



# CITY OF COLUMBIA

## BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)

May 18, 2020

4:30 PM

### MEETING MINUTES

Virtual meeting using conferencing technology  
Columbia, SC

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EMILY BEASLEY • PAMELA BYNOE-REED • SUSAN J. FORREST • CHRISTINA GALARDI  
FRITZ HAMER • CHASE KEIBLER • GEORGE KOKOLIS • BETSY NEWMAN • CHARLES ZACHARY PIPPIN • RIP SANDERS  
RACHEL THOMASON • BARTON WALRATH • CYNTHIA WATSON • CHRYS ZOURAS

In the interest of public health and as authorized by City Council Ordinance 2020-032, the City of Columbia Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) conducted a virtual meeting using video conferencing technology on **Monday, May 18, 2020 at 4:30pm.**

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:35pm. Committee members in attendance were: Bart Walrath, Rip Sanders, Christina Galardi, Chrys Zouras, Emily Beasley, Betsy Newman, Zach Phippen, Rachel Thompson, & Cynthia Watson. Damien Smith, with Change.org, attended as a guest. John Fellows, the City Planning Administrator was in attendance as well.

Bart Walrath made a motion to amend the meeting agenda to allow for the special guest to provide his presentation earlier in the meeting., motion was seconded by Christina Galardi, motion approved.

#### II. REGULAR AGENDA

- a. Minutes: Rip Sanders made a motion to approve March 9, 2020 Minutes, and the motion was seconded by Bart Walrath. Christina Galardi asked for a minor correction regarding the proper reference to the Eat Smart Move More organization and a motion to approve the Minutes with the correction was approved by unanimous vote.
- b. Updates:
  - Report from Co Chair –Walrath: Walrath informed everyone of the meeting date in June.
  - City Planning Update – Fellows
    - Fellows informed the committee that virtual meetings were likely to continue through the summer and any planned events were not occurring during this period.
    - Bike Month content will be provided on all Compass social media platforms.
    - Marketing and education fund is still being pursued and applied for through City Procurement.

- The bike share service will recommence on June 1<sup>st</sup>. However, there has been a change in the operator of the program. Current employees of the program will transition to the new operator and remain employed.
  - Fellows then updated the committee on the status of various projects including those on Millwood, Calhoun, Green, Marion and Washington Streets. He also notified the committee that the Gills Creek Greenway maintenance plan has been approved the project will commence soon.
  - Fellows also notified the committee that City staff and Council are aware of the Change.org petition.
- c. Special Guest Appearances: Walrath introduced Damien Smith to provide a presentation regarding the Change.org Petition: Bike Friendly Columbia, Bike Boulevard and Bike Lane Demonstration Project.
- Smith provided the committee a presentation describing the petition as a grass roots campaign being pursued in communities across the nation whereby they petition local governments to experiment with temporary closures of public right of ways to automobile traffic and allowing only pedestrian and cycling traffic thereon. Locally, they are petitioning the City of Columbia to incorporate this program on selected right of ways for a one-month period. This program allows the community experience and assess the impact and value of more bike/ped friendly access in the community to see if the community may support further development of such access permanently.
  - Smith took several questions from the members of the committee.
  - Fellows provided the committee some additional background on past City efforts to work with neighborhood associations on prior City projects impacting their community and at times the actual leadership in the community associations did not have the full support of the members of their community causing issues upon subsequent City project initiation.
- d. Outreach Projects
- Fellows informed the committee that the Public Life Public Space postponed until Spring 2021 due to COVID-19
  - Open Streets – Galardi stated that no new update is available due to the current Covid-19 shutdown.
  - Fellows offered City resources to assist the committee with orchestrating Bike Month in the fall of 2020
  - Shaughnessy notified the committee that Bike and Pedestrian Counts are scheduled for Fall 2020
- e. Strategic Planning
- Walrath noted that the meeting time was about to expire so he moved to start a brief discussion of how BPAC can be relevant in the COVID-19 and Post COVID-19 period and continue a more substantive discussion at a subsequent meeting. The motion was approved.
  - A brief discussion regarding the same was commenced in the remaining time. Walrath suggested that subcommittees continue these discussions in their own meetings.

### III. ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned shortly after 5:30pm.