



CITY OF COLUMBIA
BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)
December 13, 2021
4:30 PM

Earlewood Park Community Center
1111 Recreation Drive
Columbia, SC 29201

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, Christina Galardi, Anna Gilbert, George Kokolis, Jennifer Leaphart, Betsy Newman, Cynthia Watson, Mary Scott-Chancey Williams

Absent: Pamela Bynoe-Reed, Derek Davis, Douglas Giovanetti, Carmen Latimer

Staff: Leigh DeForth, Lucinda Statler

Eshana Young-Pierre (Blue Bike SC) and Becca Smith (Sustainable Midlands) also attended the meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER - Chair Watson

Chair Watson called the meeting to order at 4:40pm, and asked members to introduce themselves.

II. REGULAR AGENDA

a. Meeting Minutes

- Approval of November 8 meeting minutes (action required)

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

b. 2022 Group bike rides- Doug Giovanetti

Mr. Giovanetti was not in attendance. Ms. Young-Pierre asked for clarification regarding timing. Ms. Young-Pierre indicated she would reach out to Mr. Giovanetti, and would plan to start with Riverfront Park as a New Year's ride. Ms. Young-Pierre noted it would likely be after January 10th, when students returned to town. She indicated she would generate graphics and post to the Blue Bike SC social media rides. There was discussion of potentially scheduling the ride tentatively for Saturday, January 15th, with consideration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Ms. Watson suggested that they also ask The COMET to collaborate.

Ms. Young-Pierre noted she was open to hosting rides monthly, and BPAC members indicated their support. Ms. Williams noted that U of SC's Spring service day was also scheduled for January 15th. Ms. Young-Pierre noted she'd also plan to advertise on the kiosks as well.

c. Open Streets discussion/ follow up

Ms. Williams noted that at this point they were asking the neighborhoods for letters of support, and that there was ongoing discussion about CPD with staffing and the size of the route. Ms. Galardi indicated that she had suggested that the neighborhood associations talk to SCDOT and CPD prior to submitting the permit application to identify any potential red flags. Ms. Galardi noted that SCDOT seemed to defer to CPD based on their potential capacity to man closed streets, and that it had been a challenge to receive a response from CPD. Ms. Galardi indicated that an initial assessment of the route by CPD estimated a need for eight officers, at \$35/hour, a minimum of three hours. She noted that they needed letters of support from the business association and neighborhoods, and had asked if NOMA would be willing to submit the permit application, and that Ms. Odom wanted to ask her Board prior to doing so, but was willing to with their approval. Ms. Galardi anticipated hearing back from Ms. Odom by the end of the week; the target date for the event is March 13th.

Ms. Williams noted that she already had identified a number of pilates/yoga instructors, and Gardener's Outpost would also be engaged. Ms. Watson noted that as a group, BPAC members should begin (if they had not as of yet) reaching out to their networks between now and the January meeting to encourage folks to participate as activity leaders during the event. Ms. Galardi noted that the subcommittee would circulate a Google document. She noted that it might be essential to set the date in order to get activity leaders; Ms. Williams said she'd confirm the date. Ms. Newman asked about the timing to confirm the route. Ms. Galardi noted that it would depend on the CPD permitting process. Ms. Williams noted that the big question was whether they'd be able to take the route north of Earlewood Park. She noted that all of the NOMA businesses, as well as Earlewood and Elmwood Park neighborhoods, were very excited about the event. Ms. Watson indicated she would plan to reach out to Richland Library and REI. Ms. Galardi noted that in the past BPAC had created a Google form for activity leaders, and offered to do that again. Ms. Newman noted that she could ask SCETV if they'd like to participate. Ms. Galardi noted that she would update the flyers on what it means to be an activity leader and a Google doc and would circulate those so BPAC members could share those out with their contacts.

d. Committee reports

- Ambassador program – Christina Galardi

Ms. Galardi noted that the subcommittee was still planning to launch the next class of the Walk Bike Ambassador program in the Spring, and that Ms. Leaphart had updated some of the promotional materials. She noted they were extending the program to five weeks, to incorporate Open Streets. Ms. Galardi noted that she had reached out to AARP, and that their community grants might be able to cover some of the programming, and that BPAC might also be able to solicit some discretionary funding. She noted that they might swap out a speaker to include an AARP speaker on placemaking, and that there might be some additional funding for a small project for the Ambassador class to take on. AARP had indicated that they also might be interested in conducting a webinar based on the success of the Fall and Spring Ambassador programs.

Ms. Leaphart noted they received a lot of great feedback from folks and were working to incorporate that in the future programming. The shift to five weeks would space out the programming a little more, allowing for classroom time and activity time interspersed.

- Bike/ped tours/partnerships – Betsy Newman

Ms. Newman noted that BPAC had featured the Belser Arboretum, and that Mr. Giovanetti had posted about the Open House on Facebook. She noted that two more walks were written up, and that a journalism student had reached out to her regarding the program, with a connection from Ms. Watson. Ms. Gilbert noted that she thought the additional walks were for the public art walks developed by One Columbia and the connection of the Vista and Vista Greenway.

- Marketing – Chair Watson

Ms. Watson noted that she had nothing additional to add to the subcommittee report at this time, and asked if there were any anticipated needs in the New Year. Ms. Galardi noted that they anticipated releasing the Walk Bike Ambassador applications in January and would appreciate assistance with advertising those.

- e. City Planning Update – staff

Ms. Statler highlighted that the 2045 LRTP was out for public comment, and at this point the comments were due by December 31st. She indicated that a request had been submitted to CMCOG for better graphics and information. She also highlighted the Park Street improvements between Gervais and Senate is receiving the finishing touches, but is open and is a much safer pedestrian space. Ms. Galardi asked if staff would focus on Park Street in social media posts, so that BPAC might be able to share these as well.

Ms. Williams asked when they could invite the new Council members to speak with BPAC, and Ms. Watson noted that as Chair she had generally sent an email at the beginning of each calendar year to note that BPAC would welcome them to attend BPAC meetings. Ms. Statler noted that prior to COVID, BPAC had often provided a year-end update to Council, but this hadn't happened due to COVID. She noted that traditionally during BPAC's strategic planning, members had considered outreach to Council members as part of the planning process.

Ms. Galardi noted that it might be helpful to ask to be on Council's agenda in February or March. Ms. Williams noted that her question was specific to how to engage with Council on their desires for the City. Ms. Statler indicated she'd ask what an appropriate time to come, and noted it sounded like it would be helpful to meet with Council prior to the BPAC strategic planning meeting.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. December officer elections

Ms. Statler indicated that four nominations had been received for Chair. Mr. Cavanaugh gave a brief speech. Ms. Statler passed the ballots out for Chair, and after a secret ballot, Mr. Cavanaugh was elected. A second ballot was passed out and collected, and Ms. Latimer was elected Vice-Chair.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Becca Smith thanked BPAC for the opportunity to attend, and noted that she recently became the Executive Director of Sustainable Midlands, and she was interested in how she could partner with BPAC to make Columbia a more livable community. Ms. Watson noted that she was passionate about bringing awareness to pedestrian fatalities, especially in communities of color, in Columbia, and was working with the Urban League and would love to engage with Ms. Smith regarding that effort. Ms. Smith also noted

she was excited about potentially participating as an activity leader in Open Streets as well, and looked forward to bridging the gap and being a champion.

Ms. Young-Pierre noted that she was able to team up with Amy Johnson-Ely of Palmetto Cycling and John Greene of Cycle Center to complete a cycling education class, Let's Cycle Columbia. She indicated she would like BPAC to perhaps host the Fall session, which was a three-session program with safety, a small ride, and a larger ride. She also noted that they were working to bring back dockless stations, and that neighborhoods might have the opportunity to request a station, and that she could also bring a dockless station to Open Streets. Ms. Galardi asked Ms. Young-Pierre for a blurb for both of those items to recirculate that with the Walk Bike Ambassador class. Ms. Young-Pierre noted that a barrier for dockless stations might be a lack of bike racks.

V. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 5:43pm after a motion by Ms. Watson, which was seconded by Ms. Gilbert.