



**CHARLOTTE
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
February 26, 2019
6:00 PM**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05PM with nine members present.

Members Present: Debra L Franklin Nadine Ford Adam Raskoskie
 Bob Carter Milton Irizarry Jr. Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker
 Caitlin Tobin Gerry Kingsley Liza Pratt

Members Absent: Bryan Hall

Staff Present: Will Washam Alex Riemondy Scott Curry Andy Grymnzski
 Hannah
 Bromberger

Agenda Item #1 Call to order

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

Agenda Item #2 Introduction of members and guests

New member Liza Pratt was introduced by Adam Raskoskie. Each member said a little bit about themselves including Liza.

Agenda Item #3 Call to the public

- Kate Cavazza thanked BAC members and attendees for their attendance and participation at the recent Shifting Gears event.
- Martin Zimmerman expressed concerns over recent Cross Charlotte Trail (XCLT) decisions impacting northern trail segments and encourages BAC members to be as proactive as possible.
- Dick Winters shared information on the Strider PE education program for elementary schools. Last year the program launched in five pilot schools. This year there will be an additional 11 schools participating and potentially more. Strider PE education program includes an eight-week course how to balance on two wheels. Dick invited BAC members and CDOT to join this program and help put more bikes in school.
- Neal Boyd shared information on Bike Charlotte, including details on a new theme and artwork. Neal is working on getting updates for website, posters, flyers etc. Neal encouraged BAC members to get the word out and to get involved in activities. Currently soliciting event ideas.

Agenda Item #4 Review of the minutes

Bob Carter moved to approve the minutes from the January meeting as recorded; Milton Irizarry and Debra Frankin provided the second for the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Debra Franklin commented on January Agenda Item #7 and shared she would like to opt out of Education and encouragement Committee.

Agenda Item #5 Monthly Reports

Adam Raskoskie shared that the BAC's annual report had been delivered to the City Clerk's Office.

Will Washam provided the following Staff Report:

- The Bike Charlotte theme is “Put Your Spin On It”. The idea behind the theme is there are so many ways to enjoy bicycling in Charlotte today that we want to focus on how you can put your own personal spin on biking (dockless, b-cycle, greenways, personal bikes, etc).
- Currently reaching out to folk for events, including Chris Lange for an art and transit bike tour opportunity.
- AARP grant opportunity to support livable communities forwarded on to Dianna of Charlotte B-cycle. Dianna is interested in pursuing this grant for community encouragement program.
- BAC recommendations was to City Council to complete three vital segments currently in planning/design/construction phase, while continuing to pursue funding for completion of the entire XCLT.
- Legislation to watch:
 - Alexander County bill that would require bikes to be registered with the department of motor vehicles. Adam Raskoskie reached out to John Outry and was informed House Bill 157 has been filed and will be read. If its referred to rules committee it will not go through however if the bill goes to regulatory /reforms committee the BAC will need to consider whether they comment.
 - Recommendation to follow closely with Bike Walk NC, as they will keep a close eye on the bill.

Agenda Item #6 Standing Subcommittee Reports

Caitlin Tobin provided a report from the Engineering and Evaluation Subcommittee

- Debra Franklin will serve as the new Vice Chair of the Committee.
- The Subcommittee is focused on 2019 priorities and what the framework to accomplish the priorities will be. The goal is to push the implementation of safe infrastructure. The Subcommittee is focused on advising City Council and keeping them informed. Caitlin shared information on two recent successes – E-scooter ordinance resolution and XCLT recommendations via letters of recommendations/endorsements.

- The Subcommittee is interested in staying informed on projects and initiatives that are going on in the city – currently mainly hearing presentation from CDOT staff. Propose to put together a monthly project matrix – simple table with all the projects and initiatives going on in the city and that would be updated monthly. This would allow the Committee to be aware of any changes and allow the Committee to stay on top of their duties without having lots of different presentations.
- The Subcommittee is interested in taking an official stance on 25% project design phase rather than later in the process.
- The Subcommittee is interested in overview CDOT project and public engagement process.
- The Subcommittee is also interested in learning more about the eco-counter locations and data.

Question – If objective is to communicate with City Council – does that communication also include County Commissioners? Adam Raskoskie has specific action items to address this.

Education and Encouragement Subcommittee

- The Subcommittee shared a presentation on their vision and priorities for education and encouragement.
- The Subcommittee is focused in on discussion and research and bring to the full committee to make activities more productive. Would like to start with what's in Charlotte BIKES subcategories for educating children and adults. Listed subcategories in presentation and will be building off those. Shared a matrix detailing their focus areas.
- The presentation included three categories - Recreation Learning to Ride, Casual Cyclist and Commuting Cyclist. Information was shared for how to bridge from introduction / recreation to casual to commuting. Focused on progression. Instead of having so many pockets how do we just have everyone just be a cyclist.
- This Subcommittee is also interested in working on driver and non-cyclist education..

Final Points – pitch to the Strider when we think about education we want to start with the youngest and create continuity. Second is equity, As we see with XCLT lots of concern whether that monies are being spent equitably for bicycle infrastructure.

Comment – Will commented that he recognizes so many positive elements in the matrix – what's great is it doesn't all revolve around CDOT. There is so much that can be done by the community. Shared personal story about bringing National Interscholastic Cycling Association to North Carolina. He is excited about the opportunities that have been and can continue to be driven by the community.

Agenda Item #8 New Business

Presentation by Heidi Pruess, Chair of Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Commission (PRC)

Heidi Pruess was invited by Adam Raskoskie to share information about what the PRC is asking for and what is in the county's budget. Heidi Pruess provided information on the PRC's immediate needs in FY19 and their FY20 funding priorities.

Heidi Pruess shared information about how the PRC can collaborate with the BAC. She also shared information on the PRC's Priority Needs and Funding Analysis – a resolution that was accompanied by a 10-page report (see attachment).

As part of this resolution and report, the PRC requested the following:

- A new master plan for park and recreation (the current master plan was developed in 2007) to account for all the changes that we have seen in past 12+ years. To-date, the county has only completed about 25% of the recommendations in the masterplan.
- Full funding and completion of what was approved in 2008 bond package by 2023 – many of the bond projects are still not completed.
- Additional staff for County Park and Recreation Department. During financial downturn the Department's staff decreased by almost 60%. Compared to national park and recreation departments, the county is still down 80 people.
- Services free of inequity and bias-take a look at fees and charges and what role they play in budget.
- Increase in routine maintenance of parks and facilities.
- New progress reporting on the implementation of the Master Plan.

The PRC is currently working on numbers for a more aggressive ask. Current ask includes \$100 million of funding over two years for land acquisition, 10 miles greenways, increase in staff by 35 people (finals ask could be closer to 80), and 11 capital projects aren't currently included in the capital improvement program.

Questions:

- Adam Raskoskie – When will you send updated resolution? March 12th
- Caitlin Tobin – Is the 10-mile greenway/ year rooted in something? That is the aggressive average of communities of our size are building each year. The current rate is 3-4 miles/year.
- Debra Franklin– Why 2023? The County has divided their county capital planning improvement that's the time frame all of the bond projects would be completed
- Debra Franklin– Is the tourism bureau leveraging the resources to market why you should come here? What type of communication/marketing relations exist? Park and Recreation hasn't had this staff on board to do marketing since recession, just hired a new person to help communications and marketing.
- Adam Raskoskie – What kind of suggestions would you find helpful? Interested in hearing about communication/marketing/encouragement/education help. Need help with messaging to help elected officials take action specifically around priorities – can we use similar language with our asks so we can lead officials to take action.
- Bob Carter – Interested in working closer together so we can communicate together.

- Adam Raskoskie – Should we start working with Environmental Stewardship to begin working closer with Board of County Commissioners? Next meeting is March 12th at 12:30. Not sure about the ability to call in.

Final comments from Heidi Preuss - Our plans should be interwoven – hopefully we can beat the drum on so elected officials can feel comfortable working together. Look up 10minutewalk.org it might be an avenue to work together with sidewalks and greenways and bike trails etc..

Presentation by Hannah Bromberger on the City of Charlotte's Capital Budget Process

The presentation included an update on how the capital budget process works, how the bike program plays into the process and what the current funding level is.

Questions:

- Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker – Is there a rainy day fund to help cover potential debt default that may occur in the future? City follows state regulations and LGC responsible practices. The city maintains more than what is required, which is one reason why the city has a triple credit rating.
- Gerry Kingsley– If the voter approves the bonds for the development of a project is the city required to build the project? Voter approval is not directly tied to issuance of debt. Engineers do cash flow analysis on projects to figure out needs. Ultimately, when bonds are approved that debt is issued. If there is change in a project money can be shifted to like kind projects. Which is why bonds are general because if projects don't come to fruition they can move monies around (sidewalk examples).
- Bob Carter – Why was it not brought to attention that there was enough money to complete the XCLT? Since we evaluate the projects every year, there is an opportunity to adjust the budget to add additional monies if needed. At budget workshop on February 26th there was a long discussion on all active projects and status of those projects and cash flow analysis. Engineering is working on understanding budget risk at 30% design vs 90% design. Ultimately you don't know the cost until you bid it. Engineering is working on how they monitor this process.
- Gerry Kingsley– When will bonds be issued and inserted into the budget? The funding is available now.
- Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker – Is the rate of return for each project shown to public? The city always tries to see what is the true benefit of project – it is never presented to the public but could be produced. For example CIP program – we could make an ask from City Manager's Office for what they think that rate of return would be for an investment.
- Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker - Because we are focused on all things bicycling – to be able to put those dollars together what is the improvement we need and why should we do it. Does the Finance Department see as the perceived rate of return? Interested in how we structure conversations of why we need to invest. Qualitative vs quantitative analysis. When there are plans that outline how investments improve the community qualitatively.

- Scott Curry shared that it is pretty rare that we cost-benefit analysis unless going after federal dollars for a specific project.
- Andy Grymnzski comment that there are lots of different ways we get funding for projects, but we also have specific programs. The budget ask for the Bicycle Program is from the planning justifications from Charlotte BIKES for example.
- Bob Carter – As we look at trying to advocate for even more funding we need to do better with educating Council and County Commissioners with quantitative benefits
- Caitlin Tobin– The September request Andy mentioned, is that a wish list? It’s an aspirational ask but it’s founded in planning initiatives to figure out what we need to implement the recommendations. A year from now – we will be in a different process we will be defining on 2020 bond – will be fine tuning and finalizing projects.

Presentation by Will Washam Bicycle Program Projects

This presentation focuses on projects supported by Bicycle Program.

Questions

- Gerry Kingsley - How do you integrate funding together from other source? These are programs that are funded through other capital programs – funding “cross pollination” opportunities.
- Gerry Kingsley– This is timeline for full project, but if there is opportunity to get work done earlier then will.
- Adam Raskoskie – how much bike program money going towards The Plaza ? 250k
- Debra Franklin– Completion? Completion date after summer paving season
- Debra Franklin– What does the yellow mean? Yellow represents projects funded/supported by Bicycle Program; Green – Existing Red – funded through other programs/
- Bob Carter - Future side note- what you might define as what’s being a safer section of greenways. Suggest to categorize facilities by what you might consider what is safe – painted bike lane versus barrier and how that improves safety.
- Will commented- When we do our designs we are looking to improve the street network so we get comfortable connections and not just putting pavement markings
- Gerry Kingsley– is this information available to general public? Is there somewhere people can go to view this? Will – we have completed our capital improvement process. On larger announcements with capital projects we start with BAC but once they move to planning and design phase they will have dedicated project sites.
- Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker – Comment on return of investment. It’s not about just seeing individual projects but how do they tie together. Helpful for the slides to demonstrate on how these projects connect and how we can leverage funding. That’s the story we need to communicate. Comments on branding/marketing so public can have this type of information. Needs to be more transparent to the public. Need to start sharing. Need to communicate dollars more.
- Adam Raskoskie – Hearing that this 4 million will enable 9.8 million. We need to message this

- Gerry Kingsley– This is how we can energize the public See what we could do with double the money.
- Bob Carter – This is great slide to help keep this minimum amount to demonstrate the work that can be done
- Andy Grymnzski comment – City Manager does not like to see money sitting on the table. The faster we can spend money and get projects done. This is an opportunity to ramp up and get to the full amount of \$4 million/year. We have to show that we can spend the money.
- Caitlin Tobin– What ends up being the biggest barrier to spending the money? Right-of-way challenges. It can be public backlash from neighborhoods, constructions when you find buried utilities, real estate. It's typical for even simple sidewalk project to take 2-3 years. Bid, design and then construction.

Agenda Item #9 Members topics and updates

Deferred to next meeting.

Agenda Item #10 Confirm next meeting date and adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 PM. The next BAC meeting is scheduled for March 26.