
APPROVED Meeting Minutes – March 16, 2015

The City of Raleigh Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission met on Monday, March 16, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the Raleigh Municipal Building, 222 W. Hargett Street, Raleigh, NC, with the following members present:

Commission Members:

Mike Dayton, Chair
Amy Simes, Vice Chair
Evan Brigham
Linda Butler
Dan Howe
Harry Johnson
Paul Nevill
Alan Wiggs

Staff:

Jennifer Baldwin, Bike/Ped Coordinator
Eric Lamb, Transportation Planning Manager
Chris Johnson, Public Works Design/Construction Manager
Ken Dunn, Public Works Design/Construction Engineer
Rebecca Duffy, Public Works Transportation Engineer
Ken Bowers, Planning Director
Trisha Hasch, Long Range Planner

Absent:

Seth Palmer (excused)
Aaron Peeler (unexcused)

I. Introductions

Mr. Dayton called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Neville moved for approval of the February 20th meeting minutes, which was properly seconded by Mr. Johnson and approved by unanimous voice vote.

III. Public Comments

Mr. Brigham announced that Oaks & Spokes would be holding their annual festival on May 1st through May 10th, with multiple events happening over this period.

Mr. Wiggs inquired regarding a bike ride planned for May 1st. Ms. Baldwin indicated that the “Capital City Ride” event is planned for 7:30am from Chavis Park to the Capitol as part of the City’s Bike Month activities. Mr. Wiggs also indicated that the lights in the greenway tunnel under North Hills Drive near Dixon Drive are out and in need of repair.

Dr. Butler arrived at 6:10pm.

IV. Special Presentations

Kenneth Withrow – Wake Transit Plan Update: Mr. Withrow gave an overview of the current efforts to update the Wake Transit Plan. He emphasized the need for broad public engagement and feedback on the plan during its development. He indicated that details regarding the plan and surveys associated with the effort are available online at www.waketransit.com/choices-report.

Ken Bowers – 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update: Mr. Bowers gave an update regarding the City’s initiative to update the 2030 Comprehensive Plan, which was adopted in 2009. He indicated the City was conducting the update to reflect recent efforts, such as the new Parks Master Plan, multiple corridor plans, Union Station, the Unified Development Ordinance, and other emerging trends for the City. Mr. Wiggs asked about the continued proliferation of surface parking lots relative to the City’s environmental initiatives. Mr. Bowers indicated the City is continuing to look at opportunities to improve in this regard, both with respect to City Codes and capital

project initiatives. Mr. Wiggs clarified that his interest is related specifically to parking lots and water filtration. He also raised concerns about the scale of residential infill development that is occurring in his neighborhood. Mr. Howe asked how the City would avoid rewriting the entire Comprehensive Plan, and how best for the City's boards and commissions to engage in the process. Mr. Bowers replied that the scope is flexible, but that this effort is being approached as a "refresh." He noted that the Planning Commission has developed extensive revisions to the existing transit section in the document, and that the BPAC is welcome to engage on edits. Mr. Dayton asked that this item be referred to the Joint Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning Committee. Mr. Brigham inquired regarding the City's ability to require offsite bicycle/pedestrian improvements associated with private development.

Lillian Thompson – Northeast CAC: Mr. Dayton recognized Ms. Thompson as the chair of the Northeast Citizens Advisory Commission and offered her the floor. She reviewed the activities related to the City's current Buffalo/New Hope planning efforts and expressed her desire to see this intersection improved with respect to walkability and pedestrian accessibility. There was discussion about the role of the Commission relative to the review of development and rezoning cases; Mr. Lamb indicated that the Commission does not currently review development cases, and that this issue has been previously vetted by the Commission. He indicated that the Commission's best opportunity to influence development outcomes was through the content of the City's Unified Development Ordinance.

V. Staff Report

City Project Updates: Mr. Lamb reviewed the current active transportation projects, noting that the spreadsheet had been substantially updated and reformatted since the retreat. Mr. Neville inquired regarding the Milburnie Road traffic calming project and its relationship to the Crabtree Creek Greenway.

Mr. Dayton inquired regarding the Pedestrian City Code revisions that the Commission presented to the City Council, with Mr. Lamb responding that the item was referred to the City Attorney's Office and is still pending.

VI. Committee Reports

Chair's Report: Mr. Dayton announced this is Jennifer Baldwin's last meeting with the commission and extended his gratitude on behalf of the commission for her service to City. Mr. Dayton asked if a Bike Month proclamation will be available this year.

Community Outreach Committee: No report.

Bicycle Planning Committee: No report.

Pedestrian Planning Committee: Ms. Simes reported that the committee reviewed the outcomes of the sidewalk prioritization update and recommended its approval. Ms. Baldwin gave an overview of the criteria that went into the new proposed scoring process. Mr. Howe moved to accept the committee's recommendation to update the sidewalk prioritization process and the new sidewalk priorities, which was seconded by Dr. Butler and approved by unanimous voice vote.

VII. New Business

Peace Street West Streetscape Project: Mr. Johnson reviewed the City's efforts to improve the streetscape along Peace Street between St. Mary's Street and West Street. He noted that this project was programmed many years ago but delayed due to lack of funding. The project will underground most of the utilities and improve the sidewalks, lighting and landscaping along the street, however no changes are proposed to the existing lane configurations. There were multiple questions from the commissioners regarding potential modifications to

existing retaining walls. Mr. Howe inquired regarding the construction schedule for the project, with Mr. Johnson indicating this project would be moving to construction in early 2016. There was discussion regarding the pedestrian circulation at the Glenwood Avenue intersection, with Mr. Johnson indicating that there may be interest by the City in adding additional left turn lanes at some point. Mr. Brigham moved to endorse the project design, which was seconded by Mr. Johnson. Mr. Howe requested that staff bring any consideration regarding the need to add dual-left turn lanes at this location to the Commission for additional discussion. Mr. Brigham's motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Wiggs left the meeting at 7:20pm.

Sidewalk Improvement Projects: Mr. Dunn provided a review of multiple sidewalk projects the City is currently developing:

- Blue Ridge Road from Hillsborough Street to Faber Drive
- Blount Street/Hoke Street/Person Street, from Bragg Street to Hoke Street
- Bloodworth Street from Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. to Worth Street
- W. Millbrook Road from Bennettwood Court to Lead Mine Road
- Oakwood Avenue from N. Fisher Street to Raleigh Blvd.
- N. Raleigh Boulevard from Crabtree Blvd. to Appliance Court
- New Hope Church Road from Wake Forest Road to Atlantic Avenue

Mr. Howe moved to endorse the project designs as proposed, which was seconded by Mr. Johnson and approved by unanimous voice vote. Mr. Lamb noted that these projects are the product of sidewalk funding that was provided through the 2011 and 2013 transportation bond referenda.

Ms. Simes inquired regarding available funding for sidewalk-only projects, and indicated that the pedestrian committee recommended asking Council for a dedicated source of funding for sidewalk construction. Ms. Simes moved to recommend that Council establish a dedicated funding source for sidewalk projects, which was seconded by Mr. Dayton and approved by unanimous voice vote.

VIII. Announcements

Mr. Dayton announced the Tour de Brew event starting at Crank Arm on March 28th.

Ms. Baldwin announced that the City's Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Department is developing new arts plan for the City, with resources available at raleighartsplan.com.

Mr. Brigham recommended that Commissioners visit CAC's across the City and make presentations in order to generate awareness about the Commission and to improve the City's bicycle and pedestrian outreach.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Lamb

