



CHARLOTTE.

BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

November 28, 2017

6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 with seven members present.

Members Present:	Haley Beaupre	Bryan Hall	Adam Raskoskie
	Robert Boyer	Buzz Morley	Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker
	Chris Gladora		

Members Absent:	Paul Benton	Katie Lloyd	Debra Franklin
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Staff Present:	Ben Miller	Keith Sorensen	Alex Riemondy
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Agenda Item #1 Call to order

Ms. Beaupre called the meeting to order at 6:15PM.

Agenda Item #2 Introduction of members and guests

Also present were Martin Zimmerman of Green Mobility Planning Studio, Jeff Viscount of Weekly Rides, Dick Winters of the Mecklenburg County Health Department, and CJ Shaw with LimeBike.

Agenda Item #3 Call to the public

Mr. Winters announced there are now four schools doing organized rides: Dilworth Elementary, Park Road Montessori, Sharon Elementary, and J.T. Williams Montessori. Mr. Boyer asked how it works. Mr. Viscount explained where they meet and eat donuts before the ride and then ride back after school or straight home in the afternoon. Some students ride on other days of the week as well on their own. Some parents come along for the ride and will bring their child's bike home with them so the student will either carpool or take the bus home. Helmets and lights are required and if a child does not have one they are not allowed to join the ride. Bicycle Fridays started at Park Road Montessori, spearheaded by Ms. Johnson, a teacher at the school. Mr. Boyer asked if this goes on in other cities. Mr. Viscount replied that he believe it does but the biggest hurdle is getting the school principals on board to see the benefits and overcome some of the safety concerns.

Agenda Item #4 Review of the minutes – October 24th, 2017

Mr. Boyer made a motion to approve the minutes from the October meeting, seconded by Buzz Morley. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

Agenda Item #6 New Business

Dockless Bike share with Spin/LimeBike

Mr. Miller introduced the topic and the two operating managers of dockless bike share companies in Charlotte: Mr. Morley with Spin and Mr. Shaw with LimeBike. The operators were requested to attend tonight's BAC meeting so that BAC members may hear first-hand about their initial experiences here in Charlotte, as well as to begin a two-way dialogue about dockless bike share operations in Charlotte.

Mr. Shaw discussed how LimeBike was launched back in January of this year and is now operating in twenty-five markets, with the Greensboro campus being the first in North Carolina in June. It has been three weeks since the permit was signed to operate here in Charlotte. There are 125 bikes out in Charlotte now, and they will be introducing more shortly. So far there has been positive curiosity about the program. Mr. Shaw did research on the Charlotte market and it looks good. He commented that he is here tonight to find out how to better serve the community.

Mr. Morley recently began his role as operations manager with Spin, and talked about the positive feedback he has received so far from the community. This is his second time launching a new bike share program in Charlotte, and there are always some lessons to be learned. Mr. Morley talked about how it can be difficult in the early days with some resistance/suspicion but what plays out is people are using them.

Ms. Beaupre asked about equity, wanting to know if they have seen ridership in traditionally underserved neighborhoods, and wanted to know if they will share data as it becomes available. Mr. Morley replied that he has not seen a lot of ridership in low income neighborhoods yet. He followed up by stating that you need to maintain a certain density of bikes for the system to be effective. Once we get about 5,000 bikes system wide it will become better in those parts of town. Spin has 240 bikes in Charlotte as of now he said. Mr. Shaw said that LimeBike does not have bikes in a lot of parts of town yet but he hopes to eventually expand. Mr. Morley said that soon people who do not have a bank account will be able to purchase a prepaid card. Mr. Shaw said he sees bike share as the first and last mile of transport, as a compliment to transit.

Mr. Boyer asked what happens if he rides a bike home? Where does he put it? Mr. Shaw replied to put it curbside and it will get balanced. Mr. Boyer asked what stops someone from using their own lock to hold a bike. Mr. Shaw replied that eventually they hope to have enough bikes in the system that it won't be an issue because there will likely be another bike nearby. Mr. Hall asked if bike share will come to Davidson and what if he were to ride one of the bikes there from Charlotte? Mr. Shaw replied he has seen some long cross-town rides and that there is some difficulty in rebalancing bikes that far away from the urban core. In response to a question about balancing throughout the nighttime hours, Mr. Shaw stated that currently the balancers work traditional daytime hours but that may likely change in the future as they add more bikes to the

system. Mr. Hall said it's nice to know that if his bike were to breakdown he now has a backup option, but he wonders if bike share will ever go beyond Charlotte. Mr. Morley said that eventually it may serve all of Mecklenburg County as infill development makes the urban area denser.

Mr. Miller pointed out that the bike share companies need to operate in a way that is both efficient and profitable for them; though it may be a low-cost amenity for us as users, it is still a business for the operators. It's also important to remember that the bike share pilot program is administered for the City's rights-of-way, only. Other public property, private property, and other jurisdictions must come to their own conclusion as to how to address dockless bike share.

Mr. Shaw mentioned that they do not bring bikes to parks because they have an agreement with Park & Rec not to drop bikes there. Mr. Viscount talked about the need to do outreach to underserved neighborhoods to let them know about how bike share works, in the name of equity. Mr. Gladora asked how do you decide to put what number of bikes where? Mr. Morley and Mr. Shaw both replied they put them all out in dense urban areas such as uptown. Ms. Riemondy said CDOT will be reaching out to both companies next week to get the preliminary data to see how the first month is going. She also stated she has had a discussion about equity and both companies seem interested in helping with that. Mr. Winters asked which bikes are at UNC Charlotte? Mr. Morley replied that it is Gotcha Bikes; they have an exclusive contract and must be parked at a rack. He mentioned that Queens College also has their own bike share program. Mr. Boyer said it would still make sense to have a presence on campus. Ms. Beaupre asked if the main issue is not to lock bike share bikes to racks. Mr. Morley replied the main issue is that Gotcha Bikes have an exclusive contract to be the only vendor on campus.

BAC priorities discussion

Mr. Boyer reviewed the results of the online vote that BAC members had participated in to determine what topics will be selected as the committee's top priority goals to work on in the coming year. He categorized them based on similar objectives and color-coded them into six categories. Eight people voted in the second survey. Mr. Boyer calculated a mean score and ordered each item based on score ranking. Median scores are closely related with some minor differences. High mean scores mean it's important to the group. A high median score means a lot of people like the idea. Mr. Boyer said hopefully the numbers speak for themselves and we can use this to help us set our priorities.

Ms. Beaupre said she sees this as a list we can come back to even if some of these items fall off the top three list. Mr. Morley likes how it reflects our collective thinking. Ms. Beaupre said she thinks it would be good to have a discussion tonight about what the broader categories will be to vote on next month. She went over what she sees as the most important items in different categories that have high support. She asked the group if changes need to be made to any specific topic. Mr. Morley said he is happy with it. Mr. Boyer suggested that at every meeting as part of the agenda the group can have a report back on who did what each month toward achieving the goals that have been prioritized. Ms. Beaupre said that the group can also discuss

what other areas individuals may want to focus on and look at how to maybe reshuffle items if it makes more sense to put them elsewhere. She also stated that we need to figure out what the obligations of serving on a subcommittee are to make sure everyone is able to fulfill their responsibilities.

Ms. Beaupre asked if anyone cannot attend the December 19 meeting. Nobody said they could not. Mr. Boyer asked if we want to have goals written out before then. Mr. Miller said the annual report may serve that purpose. He went over the expectations of the annual report and said the City Clerk and County Clerk's offices are expecting them by the end of January. Ms. Beaupre asked how the committee wants to proceed in handling this, stating it makes sense to align the annual report with the goals. Mr. Morley agreed. Mr. Boyer said he would be happy to at least describe the method of how we arrived at these priorities but does not want to be the only one developing the annual report.

Ms. Beaupre went over the committee's activities and how they can be reformatted to look back at what has been accomplished in the past year and looking forward to the coming year's priorities. She asked if there are any items on the list that should be broken out. Ms. Swanzy-Parker said she feels like safety and CMPD should be separate categories. Mr. Boyer agreed saying he put them together because we rely on the police to do enforcement. Mr. Raskoskie stated he supports decoupling the two because Vision Zero is more overarching than just enforcement. Mr. Miller said he hopes the BAC will challenge CDOT to make implementation more than just an encouragement/marketing effort. Mr. Raskoskie asked if we want one of the group's priorities to be guiding CDOT in defining Vision Zero for Charlotte.

Mr. Boyer said we need to think about our relationship with Council versus CDOT; the BAC needs to be consistent that we are of one voice with CDOT on what we advise to Council. Mr. Miller, in response to a question from Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker, said CDOT's contribution to Vision Zero includes both infrastructure and traffic operations, and the BAC may help with enforcement by fostering a relationship with CMPD. He further commented that Vision Zero may be led by CDOT, but it is an interdepartmental effort.

Ms. Beaupre said she think the group should create a separate list of other partners we can work with and invite to meetings to update the BAC on progress made. Ms. Swanzy-Parker suggested having BAC members attend other committee meetings to ally efforts toward common goals. She offered to edit the priority table and bring to other groups if someone can provide her the dates and times when and where they meet. Ms. Beaupre replied that she doesn't think we need to align them all at this point; it's better to wait until we narrow our goals first.

There was some back and forth between Ms. Beaupre and Mr. Boyer on what the nested priorities look like and should be. Mr. Miller talked about how the City may experience opposition to Vision Zero if and when specific strategies begin to impact people's lives, like installing red light cameras, for instance. Mr. Raskoskie said if we want to put our money where

our mouth is than we need to advocate for actual changes, not just slogans and campaign billboards, PSAs, and so forth. Mr. Miller talked about how it's a culture change.

Mr. Boyer stated that it sounds to him like there is consensus on improving Council relationship, equity and Vision Zero, and that doesn't mean we can't work on these other topics, but we would not devote a subcommittee to them—because that is the whole point of making something a priority. It was suggested to maybe change the term equity to “social mobility” since that is a buzzword with Council right now. A reply was made that semantics is important, but we should not let wording limit the work we want to do in accomplishing our goals.

Ms. Beaupre reiterated the priorities as improved Council relationship, Vision Zero, and equity. She said engineering and community engagement also rank high and can be items to work on in the background, but for now let's focus on those three and vote on the report as a way to confirm those priorities at the next meeting.

BAC annual report format

Ms. Beaupre said she will take thoughts on the actual formatting of the annual report going forward, but there is no need to go over it now.

Agenda Item #7 Updates

New members in 2018

Ms. Beaupre mentioned at the beginning of the meeting that three new council-appointees will be joining the BAC: Robert Carter, Nadine Ford, and Milton Irizarry.

Bicycle Program position

Mr. Miller said that with his pending resignation, CDOT will be looking to fill the bicycle program position. If you know anybody who may be a good candidate, please spread the word about this pending job opportunity. He thanked the committee for all the work they have done. Mr. Zimmerman asked who will fill the role in the interim. Mr. Miller replied there are some key CDOT staff who will help out.

Agenda Item #8 Other business

Ms. Beaupre announced that she will host the annual BAC holiday party at her home on December 7. Mr. Miller gave some final words about what he has learned in his role as the Bicycle Program Coordinator and the challenges of being a professional staff member as opposed to an advocate.

Agenda Item #9 Confirm next meeting date and adjourn

The next meeting of the BAC is scheduled for December 19. The meeting adjourned at 7:58PM.