



CITY OF COLUMBIA
BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)
November 11, 2022
4:30 PM

Richland Library Main Branch
Columbia, SC 29201

PAMELA BYNOE-REED • ZACH CAVANAUGH • DEREK DAVIS • DOUGLAS GIOVANETTI
CARMEN LATIMER • JENNIFER LEAPHART • CYNTHIA WATSON • MARY SCOTT-CHANCEY WILLIAMS

In attendance: Pamela Bynoe-Reed, Derek Davis, Douglas Giovanetti, Carmen Latimer, Jennifer Leaphart

Absent: Zach Cavanaugh, Cynthia Watson, Mary Scott-Chancey Williams

Staff: Leigh DeForth, Lucinda Statler

Guest Robin Hill was also in attendance

By 4:42 pm, a quorum had not yet been established, so Ms. DeForth reviewed the Planning Update as unofficial business, since no action was required by the Committee:

- The bike share expansion study is underway, links to the online survey and the interactive map are included on the Planning Update; please complete by the end of December;
- Calhoun Street bike lane project received the additional funding requested from CTC; will go to bid soon;
- Monticello Road diet will not be implemented due to feedback that SCDOT received from various stakeholders;
- Heat Island mapping will be released in the next week or so; public meetings will be scheduled in the coming year;
- Blossom Street bridge project just held an update meeting. They are going to hold a public meeting in Spring 2023 and plan for construction to begin in 2025.
- Mr. Giovanetti asked if there was a status update for the Assembly Street project between Pendleton and Lady. City Planning staff does not have an update but will check with Ms. Higgins when she is back in the office.

(Ms. Bynoe-Reed joined the meeting, establishing a quorum.)

I. CALL TO ORDER – Vice-Chair Latimer

Ms. Latimer called the meeting to order at 4:47pm with five members present to establish quorum.

II. REGULAR AGENDA

a. Meeting Minutes

- Approval of October minutes

Mr. Davis made a motion to approve the October minutes. Ms. Bynoe-Reed seconded the motion.

b. Strategic Planning

Ms. DeForth led the strategic planning session by outlining the two tasks: 1) to look at BPAC initiatives for the coming year, and 2) to decide on the three priorities that BPAC would like City Council to focus on per the Mayor's request at the October meeting.

There was brief discussion on the various past BPAC initiatives and committees, to include Open Streets, the Walk Bike Ambassadors program, Explore Freely, and the marketing committee. Ms. Leaphart pointed out that the committee structure was problematic with the few members that BPAC currently has. She suggested that initiatives be pursued by the Committee as a whole, and that each initiative has a project lead, or co-leads. This was a favorable approach by those present and the group discussed the following:

- Continue the Walk Bike Ambassador program with Jennifer and Carmen continuing as the leads
- Continue the Explore Freely program with Doug and Pam as the leads. Pam suggested incorporating the new COMET tours as an option to both highlight and connect people to other suggested walks and rides
- BPAC should continue to play a support role for Open Streets led by neighborhoods groups, and for Bike Month activities, but not plan to host/be the main facilitator for these events at this time.

Ms. DeForth continued the strategic planning discussion by asking for suggestions for Council priorities, drawing on the recommendations from the City adopted plans, Walk Bike Columbia and Columbia Compass. An email was circulated on Nov. 4 which summarized many of these possible priorities. Several items were discussed, such as implementation of the heat island mapping recommendations, an dedicated funding source for sidewalks, prioritizing equity in implementation, having a pedestrian safety fund.

Much of the discussion centered around infrastructure. Staff pointed out that with the Walk Bike Columbia plan, the infrastructure projects are recommended and prioritized (with equity included in the prioritization process); the real need to implement those is funding. Vice-chair Latimer suggested tabling the ideas for folks to think about in the coming weeks and make a decision about what to ask Council for at the December meeting. All agreed.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

- 2023 calendars: Ms. DeForth has the 2023 calendar drafted; she confirmed that the group is still good with second Mondays at 4:30. No one objected.
- Ms. DeForth reminded the group that officer elections will be held in December; she asked that nominations be sent to her via a google form (she will send a link) and she will verify that any nominees are willing to serve and prepare a ballot for the December meeting.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Robin Hill, a University of SC student attended the meeting with a friend and she expressed concerns about riding her bicycle in the City and how unsafe she feels with the current lack of safe infrastructure. She spoke about being from Atlanta and riding on the Peach Path, a separated bicycle facility in Georgia and how safe it is. She also pointed out that the Beltline was almost too successful, and there were so many pedestrians that it made cycling very difficult. There was discussion about Sprocket and other apps that may recommend safe routes for cyclists in Columbia.

V. ADJOURN

Ms. Latimer made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Ms. Leaphart. The meeting ended at 5:50pm.