



**CITY OF COLUMBIA**  
**BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)**  
**February 14, 2022**  
**4:30 PM**

**Richland Library Main**  
**Auditorium**  
**Columbia, SC 29201**

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**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:** Douglas Giovanetti, Christina Galardi, George Kokolis, Derek Davis, Jennifer Leaphart, Betsy Newman, Mary Scott-Chancey Williams

**Absent:** Pamela Bynoe-Reed, Anna Gilbert, Carmen Latimer, Zach Cavanaugh, Cynthia Watson

**Staff:** Leigh DeForth, Dana Higgins, Lucinda Statler

*As the Chair and Vice Chair were absent, Ms. Newman agreed to chair the meeting.*

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Newman called the meeting to order at 4:35pm.

**II. REGULAR AGENDA**

a. Meeting Minutes

- Approval of [January 10, 2022 minutes](#) (action required)

Ms. Leaphart moved to approve the minutes as submitted, and Ms. Williams seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was approved by unanimous vote.

b. Committee reports

- Open Streets
  - ✓ Date was pushed back to April 24 to allow more time to plan. Proposed route was modified to make the route smoother and reduce the amount of CPD staff required to cover intersections.
  - ✓ Earlewood neighborhood coalition (ECCO) submitted the application with letters of support from North Main Business Association and Elmwood Park.
  - ✓ Call for volunteers to solicit sponsorships.

Ms. Williams noted that the permit had been submitted last week to CPD by the president of the Earlewood Neighborhood Association, and that the team was waiting to approach vendors and participants until the permit had been approved. She noted that there was also a Fireflies game that evening, as well as Artista Vista/Crafty Feast was also planned for that afternoon.

Ms. Williams noted that a rain date of May 1<sup>st</sup> (the following Sunday) so that might also be a possibility. Ms. Galardi noted that she thought it would be helpful to reach out to the Vista Guild as well regarding the possible connection of Crafty Feast and Open Streets.

- Ambassador program
  - ✓ Program was pushed back to accommodate change in planned date of Open Streets. Applications will now open through March 21 with sessions held through April and May.
  - ✓ Promotional materials have been updated and will be distributed in mid- to late- February.

Ms. Galardi noted that with the Open Streets date change, the Walk Bike Ambassador program dates were pushed back as well. She noted that the subcommittee would ask the new chair to share information with Council members, and that the subcommittee would reach out to neighborhood associations as well. The subcommittee has asked applicants to identify their level of comfort with in-person vs. virtual meetings as part of their application.

- Bike/ped tours/partnerships
  - ✓ January 15 ride- review

Mr. Giovanetti noted that he and Mr. Cavanaugh had attended the ride at Riverfront Park, and several others had joined as well. He indicated that photos were taken, and noted they needed to post those on the BPAC Facebook page. There were five attendees total. He noted they were planning to hold a bike ride at Bull Street with Blue Bike and Ms. Young-Pierre as well, to meander through the area and see what was going on in the District. The planned date for that ride was March 5<sup>th</sup>, and they would begin at the Blue Bike station at the stadium on Saturday at 1pm. After discussion regarding a conflict with the Carolina/Clemson game and planned celebration at Bull Street, Mr. Giovanetti indicated they would likely change the location or date of the March ride accordingly.

Ms. Statler noted that Becca Smith of Sustainable Midlands had offered to collaborate with Cola Town Bike Collective to organize a ride during Bike Month, because she was unable to attend. Ms. Williams noted that the rides in March and April would be a good opportunity to build capacity for a May ride. Ms. Galardi noted that she would be supportive of Ms. Smith working with Cola Town Bike Collective to develop a bike month calendar of events. Ms. Statler offered to reach back out to Ms. Smith accordingly.

Ms. Newman noted that Mr. Giovanetti had posted a new explore freely tour on the BPAC Facebook page for Riverfront Park.

- Marketing

Ms. Williams indicated that when the Open Streets event was finalized, the Marketing subcommittee could work to advertise the event. Ms. Galardi had noted that updated materials had been provided to the City to post online on the BPAC webpage, and there was some discussion of what might be needed from the marketing subcommittee for the Walk Bike Ambassador program (posting to social media).

c. City Council Committee Presentation/Strategic Planning

Ms. Statler noted that it might be helpful for the Chair and Vice Chair to attend the City Council Committee to begin to discuss BPAC in advance of their strategic planning goals.

d. May is Bike Month

No further discussion regarding Bike Month occurred, subsequent to the prior suggestion that Sustainable Midlands partner with Cola Town Bike Collective on Bike Month plans.

e. Future 2022 Group Bike Rides

No further discussion regarding group bike rides occurred, subsequent to the discussion of the Bull Street ride earlier in the meeting.

f. City Planning Update – staff

Ms. Higgins noted that \$3M had been allocated to Assembly Street from Pendleton to Lady, but that the construction cost was likely much higher. As such, the City planned to engage Mead & Hunt to help with the environmental document and look at feasibility to help the City become more shovel ready. She noted that the Mead & Hunt contract approval was on Council's upcoming agenda. Once the contract was executed, stakeholder meetings would be held, and there would be opportunities for public input.

Ms. Higgins indicated that the project would likely look similar to the section of Assembly from Blossom to Pendleton, and that the planning team would be looking at parking and streetscaping. She noted that there was also an ongoing discussion surrounding undergrounding power with the project design as well. Mr. Giovanetti noted concerns that the left turn visibility was very difficult, and the removal of parking may have increased speeds in the area. Ms. Galardi noted that there was data for PSPL counts in the area, and Ms. Statler noted that the Planning Division was in the process of gathering and providing that data to the consultant.

Ms. Statler indicated that pedestrian and bicyclist counts would be held in the Spring, and that Mr. Shaughnessy may review a report on prior count data that he has been compiling at the next BPAC meeting. Ms. Statler noted that there may be a consolidation of bike/ped and public space public life count locations and data collection, which could allow the City's data collection process to be more efficient and effective. She noted that this retooling was especially needed given the many gaps in the data from prior years due to a lack of volunteers.

Ms. Statler also highlighted the opportunity to provide comments on upcoming SCDOT bridge replacement projects, including the River Drive railroad bridge and Elmwood/I-126 bridge. These comments are due to SCDOT on February 21<sup>st</sup>, and a link was provided in the City Planning Update as well as the forthcoming Walk Bike Columbia e-newsletter scheduled for email delivery on the following day.

Ms. Statler also noted that the Climate Ready Columbia conference would be held the first weekend in April, and more information about the conference was also included therein.

**III. OTHER BUSINESS**

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

## **V. ADJOURN**

There being no other business or public comment, Mr. Kokolis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Leaphart seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:25pm.