



CHARLOTTE.

**BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
December 19, 2017
6:00 PM**

The meeting was called to order at 6:04PM with seven members present.

Members Present: Paul Benton Chris Gladora Adam Raskoskie
 Robert Boyer Haley Beaupre Bryan Hall
 Nadine Ford

Members Absent: Elizabeth Debra Franklin Buzz Morley
 Swanzey-Parker

Staff Present: Dan Gallagher Keith Sorensen

Agenda Item #1 Call to order

Halley Beaupre called the meeting to order at 6:04PM.

Agenda Item #2 Introduction of members and guests

Also present were Martin Zimmerman of Green Mobility Planning Studio, Jeff Viscount of Weekly Rides, and Kate Cavazza of Sustain Charlotte. Ms. Beaupre introduced new member Nadine Ford who said a few words about herself, including how she is part of a group to encourage women of color to ride.

Agenda Item #3 Call to the public

Martin Zimmerman posed three questions for the committee. First he wanted to know the status on Ben Miller's replacement. Second, he wanted to look at the ramifications of City Council approving the CMAQ grant for B Cycle. He explained the two qualifications of accepting the grant money stating that the percentage of docks that was used in the grant application has increased substantially, and that the use of percentages is not a very good metric to use. He said it would be better to use the actual number of trips. Mr. Boyer asked for some clarification on the metrics. Mr. Zimmerman said the B Cycle expansion could be very successful, or maybe not with the recent introduction of dock-less bike share in Charlotte. Robert Boyer pointed out that maybe it could be a good thing over all because it will get more people on bikes. Adam Raskoskie said additional docks could get the B Cycle system to be used more, making it more competitive with dock-less bikes. Mr. Zimmerman said his third item is the budget and the fact that the Bike Plan calls for \$4 million a year for the next twenty-five years. He posed the question to what extent should the BAC lobby to make sure this money actually gets allocated? How can we partner with CDOT?

Kate Cavazza thanked the BAC for all the participation in the Sustain Charlotte events over the past year. She announced that “Shifting Gears” will be picking back up in February, and that Sustain Charlotte is publishing a family cycling guide and wants the BAC’s feedback. The guide will be posted online and distributed in local bike shops. Ms. Beaupre thanked Ms. Cavazza for her participation and partnering with the BAC.

Agenda Item #4 Review of the minutes

Chris Gladora made a motion to approve the minutes from the November meeting. The motion received a second from Adam Raskoskie and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 Old Business

BAC annual report discussion

Paul Benton provided a brief summary that the new City Council held their first business meeting and approved the 1.7 million dollar CMAQ grant. B Cycle will operate the new bikes and stations until a certain time when the City will take over ownership and maintenance. Mr. Benton thanked Mr. Zimmerman for bringing the topic. Mr. Raskoskie wanted to know what the City will do if it ends up owning a bunch of stations that are not being used. Dan Gallagher responded there are no direct costs incurred by the City; it’s more staff time. Mr. Gallagher thinks the emerging dock-less bikes will be complimentary, and that time will tell what the future brings. He clarified that five years is the timeline for when the City will take over ownership, which is the typical life expectancy of a B Cycle station. He mentioned that B Cycle may be adding dock-less bikes to their fleet as well. Ms. Beaupre asked if there were any additional data sharing that the City could get from B Cycle, such as more detailed statistics. Mr. Gallagher said we could look into that.

Agenda Item #6 New Business

Policy amendments for advisory board appointments

Keith Sorensen explained that despite the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners enacting some changes to board appointments and policies recently, the attendance requirements for BAC members will remain unchanged since the BAC is a City-sanctioned citizen body with joint appointments. Mr. Sorensen had reached out to the City Clerk’s office and was informed that all BAC members are subject to the City Council’s resolution, which mandates that “all members are required to attend at least 65% of the regular and special meetings of the body and assigned committees and subcommittees held in any one calendar year with no excused absences.” Mr. Sorensen further clarified that attendance at subcommittee meetings cannot be used in substitution of attending the regular monthly meetings of the BAC.

City Budget

Ms. Beaupre stated that if the BAC wants to have an item to vote on regarding the budget then the group needs to do so by the January meeting, before Council decides the budget. Mr. Boyer said he is not sure how much discretion the committee has for how the money is spent, and whether there is an opportunity to change how that money gets allocated. He posed whether or not it is within the group’s sphere of influence and worth the time. Mr. Gallagher said the

process for when Council begins to talk about the budget starts in January. Mr. Gladora asked what used to be funded. Mr. Gallagher replied that stand-alone, bicycle specific projects, is how the money was used. Ms. Beaupre mentioned that wayfinding would be an example. Mr. Hall asked if the County had contributed money to that budget. Mr. Gallagher replied that it was City money only. Mr. Hall then asked if the County would ever be involved in contributing financially to the Bike Program. Ms. Beaupre replied yes, in terms of trails and greenways, but not toward facilities within the City's right-of-way. Mr. Gallagher stated that historically the County has not been a part of funding the Bike Program, but we do count on them to build the trail system to link up to the on-street network. Ms. Beaupre encouraged Mr. Hall, as a County-appointed member, to look into any potential opportunities to engage the commissioners with what the BAC does.

Mr. Boyer asked about the Transportation Action Plan's role as it relates to the Bike Program. Dan Gallagher explained how the TAP was written to dovetail with the Bike Plan. Adam Raskoskie asked if the Bike Program funding was requested by CDOT. Mr. Gallagher replied that it has been, through the Capital Improvement Program. Mr. Raskoskie followed with wanting to know what is the first step and who do they talk to first? Mr. Gallagher replied that staff is very aware of what is in the Bike Plan and the TAP, and that the annual report may provide an opportunity. Mr. Raskoskie asked what about the City Manager's office? Mr. Gallagher replied that it would be up to the committee to reach out to the City Manager about this. Paul Benton suggested maybe sending a couple of representatives from the BAC to meet the City Manager and certain Council members. Haley Beaupre suggested being more present in front of Council and emphasizing the benefits for the entire community in implementing the Bike Plan. Mr. Raskoskie said he would like to know how do we make sure the budget request is put before Council and how do we push for it. Jeff Viscount suggested talking to John Autry as he was a champion of the Bike Program when he served on the City Council. Haley Beaupre said she talked to Rep Autry about this recently and he suggested cultivating a relationship with the City Manager and talking to him about it. Adam Raskoskie volunteered to have a follow up conversation with Mr. Autry. Mr. Boyer suggested finding out who on the current Council is or will be the new champion of the Bike Program. Ms. Beaupre said if we can tie the Bike Program to the other goals that Council has endorsed then maybe that is the best route the committee can take. She suggested some outside research may be needed to craft a more convincing letter and in-person discussion. Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker said there is a provision in the current federal tax bill that will eliminate tax breaks for bike commuters, which may come into play with not knowing the outcome of that change. Mr. Gladora posed the idea of forming a subcommittee to work on the budget. Ms. Beaupre responded that she thinks it is important for the BAC as a whole to be generally engaged around this topic, but that it could be a good idea to have a dedicated smaller group as well. She also pointed out that a subcommittee still takes guidance from the larger group. She asked if the group would like to form a subcommittee. Mr. Raskoskie said he thinks the budget is important enough that he thinks everyone should be involved. Ms. Beaupre said either way we need to define what the goals are and have accountability. Mr. Raskoskie offered to share his conversation with John Autry at the next meeting. Ms. Beaupre offered to collect ideas for recommended action items and said then we can determine whether or not to form a subcommittee if there is enough interest. Robert Boyer

said he would like to know how much of the City's budget is devoted to cars and create an infographic to show the costs of driving versus the benefits of cycling. Mr. Gladora suggested looking at what other cities spend on bikes. Kate Cavazza said she has a document to share about that. Dan Gallagher cautioned against framing the question as cars versus bikes. He talked about how every time we have an opportunity to improve a road through a major project we also have an opportunity to make it better for cyclists and pedestrians. This is part of CDOT's approach through the Complete Streets policy. Mr. Raskoskie pointed out that getting more people on bikes actually improves capacity. Ms. Swanzy-Parker said time is money and asked how can we show that supporting bike commuting can help alleviate congestion and thereby increase productivity? Ms. Beaupre talked about this being an issue for attracting jobs to Charlotte by improving the quality of life here and thereby making it a more desirable place for employers to locate. Adam Raskoskie pointed out this is one of the Ten Traits of Winning Cities, which has been endorsed by Council. Ms. Beaupre said she would like to have two point people for collecting ideas about how best to approach the budget issue, and cautioned this can be a very political topic so be prepared for that. Nadine Ford asked if the committee looks at the environmental impact of cycling, like air quality improvement. Haley Beaupre responded it's addressed in the Bike Plan. Ms. Ford said the County does a state of the environment report and suggested maybe something similar could be incorporated into the BAC's work as well.

Agenda Item #7 Updates

Bicycle Program Position

Dan Gallagher told the group that the position opening for the Bicycle Program Coordinator has been posted on the websites for APBP, NCAPA and NACTO. The closing date for applicants is January 10. He encouraged BAC members to suggest the position to anyone they may know who may be interested and qualified. Mr. Gallagher said he hopes to start interviewing candidates in mid-January and hire someone as soon as possible. Ms. Beaupre asked if the position's description is similar to when Ken Tippette retired. Mr. Gallagher replied the job description is more or less the same with some minor tweaks that Ben Miller helped with before he left, and incorporating new things emerging across the city. Ms. Beaupre asked how can the BAC help. Mr. Gallagher replied that last time he asked the BAC what kind of characteristics are they looking for and is keeping that in mind for this current search. Ms. Beaupre said the BAC will do its best to move forward in Ben Miller's absence as they await the hiring of a new staff liaison for the committee.

Agenda Item #8 Other Business

Adam Raskoskie said he thinks it would be good to reach out to the City's new planning director, noting the position relates a lot to what the BAC is interested in with regard to the impact of zoning and the development of the UDO on land use and its impact on transportation choices and mobility. Ms. Beaupre concurred, agreeing that cycling behavior has a lot to do with land use. Mr. Raskoskie said it would be nice to get an update on the UDO later on after it becomes more developed. Mr. Boyer asked if it might be a good idea to have a staff liaison from the Planning Department.

Chris Gladora announced that this would be his last BAC meeting as a member as he has reached the end of his term limits, having served two consecutive terms. He thanked everybody and said it has been a pleasure to work with everyone. He ended by saying he looks forward to what comes out of future BAC work.

Ms. Beaupre reminded the committee that there will be voting on the new chair and vice chair at the January meeting. She said she has enjoyed serving but would like to nominate Paul Benton for chairperson, and went on to explain the process. Ms. Beaupre then went over the 2018 BAC calendar and suggested that with all the work ahead it would be prudent to hold all twelve meetings.

Agenda Item #9 Confirm next meeting date and adjourn

The next meeting of the BAC is scheduled for January 23. The meeting adjourned at 7:49 PM.