



CITY OF COLUMBIA
BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)
February 8, 2021
4:30 PM

Virtual meeting using conferencing technology
Columbia, SC

WILLIAM BAKER • PAMELA BYNOE-REED • CHRISTINA GALARDI
CHASE KEIBLER • GEORGE KOKOLIS • BETSY NEWMAN
RACHEL THOMASON JOHN • BARTON WALRATH • CYNTHIA WATSON • CHRYS ZOURAS

In Attendance: Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine, William Baker, Pamela Bynoe-Reed, Christina Galardi, George Kokolis, Betsy Newman, Rachel Thomason John, Barton Walrath, Cynthia Watson

Absent: Chase Keibler, Chrys Zouras

Staff: Leigh DeForth, Dana Higgins, Shane Shaughnessy, Lucinda Statler

I. CALL TO ORDER- Co-Chairs Watson and Baker

Co-Chairs Watson and Baker called the meeting to order at 4:34pm.

II. REGULAR AGENDA

- a. Welcome to Council members present

The Co-Chairs welcomed Councilwoman Devine to the meeting.

Councilwoman Devine thanked the BPAC members present for their service. She reviewed the City's purchase of wave delineators for a demonstration project in early 2020, noting that the goal was to put a demonstration project of protected bike lanes in place, however the opportunity to utilize those had not yet been realized. She discussed the alignment between BPAC and CPAC goals, and how action items might be developed by the two committees in tandem for Council to consider for this year and coming years. Councilwoman Devine reiterated her commitment to the recommendations of the Walk Bike Columbia plan and her goal of bringing folks together in support of affordable housing, walkability, bikability, and other quality of life issues. She noted that she had also challenged CPAC to provide what their goals for 2021 might be, so that she, and the Environment & Infrastructure Committee, could take those forward to Council as a whole. She also reviewed the City's equity study and its import to the City's efforts to create livable communities and providing equal access to all of the City's residents.

George Kokolis joined the meeting at 4:38pm.

Rachel Thomason John joined the meeting at 4:45pm.

Co-Chair Baker noted that he and Co-Chair Watson had met over the weekend and hoped that BPAC could come up with three action items or goals to accomplish by the end of 2021, and thanked Councilwoman Devine for her service. Co-Chair Watson reviewed the impact of COVID on BPAC's efforts, and indicated that it has been difficult to understand Council's goals for BPAC during COVID, and to develop some movement as a Committee.

Councilwoman Devine noted that she felt that COVID had exposed a lot of inequities in the community, but also presented some opportunities, and that reflecting on the issues that COVID helped to expose and keeping a long-term mindset was important. She discussed the potential of stimulus funding becoming available from the federal government, and how the City was preparing to be positioned for these types of opportunities. Co-Chair Watson noted that considering the health disparities BPAC might be able to focus more closely on the benefits of walking and biking in the future. Councilwoman Devine asked BPAC what their priorities might be for the coming year, and what they had been working on.

Ms. Galardi discussed BPAC's struggle with engagement during COVID, and highlighted the Walk Bike Bingo program for Walk to School Day, as well as the Experience Millwood initiative. She noted that the pause on public events like Open Streets had modified BPAC's efforts, and there was some discussion regarding the permission of City-sponsored organized events during the pandemic response. There was some discussion regarding partnership with the North Main Business Association. Ms. Statler also noted the impact of the pandemic on the data collection efforts tied to the Public Space Public Life survey and pedestrian and bicycle counts.

Ms. Galardi also reviewed the Walk Bike Ambassador program at the request of Mr. Walrath, who noted he felt that this program had a lot of potential to empower individuals in neighborhoods to be engaged. Ms. Galardi noted that the model would be similar to The COMET Academy, and was recommended within the Walk Bike Columbia plan. The goal would be to help individuals understand planning processes around walking and biking, the benefits of walking and biking, how to organize events surrounding walking and biking, how to engage with BPAC and advocacy organizations, and how to advocate for changes in their community around walking and biking. She noted that the hope was to create a wider network of people who are representative of different neighborhoods and community organizations to educate and engage on walking and biking in the community.

Councilwoman Devine expressed her support, and asked about the advertisement for seven members of BPAC. There was some discussion regarding the potential of reducing the size of BPAC. Ms. Statler noted that the way the by-laws currently read, a minimum of 10 members, but up to a maximum of 17 members, could make up the Committee. Ms. Galardi noted that County Councilwoman Terracio was also in support of the Walk Bike Ambassador program.

b. Approve January 11, 2020 minutes

Co-Chair Baker made a motion to approve the January 11th minutes, and Mr. Walrath seconded the motion. Co-Chair Watson noted that Councilwoman Devine was welcome to stay for the rest of the meeting if she wished/was able, and thanked her for her time and discussion with BPAC. Councilwoman Devine thanked BPAC, and noted that she looked forward to receiving BPAC's three action items.

Councilwoman Devine left the meeting at 5:06pm.

The motion to approve the January 11th minutes was carried by unanimous vote.

c. Strategic Planning meeting- March

- Survey results
- Doodle Poll/schedule

Ms. Statler reviewed the strategic planning survey results, noting that the full survey results were available for review in the linked agenda. There was some discussion regarding member attendance and the regular meeting time, as well as setting a time for the strategic planning meeting. The Committee seemed to favor continuing to meet at the same time and date; no action to modify the regular meeting time was taken.

There was some discussion of using the Projects & Initiatives items (shown in green in this month's report) to identify the top three action items for the coming year (as previously discussed by Councilwoman Devine). There was some discussion regarding holding the regular meeting so that Councilman Brennan could attend and so a review of the Walk Bike Ambassador program could be held, both separate from the strategic planning meeting.

There was discussion of Blue Bike's annual report, providing that information back to BPAC members (in an abbreviated version), as well as plans for Bike and Preservation Month celebrations in May and the potential for collaboration with BPAC on those social media efforts. Ms. Galardi also noted there was some discussion of creating a calendar for upcoming engagement, which would allow the Committee to plan in the long-term. She suggested that this calendar might be something to flag as an outcome from the strategic planning effort this year. The Committee further discussed the potential of an Open Streets event in the fall, pending feedback from the City regarding the sponsoring of events during the pandemic response. Ms. Newman indicated her neighborhood would likely be interested and in support of the Open Streets effort.

Co-Chair Baker asked if the Committee would like to hear from Christy Hall with SCDOT, and there was some discussion of street closure processes and a desire to complete strategic planning prior to inviting additional individuals to attend BPAC meetings.

After some further discussion, it was decided that the strategic planning meeting should occur at the regular meeting.

George Kokolis left the meeting at 5:48pm.

d. City Planning Update – staff

- Spring events/ Bike Month

Mr. Walrath asked for an update regarding the Canal repair and the Harden/Blossom Road Safety Audit public meeting. Ms. Statler indicated that she had reached out regarding the Canal improvements but had not received an update at this time, and would continue to follow up. Ms. Statler and Ms. DeForth confirmed that they had reached out to SCDOT, but SCDOT had indicated that they had not yet scheduled a date for the public meeting, and would work to apprise the City once a meeting was scheduled.

Pamela Bynoe-Reed left the meeting at 5:51pm.

e. Committee Reports:

- **Projects and Initiatives** (Christina Galardi, Betsy Newman, Barton Walrath)

Mr. Walrath noted that the written report for the Projects and Initiatives Subcommittee had been linked in the agenda. Co-Chair Watson noted that the Marketing Subcommittee had nothing to report at the meeting. Co-Chair Baker confirmed that was the same for the Policy Subcommittee.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to discuss.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public present to provide comment.

V. ADJOURN

Co-Chair Watson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Co-Chair Baker seconded the motion, which was adopted by a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 5:53pm.

**Respectfully submitted,
Planning & Development Services Department**