



**CHARLOTTE**  
**BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**  
**January 22, 2019**  
**6:00 PM**

The meeting was called to order at 6:03PM with eight members present.

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

Members Absent: Buzz Morley

Staff Present:	Will Washam	Keith Sorensen	Scott Curry
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Agenda Item #1 Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Adam Raskoskie at 6:03PM.

Agenda Item #2 Introduction of members and guests

New member Gerry Kingsley was introduced by Adam Raskoskie. Each member said a little bit about themselves including Mr. Kingsley.

Agenda Item #3 Call to the public

Kate Cavazza put in a plug for the next Shifting Gears public workshop February 13. Martin Zimmerman announced that the city passed the Climate Action Plan in December and got a 2.5 million dollar grant which will pay for two new positions in transportation and buildings, from the Blumeberg Program.

Agenda Item #4 Review of the minutes

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

Agenda Item #5 Monthly Reports

Adam Raskoskie stated he is glad to welcome everyone back in 2019 and currently the BAC has a vacancy because of Robby Boyer's resignation. He encouraged others to suggest potential new members.

Will Washam talked about Bike! Charlotte planning kicking off with Neil Boyd and announced that April 26 is the kickoff with the Mayor's Ride.

Ordinance adopting changes for e-scooters and e-bikes. 15 mph only departure from BAC's recommend.

Mr. Raskoskie informed the group that the budget process will be gearing up soon with City Council's annual retreat coming up and the first budget workshop in March.

The County is getting an early start on developing their budget this year with lots of energy around parks and greenways. Mr. Raskoskie said the survey closes on Jan 29 and asked the group if they want to make a formal recommendation? He said this could be good opportunity to connect with the Parks & Greenways committee. Ms. Swanzy-Parker asked if they need to get the same message out to the County Commissioners. She asked Will Washam to provide key dates for budget meetings, print out the survey and share with the BAC to better understand what kind of information City Council is seeking.

Mr. Raskoskie stated the General Assembly has not taken action on defining e-scooters.

#### Agenda Item #6 Standing Subcommittee Reports

There were no reports from the any of the subcommittees.

#### Agenda Item #7 Old Business

Bob Carter, Debra Franklin, Nadine Ford, and Milton Irizarry comprise the Education and Encouragement subcommittee. Bob Carter said he revisited the bike plan and has some ideas to share. Caitlin Tobin and Adam Raskoskie are on the Bicycle Plannign and Design subcommittee. Ms. Tobin is the subcommittee chair. Debra Franklin said she will serve on the Bicycle Planning and Design subcommittee. Mr. Raskoskie said they still need more volunteers to have the ideal number of four members on each subcommittee. He explained the process and gave an overview of how it works.

#### Agenda Item #8 New Business

##### *BAC elections*

Mr. Raskoskie stated that elections for chair and vice chair are the first order of business. Adam Raskoskie said he is happy to continue serving as chair. Caitlin Tobin nominated Mr. Raskoskie for chair, Bob Carter seconded the motion and all voted to allow Mr. Raskoskie to continue serving as the committee's chairman. Ms. Swanzy-Parker shared her surprise and gratitude to be elected vice chair. Bob Carter nominated Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker to conintue serving as vice chair, Ms. Tobin seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

##### *Cross Charlotte Trail Update*

Scott Curry passed out copies of the book Walkable City Rules by Jeff Speck to all BAC members present. Mr. Curry shared a presentation that was given to Council by Liz Babson. He said the purpose was to give Council an update along with some basic background. Mr. Curry went over the project's timeline briefly. The Master Plan was finalized in 2016. The first segment was Cordelia Park in 2017. The City has been planning remaining segments since then. Construction to begin in 2019 through 2021. The trail helps provide more transportation choices for Charlotteans. Mr. Curry talked about this being a shared vision of 26 seamless miles linking

housing with jobs, parks, schools, shopping, dining, entertainment, etc.—lots of connections. Will Washam said the XCLT will connect with 15 miles of existing greenways. He emphasized that it will be a big quality of life factor, what people are looking for when buying a home, and that it helps us stay competitive with other cities. Mr. Curry went over which segments will be ready when. He stated that we don't have funding currently for all segments to be built as trail but can use existing neighborhood streets to create a signed bike route in the interim. Debra Franklin asked if he knows the total amount already spent. Mr. Curry said we have enough budget to build the three segments identified and will look to redevelopment for private sector to help build as well. Bob Carter asked if the \$38 million will be enough in reality. Scott Curry said yes, we are confident that we can get these three segments built according to our Engineering Department. Mr. Carter asked how does CDOT work with the developers to get the trail built. Mr. Curry explained how CDOT's Land Development division works with them. Ms. Swanzy-Parker asked what is the financial incentive for the developers to help build. Mr. Curry replied that they are providing a more saleable product and can ask for higher rent, also through conditional rezonings. He showed the proposed on-street interim route on a map. Gerry Kingsley said he would like to see the detailed route because he rides that way to work every day. Mr. Curry reminded that this is not fully baked yet, still a work in progress. He said the South Charlotte connector is ready for construction, within budget, 0.7 mile in length. The Brandywine to Tyvola segment is about \$17 million, very expensive because of challenging topography. Mr. Curry showed a rendering of the design. The 7<sup>th</sup> St. to 10<sup>th</sup> St. segment once in place, along with the interim on-street route, will get you from the Cabarrus County line to the SC state border. Mr. Washam said there will be a road conversion project on the 7<sup>th</sup> St. bridge and link in with the 6<sup>th</sup> St. cycle track. Mr. Curry talked about next steps and acknowledged all the media attention surrounding this. Mr. Raskoskie asked how this funding gap became such a surprise. Mr. Curry replied that staff could have done a better job of educating the new Council members because of two year terms. Bob Carter thinks that the city manager connection with staff is a part of the gap in communication. Mr. Kingsley asked if there has been any discussion about how to fund the remainder, if another bond will need to be passed? Mr. Curry said he is not sure, but staff are hoping that through redevelopment we will get more trail built. Ms. Swanzy-Parker asked how does the UDO update tie into new development and could this help? Mr. Curry agreed on the importance of this and talked about work on the bike network map as a tool for leverage as well. Adam Raskoskie asked about TOD. Caitlin Tobin asked do you have a sense of why Council decided to defer contracts and can the BAC make a recommendation? Mr. Curry replied that the surprise of the \$30 million not being enough sidetracked Council from being able to award a construction contract because they are still digesting the implications of the shortfall. Ms. Tobin would like the BAC to endorse awarding the contract to finish building the three sections allocated under the current bond. Adam Raskoskie said he thinks it would be appropriate to recommend going forward with these three critical connections. Some discussion followed about how to proceed. Bob Carter agreed with writing a letter of support for these three particular segments and have it ready to go before the next Council meeting. Mr. Carter said he is still confused about the bike budget though. Mr. Curry explained how the \$4 million for the bike budget is separate from XCLT funding. Bob Carter wanted to know how this year's bike budget will be spent. Mr. Curry pointed out that next month's BAC meeting has an agenda item

to go over this. Debra Franklin talked about the competition for funding with affordable housing and scarcity of money and the perception of mismanaged funds. She said that some people are saying if the trail can't be completed then the money should be used for affordable housing. She thinks it's like some people who were not in favor of the XCLT were just waiting for a crack and this was their opportunity to criticize. She suggested it might be a good idea to connect with the Housing Commission so as not to pit different interest groups against one another. She stated we still have work to do to convince others that this is not just a recreation thing. She believes that because the electorate voted in favor of this bond package Council cannot just shift the money to another project. Adam Raskoskie suggested making a motion to draft a letter of support. Mr. Curry mentioned that Council seems to think the interim bike route can serve just fine as the trail. Mr. Kingsley would like to know which Council members feel which way about the trail. Bob Carter thinks it would be good to point out that the County has already built a lot of the trail through existing greenways. Ms. Franklin reiterated that they need to let the public know that money cannot be used for anything else. Ms. Tobin made a motion to write a letter of support, Debra Franklin seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

#### *Annual report*

Adam Raskoskie explained what the annual report is for and all about. He described his thinking for the organization of the document and thanked Will Washam for his help in drafting it. Debra Franklin and Bob Carter think it should be sent along with the XCLT letter. Will Washam clarified there is no hard deadline to submit the annual report. Adam Raskoskie pointed out that it is and needs to be a standalone document. Mr. Raskoskie said the annual report is not a good place to draw attention to a specific issue that we are advocating action on. Bob Carter clarified his intention. Debra Franklin motioned to approve the annual report as written, Caitlin Tobin seconded and all voted in favor. Adam Raskoskie will prepare a separate cover letter for County Commission.

#### *BAC priorities for 2019*

Mr. Raskoskie stated they are not using a mediator this year because they already have a lot of good ideas. He went over ideas that were already suggested on the survey that went out earlier in 2018. Ms. Swanzy-Parker talked about wanting to reach out to the Planning Department and the importance of working with them. Adam Raskoskie clarified the difference between a priority and a business item. Caitlin Tobin and Bob Carter said the subcommittees can get more into the detailed work of developing the priorities into tasks to take on for the year. Ms. Swanzy-Parker asked if any members who have not shared yet have anything to add to the conversation. Milton Irizarry suggested adding continuing engagement with City Council. Ms. Tobin motioned to adopt the report with that addition, Mr. Irizarry seconded and all but Brian Hall, who left the meeting early, voted yes. Nadine Ford talked about creating a women's bike co-op; she said she has been talking with Bethanie Johnson about this with the Good Year Arts nonprofit organization and Charlotte Cadieux. They are looking for a space and reaching out to other women, with about seven core women involved at this point. She said the co-op will not be tied into the ReCyclery.

#### Agenda Item #9 Members topics and updates

Debra Franlin said thank you to Adam Raskoskie for hosting the Christmas party at his home. She also mentioned that another LAB cycling instructor class is coming up and scholarships are available. Nadine Ford announced that Cycling Savvy will have scholarship money to complete a course in March. Milton Irizarry asked about the XCLT segment around Central Ave., for Scott Curry to share a detailed map with the group. Mr. Kingsley asked if staff can share the Toby Creek connection. Mr. Curry said this portion of the trail is not fully baked with a detailed map yet so stay tuned.

Agenda Item #10 Confirm next meeting date and adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02PM. The next BAC meeting is scheduled for February 26.