooters to travel, whether it would be on one side of the road or both, particularly in Marion's busier areas.

First and foremost, the committee's priority is safety first, not only for those who would use the scooters, but also for other drivers and pedestrians.

"At this point, we need to define what we want in the ordinance and how we want to set it out," Committee Member Deborah Cain said. "Then, (we need) to have ad-

ditional conversations with other departments. I think it's important that we follow the same path that we do in other ordinances just to have continuity so people aren't coming in here feeling lost."

In its fledgling stages, scooters will only be permitted to be parked in specifically marked zones around the city, and an operator must be 18 years or older. Additionally, permits will be required and enforced by the Code Enforcement Department.

The committee also discussed the possibility of creating multiple ordinances in order to cover all different types of two-wheeled vehicles. However, if they try to put it all in one ordinance, it needs to be well defined, according to Cain.

Cain also suggested that future meetings should involve the police and fire departments of Marion together with Code Enforcement, in order that they may provide feedback and together discuss concerns and brainstorm ideas in an effort to create the best possible ordinance for the city of Marion.

The next Public Safety Committee Meeting will be held on March 30 beginning at 7 p.m.

Puzzle answers

4	6	7	8	9	1	5	2	3
8	9	3	5	7	2	4	1	6
2	5	1	3	4	6	8	9	7
1	7	5	9	3	8	6	4	2
9	4	8	6	2	7	1	3	5
6	3	2	4	1	5	9	7	8
7	2	6	1	5	4	3	8	9
3	8	4	2	6	9	7	5	1
5	1	9	7	8	3	2	6	4

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