



**BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
April 24, 2018
6:00 PM**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM with nine members present.

Members Present: Debra L Franklin Bryan Hall Adam Raskoskie
Nadine Ford Milton Irizarry Jr. Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker
Bob Carter Robby Boyer Haley Beaupre

Members Absent: Buzz Morley

Staff Present: Vivian Coleman Keith Sorensen Will Washam

Agenda Item #1 Call to order

Adam Raskoskie called the meeting to order at 6:15pm.

Agenda Item #2 Introduction of members and guests

Also in attendance were Jeff Viscount of Weekly Rides, Dick Winters with Mecklenburg County Safe Routes to Schools, Martin Zimmerman of Green Mobility Planning Studio, Neal Boyd of Start to Finish, and Joe Frey with City of Charlotte Engineering & Property Management (Cross Charlotte Trail).

Agenda Item #3 Call to the public

Dick Winters gave an update on the pilot project between Strider Bikes, CMS and Public Health. Strider provided the bikes and curriculum, Public Health provides instructions, and there is a grant in place through the USDA to help fund the roll-out, if the program proves to be successful, to the rest of the CMS schools. The program begins June 16 and there are five schools participating.

Martin Zimmerman said some time ago CDOT started to record bike count data and he is wondering when the agency will share an update. Robby Boyer wanted to know when results from The Plaza protected bike lane demonstration will be shared. Vivian Coleman replied CDOT can share that information and can email bike counts from the 17 counters around the city to the BAC. Martin Zimmerman asked about an annual report from CDOT regarding bike developments. He thinks CDOT should present its report in November so the BAC can incorporate it with their annual report. Adam Raskoskie agreed.

Jeff Viscount invited everyone to come ride to the Mayor's Ride from Park Road Mall to the Dowd YMCA and back after breakfast festivities. Adam Raskoskie said he is planning to be there.

Agenda Item #4 Review of the minutes

Bob Carter made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 27 meeting, the motion received a second from Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker and was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 New Business

Budget Process

Adam Raskoskie introduced Vivian Coleman who was there to speak about budget process on behalf of Bill Parks, who could not make it. Mrs. Coleman shared two documents from Bill Parks. She said that if the BAC has specific questions she is not able to answer she can reach out to Mr. Parks and share his responses with the group. Mrs. Coleman explained how the department submits a budget every year to the City Manager. The Council budget committee has a retreat to look at the five year forecast to include bond cycles. CDOT's request is to ramp up funding of the bike program by asking for \$2 million the first two years and then \$3 million the following two years and then \$4 million the next two years. Mrs. Coleman said affordable housing is an important Council goal and is projected to receive funding along with some other worthy programs. The City Manager presents his budget recommendation on May 7th. May 14 is the public hearing on the budget. There is an opportunity to look at the City Manager's recommendation and do outreach/advocacy to support or ask for more. In November citizens will have an opportunity to vote on bonds. Mrs. Coleman said there are requests from departments for police, fire/rescue, and transportation as well.

Haley Beaupre asked if Council must pass a balanced budget then where will the \$50 million for affordable housing come from. Vivian Coleman replied she is not sure about that. Mr. Boyer asked at what point does Council meet with the City Manager to present priorities. Mrs. Coleman said it starts with the annual retreat where City Manager staff are present. A lot of work is done between Council and the City Manager's office. Robby Boyer wanted to know if there is ever conflict between what the two parties want. Mrs. Coleman answers that some tweaking may take place after the Manager's budget recommendation in a Council session on May 16. Bob Carter said there was clearly Council direction to the City Manager at the budget workshop he attended so he has to assume there is a lot more dialogue going on outside those meetings. Mrs. Coleman concurred stating there is lots of back and forth between City staff and the City Manager's office.

Haley Beaupre wondered if it might be prudent to maybe follow up with a letter to Council and the City Manager to justify funding the bike plan. Bob Carter brought up the point that the BAC has been asking for the full \$4 million not realizing that CDOT is only asking for \$2 million the first two years. He said he wants to be accurate and speak from the same page. Robby Boyer wanted to know why CDOT is not asking for the full amount and that he is disappointed to hear this. Mr. Boyer stated he thinks it is hard to see how to work with CDOT if they are not going to bat for bikes. Haley Beaupre pointed out that plans are adopted at the ideal level but that it is not always feasible to fund at the full amount. Vivian Coleman pointed out that the TAP is an aspirational plan. The bike plan is similar, and so is the pedestrian plan, but we have to deal with the fiscal constraints that are a part of the reality of balancing the annual budget with so many other competing programs. Bob Carter said the BAC is an advocacy group but he wants to be realistic about what they are asking for. Adam Raskoskie suggested the group focus on working more closely with Will Washam moving forward to have better communication with CDOT. Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker asked if the City Manager provides feedback to CDOT in terms of what recommendations he gets from other departments. Ms. Swanzy-Parker also said she would like to know if the City Manager is aware of the return on investment in bike facilities. She would like to know if they can share that information with him if it's available. Will Washam said he knows of data on greenways and trails in NC, but will need to do a little brainstorming to find bike specific infrastructure. He also pointed out that whatever funding the City ends up getting will make a big impact over what we are currently doing. Mr. Washam said there will be big improvements in the outreach and education opportunities. Mr. Raskoskie stated that the decision to ramp up the funding request was made for a reason but the BAC would like to know what the reasons are.

Review and approve public hearing statement

Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker, Bob Carter, Robby Boyer, Haley Beaupre, and Milton Irizarry comprise the subcommittee for drafting a statement to be read to City Council at the May 14 public hearing. The BAC as a whole reviewed the draft statement. Adam Raskoskie explained the intent is to use the three minutes to advise and make the case for funding the bike plan. He said he would like to use this time to revise and reflect on what the message is the group is trying to convey. Mr. Boyer said he thinks it's great and offered to do some minor changes. Mr. Carter said he thinks it is really good and likes that it takes a little different direction in terms of typical bike advocacy by taking into account affordable housing as it relates to transportation. Debra Franklin disagreed and thinks the group should stay on task with bicycling. She worries that it may water down the message and actually do a disservice to what the BAC is trying to achieve. Ms. Franklin critiqued some of the language used that, in her opinion, makes the BAC sound like they are against cars. She asked why they reference NYC and Chattanooga. Haley Beaupre explained that both of these cities have made some major improvements for cyclists recently. Nadine Ford said be ready and able to explain to Council what makes those cities places to model ourselves after. Adam Raskoskie said he does not read the language as being anti-car. Haley Beaupre agreed stating she does not want to pit the bicycle against cars because that is not the message we should try to give. Some alternative wording was offered. There ensued some back and forth over the phrases "hard to escape poverty" and "car dependent." Adam Raskoskie offered that he feels it is necessary at some point to say the bike is an alternative that can save

people money. Nadine Ford said that if we are going to talk about poverty and affordable housing it is important not to come off as paternalistic. Adam Raskoskie said another consideration is that one of the three goals set for this year is to focus on equity, so that is something to think about. Debra Franklin disagreed that affordable housing and poverty is necessarily going to be the theme of this public hearing. She suggested the BAC should just be speaking to what bicycling means to this group and not try to speak for non-cyclists or would-be cyclists. Nadine Ford said she does not want to see poor people used as a token to try and get more bike infrastructure. She stated there are other things that are more important to speak to. Bob Carter said he does not think this is the main theme. Robby Boyer said the main objective was to make the case that biking is more than just a hobby or an athletic past time. Adam Raskoskie said if we get in front of Council and don't acknowledge the big issues in this city we are going to come off as incredibly tone deaf. However, he agreed they need to find a balance of not sounding paternalistic. Furthermore, he pointed out they would need to call a special meeting if the committee cannot approve the message tonight. Robby Boyer motioned to vote on approval of the statement as written. Bob Carter seconded the motion. Haley Beaupre asked how much the subcommittee would be willing to change between now and the next meeting. She suggested maybe they could wordsmith to appease other members and change the tone. Haley Beaupre then made a motion to approve the statement will be made to Council but first to take it back to subcommittee to tweak. Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker made a comment that either be on the subcommittee or be quiet; don't just show up and shoot it down. Bob Carter seconded the motion on the table and all members present voted in favor of Ms. Beaupre's motion. For clarification Mr. Boyer rescinded his motion.

Boards and Committee Recognition recap, distribution of commemorative coins

Adam Raskoskie shared with the group that April was National Volunteer Month and how the Mayor had a proclamation honoring all citizens who serve on City committees. All committee members were invited and Adam was there on behalf of the BAC to receive the commemorative coins, which were then passed out by Mr. Washam.

XCLT April 19th public meeting update

Joe Frey gave a presentation to update the BAC on the status of the Cross Charlotte Trail after the most recent public meeting for this project which was held at the Belmont Community Center on April 19th. Mr. Frey talked about the Matheson Ave. to Craighead segment explaining the difficulty of getting over the train tracks in this area. He said we can use the Matheson Ave. bridge by building a ramp to get up to it and showed a rendering depicting how this could work. Mr. Frey said the plan is to widen the sidewalk on the bridge to 9 feet and install a two-way cycle track. He mentioned the skyline view of uptown and explained how riders will come off the bridge on the other side and wrap under the bridge and then cross over the train tracks either at grade or bridge over. Mr. Frey explained that the Rail Road won't allow them to build just a trail-crossing, they would have to build a street too. He said there is developer interest in adjacent properties that will need to be worked around, but should provide some additional street connections. Mr. Frey said the trail will either follow Philamon Dr. or the creek from 36th Street to Craighead, and will go under Sugar Creek Rd. He showed renderings of possible scenarios. Mr. Frey explained that the route from Craighead to Tyvola basically follows existing streets to

avoid buying land. He said the trail will meet where the City is already getting a hawk signal crossing at the Lions Club on N. Tryon St. The team doesn't have final cost estimates yet but will have planning reports by June from the consultant. Bob Carter said that a crossing like this people will get used to as more people use it. Adam Raskoskie asked for clarification on the route coming out onto Brevard. Joe Frey described what the planned cycle track will look like and the future development that is planned. Bob Carter asked if developers see the value of having an amenity like this on their frontage. Joe Frey replied yes and no. He said Atlanta has developers building the Beltline Trail because they realize it's an investment. Bob Carter asked about parking reductions as a trade-off. Joe Frey agreed and talked about possible trail oriented zoning. Bob Carter asked if staff would prepare something for the BAC so they can speak about intelligently. Adam Raskoskie replied that when the new Planning Director comes to address the BAC that would be a good time. Robby Boyer asked what kind of feedback would be useful for Mr. Frey. Joe Frey replied he is not really sure but that it's a good question. Adam Raskoskie thanked Joe Frey for coming and speaking. Mr. Frey thanked the BAC for inviting him.

Agenda Item #6 Old Business

BIKE! Charlotte & Mayor's ride update

Neal Boyd talked about radio spots to advertise Bike! Charlotte, stating they are really good commercials—the best yet—and start tomorrow. He said this is the big weekend kickoff, with the Mayor's ride Friday morning and Open Streets on Sunday. Mr. Boyd thanked the BAC for passing out t-shirts. He noted that this will be the first time that a BAC member will speak at the Mayor's Ride. Mr. Boyd mentioned that Councilman Egleston will speak on behalf of the Mayor and then Michael Smith. Lastly, he announced the dates for bikes-on-buses (free transit) will be the second week of May, 6th to the 12th, which includes Lynx.

Bike Share pilot update

Will Washam shared a data update on dockless bike share with handouts and pulled up CDOT's webpage on the screen. Adam Raskoskie explained the importance of the BAC looking at these numbers is because Council wants to know the BAC's recommendation on dockless bike share in Charlotte. March has the highest number of trips so far. There are 86,000 trips total since the start of the pilot. Mr. Washam said this roughly equates to PM peak traffic on Independence Blvd. He clarified this does not necessarily mean each bike trip replaced a car or bus trip. There have been 76,000 total miles biked, but this is still under one trip per day per bike; two trips is the ideal for operators. Mr. Washam showed charts and graphs illustrating the data along with types and numbers of complaints. He said many business owners want the bikes balanced to their private property so their patrons can use them.

Bob Carter asked about getting an update on B Cycle data. Will Washam replied that Dianna Ward will present to BAC in June. Mr. Carter asked what is the next milestone for the pilot. Mr. Washam replied that the pilot ends in October and that staff will present to Council in May on the current status of the program, then make recommendation in October. Debra Franklin asked if any Council members have a negative opinion of the bikes. Mr. Washam replied that their sentiment seems mostly positive, he is not aware of any negative feelings.

Agenda Item #7 Other business

Adam Raskoskie thanked Bob Carter for providing all BAC members with name tags.

Agenda Item # 8 Confirm next meeting date and adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:26pm. The next meeting is scheduled for May 22.