

ITEM 4.B

Public Hearing - Second and Final Reading - Proposed Ordinance #24-08 - Amending the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 28, Parks and Recreation, Allowing the Use of Certain E-bikes on Bicycle or Pedestrian Ways within City Parks

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF KISSIMMEE, FLORIDA, CHAPTER 28, PARKS AND RECREATION, ARTICLE II, PARKS RULES AND REGULATIONS, DIVISION 2, REGULATIONS, SECTION 28-50, PROHIBITED ACTS, TO ALLOW THE USE OF CERTAIN E-BIKES ON BICYCLE OR PEDESTRIAN WAYS WITHIN CITY PARKS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Request

Approval of the Second and Final Reading of the Proposed Ordinance #24-08 allowing the use of certain e-bikes on bicycle or pedestrian ways within City parks.

Explanation

City Code currently prohibits the use of "powered bicycles" on bicycle or pedestrian ways within the City, which includes electronic bicycles (hereinafter "e-bikes"). Staff recommends that Commission adopt this ordinance allowing the use of Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes within City parks. Staff has found that the use of Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes poses no additional risk to public safety than the use of bicycles within City parks because Class 1 and 2 e-bikes provide assistance to the e-bike rider until the e-bike reaches 20 miles per hour. However, staff recommends that the use of Class 3 e-bikes within City parks be prohibited because Class 3 e-bikes pose an additional risk to public safety beyond the use of bicycles within City parks because Class 3 e-bikes provide assistance to the e-bike rider until the e-bike reaches 28 miles per hour.

The proposed ordinance reflects the changes requested by the Commission at the first reading of this ordinance, requiring that any use of e-bikes within parks be limited to pathways that are at least 10 feet in width. In addition, due to concerns raised by Risk Management, staff is also proposing that the ordinance restrict the use of e-bikes within City parks to only those that are provided by a City-authorized vendor. This would ensure the risk is assumed by authorized vendors and not the City's taxpayers.

Recommendation

Approval of the Second and Final Reading of the Proposed Ordinance #24-08 allowing the use of certain e-bikes on bicycle or pedestrian ways within City parks.

REQUESTED CITY COMMISSION ACTION:

Approve

Department: Parks & Recreation

Presenter: Steve Lackey

Attachment(s):

1. Proof of Publication - Osceola News Gazette
2. (S) Proposed Ordinance #24-08 - Amending Code to Allow Certain E-bikes. V2