

## **Charlottesville Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee**

October 5, 2017

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

NDS Conference Room, 2nd Floor City Hall

### **Meeting Participants**

Kathy Galvin

Peter Ohlms

Frank Deviney

Stephen Bach

Chris Gist

David Stackhouse

Peter Krebs

Niko Test

Carl Schwarz

Amanda Poncy

### **Action Items:**

- BPAC to become familiar with the following in order to guide policy action:
  - o City Strategic Plan (with performance metrics) – there will be a report to council in Nov.
  - o Budget cycle - look at both CIP and Planning Budgets. Need for Small Area planning.
  - o Form based code for Phase 1 of SIA
  - o Other small area plans – Hydraulic/Rt. 29, Cherry Ave.
  - o Discussions of new staff positions (i.e. Long Range Planner position)
- Consider appointing individuals to attend different meetings.
- Increase diversity on the committee - consider meeting at a different location (i.e. Jefferson School City Center), talk to Community Bikes about getting others involved, meet with Ebenezer Bates at Baptist Church.
- Contact other councilors/candidates to talk about the importance of biking/walking.
- Ensure relevant Policy Docs are included in the BPAC Google Drive.
- Frank to represent BPAC on PEC's Steering Committee for the Regional Bike/Ped Plan.

### **Meeting Agenda**

#### **Role of BPAC with City Council, Kathy Galvin**

Councilor Kathy Galvin opened up the discussion with a question about whether or not the volume of emails that are sent to City Council regarding bicycle and pedestrian issues is adding up to anything. She reiterated that there is a need for the group to provide better policy direction and suggested that the work of the Tree Commission and PLACE are good models. In both cases, she is able to take recommendations from their annual reports and turn them into resolutions that council could pass and become actionable. She provided specific examples (such as the Strategic Investment Area, West Main Street, etc.). Ms. Galvin noted that unlike Tree Commission and PLACE, BPAC is not appointed so she realized there may be some differences.

One member asked if BPAC should become an official Council appointed group. Ms. Galvin responded that she felt the group could be effective as is and suggested that the group could help provide policy assistance to Council since they are the legislative branch of city

government. She further explained that policy implementation is the responsibility of the City Manager/Dept Heads/etc. The policies need to be in place and implementation comes after.

Ms. Galvin asked the group the following questions: “What do you think is missing? Where do you see policy gaps? Or is there an implementation gap?” Peter responded that he thinks it is an implementation gap.

Frank questioned whether or not some of the items in the Bike/Ped Plan are happening (for example, bicycle parking guidelines, context sensitive bicycle facilities – see page 64 of Bike/Ped Plan). Amanda responded that they are moving forward. Updated bicycle parking guidelines were adopted with the West Main Street zoning amendment and will be incorporated citywide in the Standards and Design Manual Update. Context Sensitive Bicycle Facilities were incorporated with Streets that Work.

Kathy noted a number of different areas for BPAC to become familiar with in order to guide policy action:

- City Strategic Plan (with performance metrics) – there will be a report to council in Nov.
- Budget cycle - look at both CIP and Planning Budgets. Need for Small Area planning.
- Form based code for Phase 1 of SIA
- Other small area plans – Hydraulic/Rt. 29, Cherry Ave.
- Discussions of new staff positions (i.e. Long Range Planner position)

Someone suggested that there might be a need to appoint individuals to attend different meetings.

Ms. Galvin repeated her question about whether or not the issue is policy gap or implementation gap? She also noted that as a councilor it's important for her to know specifically what the group needs, so she can more easily ACT.

Stephen sees the problem with city management. Peter also noted organizational concerns (for example, is it problematic that planners are managing construction contracts?).

Carl mentioned that he was concerned that Streets that Work is not being implemented as envisioned (specifically developers and/or their designers are misinterpreting the guidelines).

Ms. Galvin stated that there is a perception that walkable urbanism/bikeability is the first route to gentrification and viewed as a class divide. It's important for people to understand that walkability/bikeability isn't a race issue – it's about personal health and planetary health.

This statement prompted the observation that a more diverse representation is needed on the committee. Some suggestions were to consider meeting at a different location (i.e. Jefferson School City Center), talk to community bikes about getting others involved, consider meeting with Ebenezer Bates at Baptist Church.

In summary, Ms. Galvin stressed the importance of not sending random tidbits of information. She needs something that is actionable. She also suggested getting in touch with other councilors/candidates to talk about the importance of biking/walking.

**Role of BPAC with NDS, Amanda Poncy**

Amanda discussed the ways in which BPAC can be involved in both public and private projects. For public projects (which include restriping, Smart Scale/grant funded projects, and Bike/Ped Plan implementation items), the group is an important stakeholder group and public review body. Amanda is able to bring items to the group for review and/or ensure the group is included as a stakeholder (for example Belmont Bridge, West Main Street, SIA reviews). The group, in turn, could express public support/opposition via public statements.

Private projects are more challenging to coordinate official BPAC review. The BPAC meeting schedule is typically one week before the scheduled planning commission meetings and that often doesn't provide adequate time for BPAC review/agreement on draft statement. Members of BPAC can provide assistance by letting others in the group know when items of importance are listed on PC/Council agendas and attend those meetings. Individuals can also provide public comments during neighborhood meetings and site plan review meetings and alert the rest of the group when projects of interest arise.

Frank suggested that all of the relevant Policy Docs be included in the BPAC Google Drive.

6:15 PM      Being a Better BPAC - Lessons Learned

This portion of the agenda will be discussed in November.

6:30 PM      Review Charter/Establish Meeting rules

This portion of the agenda will be discussed in November.

6:45 PM      Updates: PLACE, Belmont Bridge, BAR, TJPDC, Standards and Design Update

Peter Krebs provided an update on the TJPDC Regional Bike/Ped Plan and PEC's role in public engagement. He is looking for a BPAC volunteer to serve on PEC's Steering Committee. Frank Deviney and Niko Test volunteered. Amanda noted that Eberhard also volunteered via email. The group agreed to have Frank serve as the BPAC representative.

### **Upcoming Events**

October 9:      TJPDC/PEC Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Committee, 12:00PM

October 10:     Planning Commission Meeting, City Council Chambers, 5:30PM

October 16:     City Council Meeting

November 2:    Next BPAC Meeting

November 8:    TJPDC/PEC Regional Bike/Ped Plan KickOff, Jefferson School, 6-8PM

November 14:   Planning Commission Meeting, City Council Chambers, 5:30PM

December 7:    BPAC Meeting, NDS Conference Room, 5-7PM

December 12: Planning Commission Meeting, City Council Chambers, 5:30PM

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(434)970-3182