



**CHARLOTTE
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 28, 2020
6:00 PM**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM with six members present.

Members Present: Debra L Franklin Milton Irizarry Jr. Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker
Adam Raskoskie Caitlin Tobin Veda Evans

Members Absent: Liza Pratt
Staff Present: Will Washam Keith Sorensen

Agenda Item #1 Call to order

Adam Raskoskie called the meeting to order at 6:06PM.

Agenda Item #2 Introduction of members and guests

Also present were: Katie Loyd with County Health, Christine Weber of Charlotte Bike Commuters, Melissa Brokaw of Well Run Media, Kate Cavazza with County Health, Dick Winters (Retiree), Eric Supil with TFK CLT, Eric Zaverl of Sustain Charlotte, Foin Sheil (bike commuter), Martin Zimmerman (advocate), Dustin Bronham, Jenna Chavez (bike commuter), Craig Rode (bike commuter), Mike Przykucki (bike commuter), and Felicia Nichols (bike commuter).

Agenda Item #3 Election of chair and vice chair

Adam Raskoskie and Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker offered to continue serving as chair and vice chair for the sake of continuity, given the number of vacancies the committee has at this time. Ms. Franklin asked why just serve a partial term. Ms. Swanzy-Parker replied for personal and professional reasons. They would like to help mentor new members but cannot commit for the rest of the year. Ms. Franklin asked for an update of who is currently on the BAC. Ms. Swanzy-Parker nominated Adam Raskoskie to continue serving as the committee's chairperson, the motion was seconded by Caitlin Tobin and approved unanimously. Ms. Franklin nominated Ms. Swanzy-Parker for vice chair, Ms. Tobin seconded the motion and the vote to approve was unanimous. Ms. Swanzy-Parker thanked the group for their support and confidence in their leadership.

Agenda Item #4 Call to the public

Martin Zimmerman said something really terrific happened yesterday; Ed McKinney talked about the strategic plan which will align with UDO work and talked about the importance of mode shift. This means the City now has the potential to take a more proactive role to get people out of cars by disincentivizing driving and incentivize using other modes. He would like to hear Mr. McKinney address the BAC.

Dick Winters announced that Ann Groninger's second addition of her Ride Guide is out. He encouraged everyone to buy a copy. It is an interpretation of the NC traffic laws as they apply to cyclists.

Christine Weber talked about hosting a table at a wellness expo with a focus on cycling for mental health. The biggest challenge was routing questions from participants—how to get from home to work and other destinations.

Craig Rode talked about the bike commuter tax incentive going away. Ms. Swanzy-Parker asked if it has in fact been removed. He is hoping to encourage something similar at the local level, maybe thru advocating businesses.

Agenda Item #5 Review of the minutes

Caitlin Tobin moved to approve the minutes from the November meeting, there was a second from new member Veda Evans and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #6 Monthly Reports

- Chair's report: Veda Evans introduced herself and stated she has been in Charlotte going on four years. She got into cycling about eight years ago. She took a Savvy Cycling class with Will Washam. Adam Raskoskie said having four vacancies is having an impact on the function of the BAC and he will review all eighty applicants with Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker. He reminded the committee they have the ability to make recommendations.
- Staff report: Will Washam gave an update on the bus/bike only lane. The pilot continues indefinitely. CATS is beginning to evaluate the survey responses. He asked for feedback. Ms. Franklin said there are still buses and police cars parking in the bus lane. Mr. Washam said there will be a driver feedback session by CATS. They are trying to figure out the new layover spot. Dick Winters shared that he still sees private vehicles parking and using their hazards, thinking that is okay. Ms. Franklin thinks it is great for the buses and is hoping it's good for cyclists too. Ms. Tobin asked if we know what the CATS data metrics are going to be. Will Washam gave the run down and said he will share the results with the BAC when available.

Mr. Washam said parking in bike lanes is being worked on behind the scenes. Mr. Raskoskie said Council Member Eiselt would be interested in hearing from the BAC on this issue.

Mr. Washam announced that Well Run Media will be running Bike! Charlotte this year. He went over key dates. A XCLT bike ride will be a new, second event this year to showcase the progress being made on this project. It will be a "choose your own adventure" tour of the corridor to get a preview of what is coming. CDOT wants to collaborate with the BAC on a Ward Loop bike tour. Staff is working with the consultant

to kick off a feasibility study to get cost estimates. The ride would help make the public more aware of uptown bike network facilities in the works.

- City Council Report: Adam Raskoskie said we have several new City Council members seated to get to know and work with.
- Board of County Commissioners Report: None.
- Other legislative reports: None.

Agenda Item #7 Standing Subcommittee Reports

- Engineering & Evaluation: None.
- Education & Encouragement: None.

Agenda Item #8 New business

- *Mecklenburg County Greenways*

Katie Loyd laid out a map of all the County's projects. The County is rewriting their parks master plan and are about a third of the way thru. She encouraged everyone to take the survey, get involved, and share ideas of what you want to see. Ms. Loyd suggested people attend the public workshops to help set the vision and go to Meckplaybook.com. Ms. Loyd then launched into her PowerPoint presentation. Greenways are the most popular amenity in the park system. She went over the history of greenways in Mecklenburg County. There are 52 miles of greenways constructed. Ms. Loyd went over the selection criteria. She said property acquisition is the hardest part. She talked about geographic equity and making meaningful connections. Toby Creek greenway has been extended. McAlpine Creek greenway is almost done. Plum Creek is in construction. Part of McDowell greenway is under bid. She showed projects to be moved forward that are funded. New projects are: Caldwell Station, Long Creek will be the longest built at one time, Reedy Creek, and Walker branch.

Ms. Swanzy-Parker asked about money, developers using opportunity zones, incentive to reinvest. Is the City looking at using this to help build greenways? Ms. Loyd said no for the County. Will Washam thinks this will take some coordination with City Planning to make it happen. The only time the City gets involved is if there is a rezoning and they ask for land. But there is nothing mandatory in the City's policy to require private developers provide greenways. Ms. Franklin noted there is property for sale in the Madd Creek area, making it difficult to get around, things changing, for sale signs up. She noted there is a bike lane there and a greenway. Ms. Franklin said it is important to let developers know these connections matter, they are important to cyclists. Ms. Loyd commented the McAlpine Creek Greenway is hardest hit by development. Ms. Tobin talked about greenway closures alerts being important. Ms. Loyd said they will put out yard signs when construction is coming to let people know. Ms. Tobin believes the greenways need to be look at it as a transportation system and would like to see lighting added. Ms. Loyd replied the flood plain regulations does not allow lighting fixtures and also there are ecological reasons too because of wildlife. Ms. Swanzy-Parker added to the lighting idea. Ms. Loyd noted it would require remodeling flood plain impact. She stated that despite the lack of lighting the greenways do not close after dark, only when flooded. But parking lots at trail heads may be closed after dark. Ms. Swanzy-Parker wanted to know what is the communication with community officers? The answer is none. Ms. Loyd said they could do better with this. She stated the website needs to be updated too. The new website will have a

park locator map on the new home page and will be mobile-friendly. Dustin Bronham asked if there are plans to improve the rail trail connection where it transitions onto Old Pineville Rd by Quick Trip. Will Washam said to email him and he will fill him in. He confirmed you can use 311 to report problems. A member of the public asked if one can use CATS rider alert app to notify.

- *Sustain Charlotte budget recommendations*

Eric Zaverl went over what Sustain Charlotte would like to see the City spend its FY21 money on. Vision Zero, safety, health, equity. He believes we can help relieve the burden of car ownership by making it easier to get around without one. He would also like better transit, more sidewalks, more bike facilities. He asked the BAC to please consider making these recommendations to Council. He encouraged the group to reach out if they have questions. Ms. Tobin asked where the money numbers came from. Eric Zaverl replied they got the numbers from expanding on previous funding cycles and from conversations with City staff. Ms. Tobin said she would like to know more details about where the numbers came from before she is comfortable advising Council. Ms. Swanzy-Parker would like to better understand the assumptions behind the numbers. Adam Raskoskie asked about the \$50 million of the remaining CIP dollars, how to be allocated? Ms. Swanzy-Parker asked is there a way to understand more of the nuts and bolts of the accounting? Will Washam said it is not actually accurate to paint this as the “remaining” funds because it is already allocated. Mr. Washam briefly went over the bond cycle process for the benefit of those in the room unfamiliar with the fiduciary workings of this funding mechanism: public hearings, Council deliberations, adopt budget, vote on bonds in November, funds available in February. Ms. Swanzy-Parker asked Mr. Washam to answer next month, is it one bond that hits the capital market or several?

- *2019 BAC annual report*

Adam Raskoskie said he would like to talk less about what we have accomplished in 2019 and more tonight about the goals for 2020. He would like to talk about Vision Zero, community issues, and hear what people think we should focus on in the coming year. Debra Franklin thinks Vision Zero is important because people are still dying on our roadways. She suggested maybe see what other cities are doing to have a voice. She would like VZ to be to be more than just a Facebook thing. Ms. Tobin thinks it’s important to advise Council and there should be action items at every meeting. She wants to be more proactive to push for projects to be funded and brought to construction. Adam Raskoskie said he would like the BAC to be more of a policy think tank. He said he thinks there is little thought about providing continuity of access for bikes and peds during construction projects. Will Washam suggested to take a look at what has been successful in past recommendations. He advised the committee find a rhythm to coordinate; bring an idea to the table, review, on a three-meeting cycle to bring four recommendations each year. Milton Irizarry agreed saying a less scatter-shot approach will be heard with more respect. Adam Raskoskie wonders if we can create a survey for the public to advise the BAC on what they think is most important to focus on. Will Washam thinks it is important to get the BAC the info they need at the right time to make a strategic recommendation, so he will help with that. He gave some examples of what he thinks could be a strong recommendation. Debra Franklin talked about Charlotte Walks being listed but nothing about bicycling in Ed McKinney’s presentation on the Strategic Mobility Plan. Will Washam said that Mr. McKinney did speak to bikes in his presentation and doesn’t think it’s anything to read into. Debra Franklin challenged Mr. Zaverl about where the money is going. She thinks it should be for active transportation.

Ms. Swanzy-Parker said as we talk about where to focus money, can we look at this complete streets document and help Council decide by showing them where we think the money can come from, instead of just asking them to spend money where we want it. Adam Raskoskie said he will come back in February to identify some big items to focus on in the new year. He committed to work on getting a survey out; Ms. Tobin volunteered to create the draft. Mr. Raskoskie suggested the committee should use their time in February like a retreat. Ms. Weber asked if the group has given any thought to get on a podcast. Ms. Brokaw said she can help with that.

Agenda Item #9 Member topics and updates

Mr. Irizarry asked about cleaning bike lanes. Mr. Washam replied Solid Waste Services is the department that is responsible for that. He pointed out you can call 311 to report. Mr. Irizarry asked what about getting a small street sweeper for cycle tracks? Mr. Washam replied this was proposed in the budget but was not included. Debra Franklin mentioned Beatties Ford Rd improvements have no bike lanes. Mr. Washam said he can look into it, that it may not be complete.

Agenda Item #10 Confirm next meeting and adjourn

The next meeting is scheduled for February 25. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55PM.