



STAFF REPORT

SAUSALITO CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA TITLE:

Report on Tour Bicycle Proposals

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Provide direction to staff to further enhance the experience the City of Sausalito has with the tourist bicycle companies and their customers

SUMMARY

Due to the overwhelming popularity of tourists visiting Sausalito by means of bicycle, the City of Sausalito has experienced congestion on our roadways as well as on the sidewalks, parks, and surrounding areas. This spurred our meetings with the three tour bike companies located in San Francisco.

BACKGROUND

In the Spring of 2008, representatives of the City of Sausalito met with a representative of the Blazing Saddles bicycle rental company concerning the proliferation of tourist bicycles. As a result of these meetings, Blazing Saddles donated 6 bicycle racks to assist with bicycle parking in the downtown area. The Historic Landmarks Board was consulted and approved the placement of these racks .

During the peak season, the bicycle racks were placed:

- In the "Official Lot" which is located on Tracy Way adjacent to the northwest side of Municipal Parking Lot number one,
- Next to the visitors' kiosk near the intersection of Tracy Way and El Portal, and
- Next to the Horizons/Ondine Restaurants parking deck in the 600 Block of Bridgeway.

Bicycle racks were also placed in Yee Toc Chee Park (660 Bridgeway) in hopes of controlling the manner in which the bicycles were left by their renters. As it turned out, the racks were used to capacity and the spillover of bicycles continued to sprawl throughout the landscape of the park.

Item #: 6A
Meeting Date: 3-10-08
Page #: 1

Due to the volume of the visiting tour bicycles, the meetings were expanded to include the other two major bicycle rental companies in San Francisco. It is through these meetings that we have been able to come forth to the City Council with proposals that should improve the experience the residents and visitors have in Sausalito thus minimizing the negative impacts which the volume of bicycles have on the community.

In conjunction with these meetings, the City of Sausalito has ordered a set of signs that will address short-term bicycle issues, to include:

- No Bicycle Parking in the Park
- Bicycle Parking Ahead
- Walk bikes on sidewalk

A more comprehensive and universal signage plan is being discussed in conjunction with the National Park Service, the bicycle rental companies, and the City of Sausalito. This plan will be presented at a future City Council meeting.

The bicycle rental companies have agreed to donate an additional 10 bicycle racks for our use. The placement of these racks will be finalized prior to the beginning of the tourist season. The bicycle rental companies have come to the table with a genuine spirit of cooperation and are willing to work with us in minimizing the impacts to our community. Among their offerings are:

- Spending more time speaking with their customers concerning their visit to Sausalito.
- Providing a brochure that outlines where they can place their bicycles while visiting Sausalito.
- Working with the Golden Gate Ferry and the Blue and Gold Ferry to enhance their service during peak times to accommodate bicycles.
- Working with the City of Sausalito, the National Park Service for universal bicycle signage.

It is through this spirit of cooperation that we are attempting to gain voluntary compliance through education, and signage. The Sausalito Police Department is seeking a safe experience for all of the visitors, and believes that through education of bicycle riders through our "Share the Road" program, enhanced by the bicycle rental companies our visiting bicycle riders will have the knowledge to obey the rules of the road and know where they can park their bicycles while enjoying all of the amenities that Sausalito has to offer its' visitors.

ISSUES

The proposals being brought forth at this meeting are still the beginning stages in our quest for a harmonious relationship with our visitors and residents concerning bicyclists using our roadways and parks. We have not reached the point in which we are recommending additions or changes to our Municipal Code which regulate bicycle rider

Item #: 6A
Meeting Date: 3-10-03
Page #: 2

behavior. It is recognized that we still have two (2) very different segments of bicyclists; the tourist and the commuter/professional rider. Each has its own set of challenges as it relates to the impacts on our community. This particular presentation focuses on the tourist bicycle rider, but does in fact address some of the commuter/professional riders.

FISCAL IMPACT

So far, there has been minimal impact fiscally to the City of Sausalito in addressing the tourist bicycle issue. We have altered the landscaping adjacent to the "Official Lot" (Department of Public Works) and we have ordered a few advisory signs. There is not a fiscal proposal accompanying this presentation.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the City Council receive this report. After the oral presentation and subsequent public comment, staff would like further direction from the City Council to further enhance the tourist bicycle impact.

ATTACHMENTS

Electronic message from Bay Cities Bike dated February 26, 2009.

PREPARED BY:

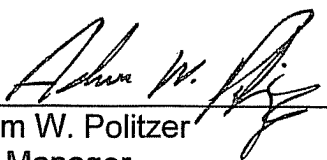
REVIEWED BY (City Attorney):

Scott Paulin, Chief of Police



Mary Wagner, City Attorney

SUBMITTED BY:



Adam W. Politzer
City Manager

Item #: 6A
Meeting Date: 3-10-09
Page #: 3