



CITY OF COLUMBIA
BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)
November 8, 2021
4:30 PM

Virtual meeting using conferencing technology
Columbia, SC

PAMELA BYNOE-REED • ZACH CAVANAUGH • DEREK DAVIS • CHRISTINA GALARDI
ANNA GILBERT • DOUGLAS GIOVANETTI • GEORGE KOKOLIS • CARMEN LATIMER • JENNIFER LEAPHART
BETSY NEWMAN • CYNTHIA WATSON • MARY SCOTT-CHANCEY WILLIAMS

In attendance: Zach Cavanaugh, Derek Davis, Christina Galardi, Anna Gilbert, Douglas Giovanetti, Carmen Latimer, Jennifer Leaphart, Cynthia Watson, Mary Scott-Chancey Williams

Absent: Pamela Bynoe-Reed, George Kokolis, Betsy Newman

Staff: Leigh DeForth

Eshana Young-Pierre (Blue Bike SC) and Yarley Steedly (American Heart Association) also attended the meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER - Chair Watson

Ms. Watson called the meeting to order at 4:33 pm.

II. REGULAR AGENDA

- a. Mr. Sam Johnson, guest

Ms. Watson noted that Mr. Johnson was traveling and unable to attend, but that he had indicated he would like to speak with BPAC in the future, and had been extended an open invitation to do so accordingly.

- b. Meeting Minutes
- Approval of [October 11, 2021 DRAFT minutes](#) (action required)

Ms. Watson made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, and Mr. Cavanaugh seconded the motion.

- c. Mayor's bike ride 2021 updates – Chair Watson and Anna Gilbert

Ms. Watson indicated that the neither she or Ms. Gilbert had heard back from the Mayor, and that she understood that staff had also not heard further information regarding a time. Ms. Gilbert suggested that

if the Mayor could recommend a ride route, and/or share a photo of himself riding, BPAC could organize a virtual ride allowing folks to ride in their own time. Committee members discussed the potential of a Saturday (instead of weekend) group ride, as well as a New Year's kickoff ride in conjunction with Blue Bike. Ms. Young-Pierre indicated Blue Bike would be happy to partner on such an effort. After further discussion regarding the creation of a group ride series, Ms. Watson made a motion to table the Mayor's bike ride for 2021 and move to discussion of a 2022 ride. Ms. Williams seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote. Committee members further discussed the development of a group ride series in 2022, with the suggestion of an early start on easy, family friendly routes that start at City parks, noting a return to the Mayor's ride during May of 2022 in conjunction with Bike Month could be organized as part of the ride series. There was some conversation of partnership with CPD bike patrol, and the choice of a family friendly route that might not require a parade permit. Mr. Giovanetti and Ms. Young-Pierre indicated they would be willing to serve on a subcommittee to support the effort.

d. Open Streets discussion/ follow up

Ms. Galardi indicated that the subcommittee had received interest from a number of neighborhoods north of Elmwood regarding the Open Streets Event. The subcommittee has a proposed route and a one-pager to garner community support, which is being circulated with the neighborhoods for feedback presently. She noted subsequent to conversation with City staff she had a fruitful discussion with SCDOT regarding the road closure, and had reached out to CPD for their comments in advance of submitting for the closure permit(s), as the question at the moment is probably CPD manpower to complete barricades at all of the street closure intersections. She noted there may need to be conversation surrounding the proposed route once feedback from CPD had been received. The tentative date for the event is the afternoon of Sunday, March 13th. The subcommittee's goal is to submit the parade permit application by the end of the year.

Ms. Williams noted that the idea of the route, which was ambitious, was to include three different urban park areas to allow families to only complete either the northern end or southern end of the route, there would be a park punctuating both the beginning and end of the route they chose. Ms. Galardi noted the route was even set to connect to the Vista. Ms. Watson suggested including guides for the rides during the Open Streets event, and Ms. Williams indicated she could reach out to ColaTown Bike Collective regarding that potential. Ms. Leaphart noted she would follow up with Elmwood Park, as they had recently discussed Open Streets at the neighborhood meeting, but she had been unable to attend.

e. Committee reports

- Ambassador program – Christina Galardi
 - [Walk Bike Ambassador Program Debrief – Fall 2021](#)

Ms. Galardi indicated that notes from the debrief had been attached to the agenda, and highlighted that the subcommittee was looking to extend the program to 5-6 weeks, alternating class sessions with group activities, and possibly building in Open Streets as one of those activities with some expectations that Ambassadors participate and/or host an activity during the event. She also noted that they had discussed reworking the application so that applicants could identify a goal for participating in the program up front in terms of an initiative they'd like to work on so that they can apply what they learn and collaborate during the program. She noted that she was working on identifying speakers and potential additional partnerships, Ms. Leaphart was working on updating materials to reflect the aforementioned changes, and Ms. Latimer was looking at space as they did hope to be able to meet in person if possible. She noted that the subcommittee planned to release applications at the beginning of 2022 as part of a New Year's advertising push to encourage folks to take initiative on walking and biking in Columbia. The applications would be due in February, with the cohort running from February to March.

- Bike/ped tours/partnerships – Betsy Newman

Mr. Giovanetti noted that the subcommittee was looking at another tour to promote in November, possibly a family-friendly river walk and bike tour to align with Thanksgiving and maybe even Veterans' Day. He noted that he had reached out to ColaToday regarding the overall walk bike tour program, but they had asked for more information, which he wished to review with Ms. Newman. Ms. Watson indicated that she would try to meet with Ms. Bynoe-Reed to develop a true marketing piece for the walk and bike tour partnership program. Mr. Giovanetti noted that he would like to develop a short paragraph discuss the program for marketing. Ms. Williams noted that her neighborhood association had put together a walking map for the holiday lights last year, and that perhaps this was something other neighborhoods did that they could capitalize on/promote.

- Marketing – Chair Watson

Ms. Watson noted that there was nothing currently under development by the subcommittee, but that they probably needed to come up with a generic marketing piece for the tours, as well as a marketing piece for the Walk Bike Ambassador program as they head into the New Year. Mr. Giovanetti indicated that generic language would be helpful for both news media and social media outlets. Ms. DeForth suggested also developing generic language to submit to local free calendars on ColaToday, ColaDaily, Experience Columbia, etc.

- f. City Planning Update – staff

Ms. DeForth highlighted a few items noted in the Planning Update, indicating that staff had not yet received word as to the inclusion of the earmark for bike and pedestrian improvements in the infrastructure bill. She reminded BPAC that the City's emergency ordinance expired December 5th, so the location of the December BPAC meeting was at this point to be determined, and if in person, would be held at Earlewood Park. She also highlighted the opportunity to provide comments to Richland County on the Spears Creek Church Road widening project, indicating a link to comment was included in the update.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. [2022 Meeting Calendar](#)

Ms. DeForth noted that the 2022 meeting calendar was included as a link in the agenda, and that with the shift of Planning Commission meetings to Thursdays, BPAC meetings would no longer have to shift in response to Monday holidays bumping Planning Commission meetings.

- b. December officer elections

Ms. DeForth noted that officer elections would occur in December per the BPAC by-laws, and encouraged members to email nominations of themselves or others to Ms. Statler for the Chair and Vice-Chair positions prior to the December meeting.

Ms. Watson indicated she was interested in scheduling an after-hours BPAC social. There was some discussion of gathering to celebrate the holidays, possibly in conjunction with the December BPAC meeting. Ms. DeForth reminded BPAC members that if they did plan to gather and there was a quorum, it would need to be advertised as a public meeting.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Williams indicated she had public comment on behalf of the U of SC Law School, tied to dangerous intersection interactions with the extension of Councilman Brennan's parking lot to law students, noting that there was an influx of pedestrian traffic crossing Gervais at Pickens. She noted that the Transportation Law class had reached out to the City's Traffic Engineer, and that some modifications to the duration of the pedestrian crossing timing had been made. Mr. Giovanetti offered up some background information on light timing and maintenance, and Ms. Williams indicated she may suggest collaboration between the Law School students and the University and nearby hotel, as well as further communication with the City's Traffic Engineer. She did note that in her experience it was also difficult to see the light in daylight. She also noted that there may be an opportunity for education of pedestrians/law students regarding use of the pedestrian activated walk signals, as well as an opportunity for broader policy change surrounding how pedestrian signals work City-wide. Ms. Williams indicated the policy recommendations might be a good initiative to take on in the new year.

V. ADJOURN

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:49pm.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Planning & Development Services Department**