



**CITY OF COLUMBIA**  
**BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)**  
**January 9, 2023**  
**4:30 PM**

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

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

**In attendance:** Zach Cavanaugh, Derek Davis, Douglas Giovanetti, Carmen Latimer, Jennifer Leaphart

**Absent:** Pamela Bynoe-Reed, Mary Scott-Chancey Williams, Cynthia Watson

**Staff:** Leigh DeForth, Dana Higgins, Shane Shaughnessy

*Blake Gibbons, The COMET, was also in attendance.*

In the absence of a quorum, discussion began at 4:43p.m. with Ms. DeForth providing the Planning Update.

**II. REGULAR AGENDA**

c. City Planning Update

Ms. DeForth began the Planning Update stating the Bike Share expansion study survey had closed though there was a mapping aspect of the survey that was still available to interact with. She then provided an update on the Blossom Street Bridge Project stating that SCDOT was planning to release a virtual public information meeting the following day, and an in-person informational meeting would be held on January 31<sup>st</sup>. She added that the bridge was about 70% designed and that SCDOT would be moving forward with right-of-ways acquisition following those meetings with construction beginning in 2024.

Ms. Leaphart entered the meeting at 4:46 p.m., and a quorum was established.

**I. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Giovanetti**

Mr. Giovanetti called the meeting to order at 4:50 p.m.

**II. REGULAR AGENDA**

a. Meeting Minutes

- Approval of December minutes

Ms. Leaphart made a motion to approve the December minutes. Mr. Cavanaugh seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote of the members present.

b. Review of Council Presentation

Ms. DeForth brought up the draft of the presentation provided by Ms. Scott-Chancey Williams and offered to make edits and take notes. The draft contained slides of three short-term goals and three long term goals that were discussed at the December BPAC meeting.

Mr. Gibbons suggested making a note about the proposal for changing traffic signal timing to specify that this change would emphasize the desire to address pedestrian and multi-modal safety.

Ms. DeForth stated that the presentation would likely go to the Environment and Infrastructure subcommittee of City Council in February or March. BPAC will need to finish the presentation as well as identify who will attend and present at that meeting.

Ms. DeForth noted that there had been discussion at the prior meeting around “funding pedestrian safety”, with the sidewalk funding being a line item of the proposal to fund pedestrian safety. A sidewalk fund could be used to provide matching funds for future grants.

Mr. Giovanetti asked how the recent Park Street sidewalk improvements were paid for, to which Ms. Higgins said it was funded by a combination of TAP funds, Penny money, and General Fund money. Mr. Gibbons asked what kind of matching funds were typically required by grants. Ms. Higgins noted that grants the City receives typically require a 40% match and that a recent sidewalk project cost over \$200,000 for two blocks of new sidewalks. She also suggested that in addition to BPAC asking for a pedestrian safety fund, BPAC could also work to help identify partners and advocate for public-private partnerships to help pay for infrastructure improvements.

Ms. DeForth said she will send the edited PowerPoint to BPAC members and suggested select members of BPAC work to finish the presentation and determine who will be at the Council meeting.

### **III. OTHER BUSINESS**

a. Appointments

Ms. DeForth said that City Council had postponed appointments to Boards and Commissions until the Boards and Commissions Handbook is updated.

b. Bike Month

With Bike Month coming up in May, Ms. DeForth asked BPAC to send any biking related events they know of to her so she can put together a Bike Month calendar. She also asked members to connect her with any organizations they are aware of that might be planning events.

### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **V. ADJOURN**

Mr. Davis made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Ms. Leaphart. The motion to adjourn was approved by unanimous vote. The meeting ended at 5:16pm.