



**CHARLOTTE
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
April 28, 2020
6:00 PM**

This meeting was conducted in remote session as a virtual meeting online due to the Shelter In Place Order declared by Governor Cooper due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Members Present: Angie Stoyanovich Milton Irizarry Jr. Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker
 Adam Raskoskie Caitlin Tobin Debra Franklin
 Liza Pratt Veda Evans Jaime Emanuelli

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Will Washam Keith Sorensen Vivian Coleman

Agenda Item #1 Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Raskoskie at 6:05PM.

Agenda Item #2 Introduction of members and guests

Also present were Eric Zaverl of Sustain Charlotte and Kate Cavazza with Mecklenburg County Health. New members Angie Stoyanovich and Jaime Emanuelli introduced themselves and talked a bit about where they are from, their backgrounds, and why they are passionate about cycling.

Agenda Item #3 Call to the public

Martin Zimmerman, former BAC member, shared with the group a letter from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Climate Leaders to Center City Partners about consultants from different parts of the country regarding the 2040 comp plan. Mr. Zimmerman stated he believes City leadership is off-track because they are dealing with traffic and parking instead of transportation as a whole. He wants the BAC to weigh in on this matter.

Mr. Zaverl said Sustain Charlotte is looking forward to working with the City on Shared Streets to give more space to pedestrians and cyclists during COVID-19 social distancing for health and safety.

Agenda Item # 4 Review of the minutes

Caitlin Tobin moved to approve both the February and March minutes. The motion was seconded by Veda Evans and approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 Monthly reports

- *Chair's Report:* Mr. Raskoskie did a check-in, asked how everyone is doing.
- *Staff Report:* Mr. Washam talked about Bike Charlotte being cancelled plans/projects that were to be unveiled as a part of this annual celebration of cycling across the city. Mr. Washam also mentioned that the City is reapplying for the Bicycle Friendly Community Award in hopes of achieving silver designation this time as a result of all the improvements that have been made to cycling conditions in Charlotte over the past few years.
- *City Council Report:* Mr. Raskoskie shared a slide showing the NCDOT budget shortfall and talked about how it may be offset. He raised the question as to whether or not bike projects may be cut. Mr. Raskoskie advised the committee to be aware of local projects that may be impacted by the State's budget shortfall and be prepared to weigh in. Mr. Washam shared that NCDOT had budget concerns before COVID-19 due to the gas tax revenue decrease.

Agenda Item #6 Subcommittee Reports

Caitlin Tobin spoke on behalf of the joint subcommittee providing an update on the action items compiled to advise Council on the BAC's priorities for the remainder of the year. She said the joint subcommittee supports the development of a bike master plan that includes a map of bike infrastructure. Ms. Tobin said they also want to monitor the development of the Strategic Mobility Plan and the Comp Plan, along with Vision Zero, safer streets, and bike culture. Milton Irizarry noted they will have another meeting next month. Debra Franklin and Angie Stoyanavich both stated they will serve on the Education & Encouragement subcommittee moving forward.

Agenda Item #7 New Business

Annual Report

Mr. Raskoskie shared the draft BAC annual report he had sent out prior to the meeting. Caitlin Tobin motioned to approve the draft annual report, Ms. Franklin seconded the motion and the report was approved unanimously to be sent to Council.

Social distancing space for bicycles and pedestrians on Charlotte streets

Adam Raskoskie shared information he had collected about what other cities are doing to help promote social distancing and provide safe access to the outdoors for fitness and exercise during the COVID-19 pandemic. He also shared the draft recommendation to Council with the group. Ms. Stoyanovich talked about the importance of economic justice and narrow sidewalks being dangerous, having to walk in the street, neighborhoods with no sidewalks. Ms. Tobin talked

about putting a map together indicating which streets the BAC recommends utilizing as shared streets. She also mentioned that closing entire streets to cars could attract more people to gather so it may be better to do lane closures instead of full road closures to open up more pedestrian space. The group went on to discuss the potential long term impacts of the virus on society. Ms. Tobin then made a motion to approve and submit the letter of recommendation Council with edits including reduced VMT. Ms. Stoyanovich seconded the motion with edits about protecting outside workers, and the motion passed unanimously.

BAC budget recommendations

Adam Raskoskie provided comments on the timeline and where the City currently is in the process. He said the City is projecting a \$11.1 million tax revenue budget shortfall going into FY21. Will Washam explained how the Bike Program budget comes from bond money. Mr. Raskoskie pointed out that the decision is still in the hands of Council so the BAC has the opportunity to influence. Ms. Swanzy-Parker talked about not knowing what the future holds and that we could be entering a depression so the group should keep that in mind when crafting the language for this letter. Adam Raskoskie stated he believes the group can take one of two approaches, either don't make a recommendation because there is too much uncertainty right now, or we think the bike program should still be funded and state the reasons why. Ms. Tobin said the request should be based on need rather than what is available. Veda Evans asked what the \$4 million is for and Adam Raskoskie explained how it gets programmed. She asked how much of this money can we do without? Will Washam explained how the bike program used to not have any funding, but bike lanes still get added to other roadway projects as a matter of course thanks to the USDG policy. Ms. Swanzy-Parker stated the BAC needs to find another way to pitch the importance and need to continue to fund, even further fund, bike facilities at this time. Adam Raskoskie noted the letter needs to be submitted by May 20 so they might need to call a special meeting since time is running out.

Agenda Item #8 Member topics

Debra Franklin asked about Open Streets 704 and Bike Charlotte. Mr. Washam replied the new date has not been set yet but will be in the fall.

Agenda Item #9 Confirm next meeting date and adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:08PM. The next regularly scheduled meeting is on May 26, but a special meeting will be called before then, date to be determined as a result of a doodle poll that will be sent out by the Chair.