

City Of Coral Springs May Add More Bike Racks

By Nicol Jenkins

Editor

Coral Springs resident Mark Gendal has one solution for the city's health and economic concerns- more bike racks.

Gendal, an avid bicyclist, recently asked City Commissioners to add more bike racks in the city.

"The city needs to offer more bike racks," said Gendal, who will also be running for a City Commission seat. "It will encourage people to ride their bikes. Also, it is an obesity issue, health issue and economic issue. When gas goes up again, more people can save money by riding their bikes. These bike racks give us a healthy look that fosters walking, biking and helps us to fight obe-

sity- the number one killer of our children."

Plus, it will not cost the city any money for the racks, according to Gendal. He referred to the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization offering bike racks through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program. The grant stated its purpose: "to encourage the use of bicycles for personal transportation as an alternative to motor vehicles." The grant further hopes to improve the air quality and reduce air pollution by reducing the number of vehicles on overcrowded roadways.

Gendal says the bike racks are also aesthetically pleasing and provide security. The racks come in many forms,

including the Bike bike rack shaped like a bicycle, the Hoop rack, Helix rack, and the Bike hitch, which provides a bike lock. He further suggested that the bike racks be installed in the downtown area or industrial park.

"I would like to see these bike racks incorporated into any downtown plans our city has, as well as retrofitting present commercial, parks and city properties," said Gendal.

Also, Gendal believes adding more bike racks could help ease the city's signage codes because some of the racks will allow for a sign with the name of a business.

City Commissioners jumped on board.

Mayor Scott Brook, who is also an avid bicyclist, said

he brought up the idea of adding more bike racks about six months ago.

"A few residents told me that there were not enough bike racks and found it difficult to take their bikes to certain places," said Brook.

Brook wants the Commission to look into this grant and also adopt a possible ordinance to require new buildings to install bike racks.

City Manager Michael Levinson says the racks can be installed on commercial and private properties.

The Commission will meet again in two weeks to discuss the issue.

Should the city add more bike racks? Post comments at www.eneboy.com or www.facebook.com/ourtownnews.