



CHARLOTTE.

**BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 23, 2018
6:00 PM**

The meeting was called to order at 6:08PM with ten members present.

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

Members Absent: Paul Benton

Staff Present: Vivian Coleman Keith Sorensen

Agenda Item #1 Call to order

Haley Beaupre called the meeting to order at 6:08PM.

Agenda Item #2 Introduction of members and guests

New members Robert Carter and Milton Irizarry introduced themselves. Also present were Dick Winters with Safe Routes to School, Jeff Viscount of Weekly Rides and Kate Cavazza of Sustain Charlotte.

Agenda Item #3 Call to the public

Kate Cavazza announced that Sustain Charlotte has picked February 28 for the next Shifting Gears public workshop. This is the second Shifting Gears workshop intended to cultivate the action items developed at the first workshop held in July 2017. Kate explained that the workshop's purpose is to connect members of the cycling community to discuss how best advocate for implementation of the recently updated Charlotte BIKES plan.

Agenda Item #4 Review of the minutes

Adam Raskoskie made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 19 meeting. Buzz Morley seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 Old Business

BAC annual report for 2017

Haley Beaupre reviewed the draft report with the committee, going over the edits that had been made, clarifying the priorities and wording. Adam Raskoskie suggested rewording “all Charlotte residents” to “all residents of Mecklenburg County” under the section on Social Mobility. Debra Franklin suggested defining CATS for those who may not know what it stands for. Buzz Morley made a motion to approve the changes, Mr. Raskoskie moved to second the motion and it was passed unanimously.

BAC talking points for Council

Ms. Beaupre explained the purpose of the fact sheet that was prepared by Robert Boyer for the purpose of BAC members having a consistent message when talking to Council members and others about the committee’s priorities and positions. Mr. Boyer went over where the data comes from and why it’s important. He said the data is based on the research he conducted on the benefits of cycling and CDOT’s biannual household transportation survey. It was suggested that the facts could be converted to an info-graphic to share with Council. Ms. Beaupre asked about including info on the “first and last mile.” Ms. Franklin stated that she can get that information from CATS. Mr. Boyer said he can add data on how far Charlotte residents live from transit to show how bikes can help bridge the gap, and he asked for comments/suggestions.

Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker talked about the Amazon proposal and why Charlotte was removed from consideration. She suggested reworking the talking points to focus more on the cost and space savings of cycling with the environmental benefits being secondary. She emphasized that the group needs to make it a hard sell and talk more about the importance of mobility for social mobility. Mr. Raskoskie talked about the financial burden of transportation on low-income households and the rising cost of parking. Mr. Irizarry suggested using car crash data to illustrate that cycling is safer than driving. Ms. Swanzy-Parker recommended talking about the importance of land use as well. Ms. Beaupre said it is also important to think about what is important to the constituents of the City Council members. And it was suggested to add a per mile cost comparison of car facilities verses bike facilities to show how much less expensive they are to build. Ms. Swanzy-Parker suggested adding data about how much money cyclists spend to show the economic impact they have on the local economy. Ms. Franklin asked if Mr. Boyer used CATS data for bike boardings on buses to look at which bus routes touch bike paths. Mr. Hall said he believes the demographics of those who ride a bike are changing as a result of dockless bike share. Mr. Raskoskie asked if CATS tracks how many cyclists are turned away from boarding a bus because the bike rack is full. Ms. Franklin replied that the bus drivers are supposed to document that. Mr. Irizarry asked if the dockless bikes are being taken on buses. The answer is yes, they are indeed being used to complete the “first and last mile” of a transit trip for some riders, as members of the group could attest to seeing them on buses. Ms. Beaupre wrapped up the discussion by concluding with the importance of thinking about how best to craft the messaging for Council members who are not cyclists. Mr. Boyer asked the group to provide him with any other feedback they may have to help him with the revisions of the talking points.

Conversation with Representative Autry

Adam Raskoskie shared with the group some of the key take-a-ways from a conversation he had with Representative John Autry around the beginning of the year. He clarified that Mr. Autry used to be on the City Council and that he has a lot of recommendations about how the BAC might improve their relationship with Council and the City Manager's office for the purpose of advocating for Bike Plan funding. Mr. Autry's first suggestion is to approach the City Manager's office. Mr. Raskoskie stated he has sent a letter to the City Manager. He said Mr. Autry also suggested trying to go thru one of the assistant city managers, Danny Pleasant or Debra Campbell. Mr. Raskoskie stated that it may be good for them to hear from other BAC members as well. At the same time he said he does not want to bombard them so it may be best to wait a couple weeks for their response. The second recommendation from Rep Autry is to divide the Council up amongst the BAC members to approach, especially the Transportation and Environment committees. He suggested maybe members could volunteer to be part of a team to reach out. Mr. Raskoskie wrote down the names of the chairpersons for the two committees and suggested that if someone already has a relationship with one of them they should go ahead and use that. Mr. Boyer asked if it makes sense to draft a generic template letter with basic facts about the budget and why it is important, so that the committee speaks with one voice. Ms. Swanzy-Parker said they need to think like a lobbyist, draft one letter to multiple people, but sign it from the BAC as a whole. Mr. Boyer suggested sending snail-mail letters and phone calls in addition to emails. Ms. Beaupre pointed out that they cannot draft the letter and vote on its approval via email. Instead she offered that the group could vote to authorize the drafting of such a letter and have select members move forward and submit to Council before January 31. Mr. Raskoskie reiterated that it is important to make contact outside of the letter as well. Ms. Cavazza offered the support of Sustain Charlotte to get their members to endorse funding the bike plan budget before the Council retreat. Ms. Beaupre asked what should be included in the letter. Mr. Boyer said it is important to follow up and make sure the Council read the letter, and he wrote down the key points on the board: 1) Council approved the bike plan and the TAP, 2) the vision statement from the bike plan, 3) make the point that the BAC is tasked with advising Council. Ms. Franklin stated she wonders how many other committees are also asking for money. Ms. Swanzy-Parker, Mr. Raskoskie and Mr. Carter volunteered to collaborate in drafting the letter by Thursday, January 25, send feedback by the end of Saturday, and send the letter to Council by Sunday evening. Mr. Boyer motioned to approve this action, Debra Franklin seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. Adam Raskoskie then wrote down which Council member is over which committee on the white board and the group worked out the logistics and talked about this as the beginning of establishing long-term relations with the City Council. Robert Carter suggested reaching out to the County Commissioners as well. Mr. Raskoskie also suggested working with the newly formed group Greenways for Mecklenburg. Debra Franklin offered to research who the County Commissioners are and the timing of their budget process.

Agenda Item #6 New Business

BAC elections for chair and vice chair

Haley Beaupre explained the process for electing the committee's chair and vice chair, and went on to nominate Adam Raskoskie, who won by a majority vote. Bryan Hall nominated Elizabeth

Swanzy-Parker for vice chair and Mr. Raskoskie nominated Robert Boyer. There were five votes for Ms. Swanzy-Parker and four votes for Mr. Boyer, making Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker the new vice chair.

Agenda Item #7 Updates

Current BAC membership tenure

Keith Sorensen pointed out that the current BAC membership tenure was included in the agenda packet so that with all the recent turnover and changes everyone will know where they stand in terms of when their current term ends.

Bicycle Playground

Dick Winters announced that work is now complete on a “bicycle playground” at the Arbor Glen Rec Center off Clanton Road. He talked about the importance of this facility to the Learn-to-Ride program. Mr. Winters also put in a plug for the Greenway Summit on Wednesday at 7:00pm at Resident Culture. Mr. Raskoskie pointed out that the County Commission was invited. Jeff Viscount announced there will be another public meeting for the Independence Boulevard Corridor Bike/Ped study on Thursday. Adam Raskoskie described the project and encouraged members to attend.

Agenda Item #8 Other business

Haley Beaupre announced that Katie Lloyd gave birth to a baby girl and there was a card to be signed for her.

Agenda Item #9 Confirm next meeting date and adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm. The next scheduled meeting of the BAC is February 27.