



CHARLOTTE.

**BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
February 27, 2018
6:00 PM**

The meeting was called to order at 6:09PM with ten members present.

Members Present: Robert Boyer Haley Beaupre Adam Raskoskie
Robert Carter Bryan Hall Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker
Debra Franklin Buzz Morley

Members Absent: Nadine Ford Milton Irizarry Jr.

Staff Present: Vivian Coleman Keith Sorensen

Agenda Item #1 Call to order

Adam Raskoskie called the meeting to order at 6:09PM.

Agenda Item #2 Introduction of members and guests

Mr. Raskoskie announced the resignation of Paul Benton and thanked him for his service to the BAC. Mr. Benton described his new position with CDOT and thanked the committee for allowing him to serve as Vice Chair.

Agenda Item #3 Call to the public

Kate Cavazza reminded the committee that Sustain Charlotte will once again be hosting the next “Shifting Gears” public workshop on February 28 at CPCC from 6:00 to 7:30PM and invited all members of the BAC to attend.

Agenda Item #4 Review of the minutes

Ms. Beaupre pointed out the misspelling of Katie Lloyd’s last name. Mr. Carter made a motion to approve the minutes from the January meeting as correct. The motion received a second from Buzz Morley and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 Old Business

Rules of Procedure review

Mr. Raskoskie explained the Rules of Procedure as they pertain to public participation at BAC meetings. He reasoned the importance of limiting the public comment period to three minutes per person at the beginning of the meeting is for the sake of being able to get thru the agenda

efficiently, out of respect for everyone's time. Ms. Beaupre asked whether or not there is a set end time for the meetings. Mr. Hall said he sometimes needs to leave early to catch the bus home. Adam Raskoskie offered to change the end time from 8pm to 7:30 if desired. Martin Zimmerman said the meetings used to end strictly at 7:30 under a previous chairperson. Bob Carter stated he thinks it is okay to go until 8pm, and the group as a whole agreed.

Budget and City Council updates

Mr. Raskoskie outlined the City Council budget process as he understands it. He said he thinks the BAC has made a good start in reaching out to Council and the City Manager's office, but wants to keep this issue on the radar until June because that is the time of year to make contact and be sure the Bike Program is a priority. Mr. Raskoskie then gave the members an opportunity to share their experience reaching out to Council. Bob Carter said he sent letters and followed up with Council members Julie Eiselt and Larken Egleston, but only heard back from Council member Eiselt. Debra Franklin said she heard back from Braxton Winston. Ms. Franklin asked for some clarification on just what exactly the BAC is asking of City Council. Adam Raskoskie replied that the BAC is asking the City Council for a commitment to fund the Bike Program as requested in the bike plan and is asking them how much money they are willing or have decided to allocate. Mr. Raskoskie clarified that at this stage the group is not asking for a commitment, but want City Council to be aware of the need and importance of funding the Bike Program. Haley Beaupre emailed Council member Winston on a separate issue about housing, jobs and inequality in Charlotte and asked him to include transportation as the third key issue to his list of stated priorities. Ms. Franklin added that she thinks transportation, domestic jobs and digital literacy are all part of Mr. Winston's platform. She said since affordable transportation (mostly CATS) is on his platform, it's good to keep mentioning to him the opportunities bicycles can play as well. Adam Raskoskie contacted Council member Greg Phipps and had a good, brief discussion. Mr. Phipps is the chair of the Budget Committee and says he read the BAC annual report all the way thru. Adam Raskoskie indicated that Mr. Phipps supports the priorities and wants to engage and collaborate, but at this time there is no commitment for funding the Bike Program, though he says he will keep it in mind going into the budget retreat. The committee also heard back from Council members Eiselt and Ajmera who say they support the Bike Program, but have made no commitment at this time. The BAC also heard back from the Mayor's assistant who said the Mayor appreciates the recommendation and report and encouraged the BAC to continue working with Phipps and the Budget Committee. Ms. Franklin Campbell asked if they know which Council members actually ride bikes. Ms. Beaupre suggested that if the Mayor were to actually endorse funding the Bike Program at the upcoming Mayor's Ride that would be a very powerful statement of support. Ms. Swanzy-Parker asked if anyone heard back from the City Manager's office. Mr. Raskoskie replied that he heard back from the City Manager's assistant who said the City Manager is very busy and looks forward to working with the board at some point in the future. Mr. Raskoskie said he had not heard back from Debra Campbell or Danny Pleasant. Mr. Carter asked if a BAC member could sign up to speak about the budget at the May 14 public hearing. Mr. Raskoskie replied that yes, he has done so before and that members can also speak on their own behalf. Mr. Carter suggested crafting some talking points and trying to get other members of the cycling community to show

up as well. Mr. Raskoskie agreed that would be good. Ms. Swanzy-Parker asked if the public can attend the budget workshops. Mr. Raskoskie answered they are open to the public though there is no public comment period. Mr. Carter stated it would still be good to have a presence. Ms. Swanzy-Parker said she has cards to maybe hand out to Council members with a quick message on them about the importance of funding the program. Mr. Carter said he can commit to being at the March 21 budget meeting and will bring the info cards to hand out.

Adam Raskoskie said the next step is to work on the message the BAC wants to deliver at the May 14 public hearing. He asked the members for their thoughts and could leave the letter as is or propose to modify it. Bob Carter asked about the relationship between the TAP and the bike plan. Vivian Coleman explained how the TAP is all-inclusive and looks at the greater picture, including the programs, policies and capital projects that build out the transportation system if funded.. Mr. Carter wanted to know if there are other organizations outside of CDOT and the BAC who are championing request for the bike budget. Staff indicated that there are others external agencies like Sustain Charlotte and governmental agencies such as CRTPO, NCDOT. Greenways for Mecklenburg also wrote letters to Council in support of funding the Bike Program. Mr. Raskoskie asked Mrs. Coleman when Council is going thru its budget process, how they are looking at specific projects that fall under the Bike Program. Mrs. Coleman replied that the bulk of the money goes toward construction with some spending on design and engineering. She said she is unsure how they will view the other Es that are non-infrastructure. Ms. Franklin said she would like to better understand the straw vote process. Bob Carter said he wants to know who would be responsible for handling the money and overseeing implementation. Vivian Coleman replied that the Bike Coordinator will oversee the program. Haley Beaupre suggested the BAC think about how much they want to get involved. She suggested they may want to pull away from the line by line involvement portion and try to get City Council to view it more holistically. Bob Carter wants to know if the budget will get passed as a whole or chopped up by line items. Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker asked if it would be possible to get staff representatives from different departments to come speak to the BAC to explain where they stand and how they approach requests for funding for their aspects of the TAP. Vivian Coleman and Keith Sorensen will request and invite appropriate staff to come to the next BAC meeting to address this concern. Ms. Swanzy-Parker said she would like to know where does the Planning Department come into play with the budget process and how do they impact that process. She also stated she thinks the BAC should craft a new letter of endorsement for the May 14 public hearing. Mr. Boyer said this is an opportunity to ask for leadership on a topic that has been largely marginalized. Mr. Carter said the BAC should also be asking the rest of the cycling community to stand up and support the same message. Adam Raskoskie asked if they should form a subcommittee to draft that message. He said they could have a draft by the March BAC meeting, tweak it and vote on it at the April meeting. Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker, Robert Boyer, and Haley Beaupre volunteered to be on the subcommittee. Mr. Raskoskie said he will email the missing members to see if there is further interest in serving on this subcommittee. Ms. Swanzy-Parker reminded the group they have an opportunity to have their message broadcasted on television at the meeting so keep that in mind. She suggested maybe considering the use of props like bike helmets in an effort to stand out, be memorable and to get support from

the broader community. Mr. Carter asked how soon can they sign up and he would like to know who all will be speaking on behalf of the BAC.

Bike Share update

Keith Sorensen gave a brief summary update on how things are going with the bike share pilot program. Mr. Boyer said he is curious to know what will be the benchmark of whether or not the pilot was a success. Jeff Viscount replied that the B-Cycle trip data could be used as the benchmark. Buzz Morley suggested that a reduction in the number of car trips could be a measure of success. Adam Raskoskie asked if the BAC will have an opportunity to look at the report before it goes to City Council. Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker wanted to know how this program will potentially impact the bike program budget. Robert Boyer proclaimed that with so many more people on bikes these days, thanks to bike share, this is a good opportunity to say that everyone who rides a bike in Charlotte deserves to be safe. Mr. Boyer stated that if this program reveals shortfalls for safety then it bolsters the case for making Charlotte a safer city for cyclists. Buzz Morley added that they can make the case that bike share is endorsed in the bike plan.

Agenda Item #6 New Business

Bike! Charlotte

Keith Sorensen announced the dates for this year's Bike! Charlotte, kicking off with the Mayor's Ride on April 27 and concluding on Mothers' Day, May 13. Mr. Sorensen asked the group to contemplate organizing a ride, as has been done in the past. Debra Franklin and Bob Carter offered to be on a subcommittee to help put a ride together.

Vision Zero

Vivian Coleman addressed the committee regarding the City's stance on Vision Zero. She said City staff has been talking about embracing the concept for the past couple years, and that Vision Zero goals fall under the work that staff is already doing, trying to make Charlotte safer for all modes. But Mrs. Coleman said there is currently no funded line item in the budget. She said CDOT work is to address safety and promote comfortable walking and biking, but adopting a Vision Zero policy would really put an emphasis on the importance of safety. Mrs. Coleman said CDOT will know more about the Vision Zero funding request as the budget process evolves (hopefully by April). Ms. Franklin asked if a project manager would be hired to oversee the program and what will be different. Robert Boyer asked if it is mostly an educational program. Mrs. Coleman replied if funded Vision Zero would most likely include both capital infrastructure projects in addition to public outreach and education. Mr. Carter asked how much money would be allocated for Vision Zero. Jeff Viscount asked if Vision Zero would compete with the Bike Program for money. Mrs. Coleman replied she doesn't yet know how much funding the program would receive and that yes, it would compete with the Bike Program for money, along with other programs. Ms. Campbell said she is concerned that City Council may fund one of the two programs, but not both. Mr. Boyer said they need to make the point that it is unethical to have a Vision Zero ethos and not fund the bike plan; it should be both/and. It was pointed out that Open Streets is also asking for money so is in competition as well. Adam Raskoskie said it may be useful if staff could give examples of what Vision Zero could achieve that the Bike Program

would not. Vivian Coleman replied that LPIs are one example—looking at intersections that may have a larger crash history and addressing the problem, working with police to enforce jaywalking/not yielding, red light cameras, etc. Ms. Swanzy-Parker shared some visuals on her phone that represent Vision Zero logos. Mr. Boyer stated the BAC needs to know what they are talking about if they are truly going to commit to Vision Zero as a priority. Mrs. Coleman said she will send an outline of the Vision Zero initiative to the committee.

Open Streets 704

Adam Raskoskie announced the date of the next upcoming Open Streets 704, which will take place on Sunday, April 29, and he shared the route. He asked if the BAC wants to do anything in conjunction with the event. He reminded the group that last year the BAC did a pre-tour of the route, and that Open Streets is part of the bike plan. Keith Sorensen told the group about the opportunity to “adopt a block” on the route as a form of sponsorship and suggested the BAC could participate in this way and use it as an opportunity to do public outreach and education about the bike plan and the BAC’s adopted priorities and goals. Bob Carter and Franklin offered to form a subcommittee to work on this. Mr. Carter pointed out this could be a good opportunity to educate the community about the upcoming Council meeting in which the BAC intends to address Council concerning the budget.

Agenda Item #7 Updates

Bike Coordinator search

Vivian Coleman announced that staff is getting very close to hiring a new Bike Coordinator and she is hopeful that by the next meeting the BAC will meet the new hire. Mrs. Coleman also announced that the City is hiring a new Transportation Planner III. This Active Transportation Manager position will oversee the bike and pedestrian program managers and will serve as the planning manager for the Cross Charlotte Trail in addition to working with the Place-making Hub to create active public spaces within the public r/w. She stated CDOT hopes to have this position filled in the next two to three months.

Update BAC photo for webpage

Because three members were absent an updated photo was not taken. The hope is to update the group’s photo at the March meeting, assuming all members are in attendance.

Agenda Item #8 Other business

Kate Cavazza announced that she is the Pilot Program Coordinator for Open Streets if anyone from the BAC wants to help support her in this role. Bob Carter announced that the Little Sugar Creek Greenway has been graded to be extended as a part of the XCLT beyond Park Road Shopping Center.

Agenda Item #9 Confirm next meeting date and adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:08pm. The next meeting of the BAC is scheduled for March 27, 2018.