



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

**Virtual meeting using conferencing technology**  
**Columbia, SC**

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**WILLIAM BAKER • PAMELA BYNOE-REED • CHRISTINA GALARDI**  
**GEORGE KOKOLIS • BETSY NEWMAN**  
**RACHEL THOMASON JOHN • CYNTHIA WATSON**

**In attendance:** Rachel Thomason John, Betsy Newman, Cynthia Watson, Will Baker, George Kokolis, Christina Galardi

**Absent:** Pamela Bynoe-Reed

**Staff:** Leigh DeForth, Shane Shaughnessy, Lucinda Statler

**Also present:** Anna Gilbert

**I. CALL TO ORDER- Co-chairs Watson and Baker**

The co-chairs called the meeting to order at 4:33pm.

Ms. Statler noted that the appointments were on the March 16<sup>th</sup> Council agenda.

**II. REGULAR AGENDA**

- a. Approve February 8, 2021 minutes

Co-chair Baker made a motion to approve the minutes, and Ms. Newman seconded the motion. The motion to approve was carried by unanimous vote (6-0).

- b. Strategic Planning meeting- staff will facilitate

- Review [Survey results](#)
- Choose 3 initiatives- define scope/goals/ potential partners
- Define Committees, committee chairs, members
- Define actions items for Committee reports at April meeting

Co-chair Baker reviewed the survey process and results. He indicated that the top three initiatives (in addition to Walk Bike Columbia and the Walk Bike Ambassador Program) were coordination with other partners on events (Tree & Appearance Commission, Columbia Green, etc.), coordination with Blue Bike SC, and the neighborhood art walk/bike program. He mentioned that it would be helpful to strategize as to who to partner with (in a prioritized fashion), and points of contact for those organizations. He noted that it would also be important to nail down what the ask from BPAC to these organizations (and what the

offering by BPAC was) to make. Co-chair Baker noted these collaborations could also stem from those who had members/employees on BPAC.

Ms. Statler noted that it would be important to determine what that partnership looked like, and was there a specific ask of each organization, prior to identifying those partners. She noted that the survey was helpful to determine what BPAC might tackle, and she noted that there were the three items that came out of the survey, plus the Walk Bike Ambassador Program, plus the marketing committee – with seven active members and five committees, the discussion might need to talk about prioritization of initiatives, and the designation of subcommittee chairs for each of the strategic planning initiatives.

Ms. Galardi spoke a little bit about the Walk Bike Ambassador Program, noting that the program was recommended by Walk Bike Columbia, primarily with a focus on safety, but she indicated that she felt there was an opportunity to expand to other topics as well. She noted the COMET Academy, as well as a planning academy in place in Greenville (run by Upstate Forever), helped her to formulate a draft curriculum with three major components: health & safety, planning processes & participation, and community organizing around walking & biking. The thought is that BPAC could recruit participation across the districts as well as encouraging organizations to have representative participants. She indicated this may help create another level of involvement and open the door to a broader representation of participants than those who have typically been involved in the past. She indicated she could send out a doodle to gather a subcommittee and refine the content prior to bringing it back to the larger group. She noted this will take the effort of multiple individuals to move this forward. Ms. Galardi noted she was willing to be the subcommittee/initiative chair for this program. She indicated it would be helpful to have City staff speak re: planning and the planning process, and Amy Ely speak re: community organizing. There was some discussion as to whether this would kick off in the Summer or Fall.

Regarding the art/history walk/bike program. Ms. Newman volunteered to be the chair for this subcommittee. Ms. Newman noted that BPAC might be less of a sponsor and more of a marketer of these types of activities. She indicated this would mean identifying these types of activities, how the information is accessible, and how it might be best amplified by BPAC. Historic Columbia and One Columbia both have existing programs, and she indicated that Columbia Green may be interested in creating walks, as well. Co-chair Watson also noted that Blue Bike was working on similar activities and in conversation with Eshana Young-Pierre of Blue Bike SC, Ms. Young-Pierre indicated she'd be willing to work with BPAC on this as well.

*George Kokolis left the meeting at 4:58pm*

Co-chair Baker noted that the Tree & Appearance Commission also had a treasured tree program, and that this might be an opportunity to center walks or bikes around this program. Ms. DeForth also mentioned sharing the Preservation Bike Rides, which will be available via social media in May as part of the Bike & Preservation Bike Month virtual celebrations. There was some discussion as to how the Marketing subcommittee might best collaborate to share the word. There was some discussion of sharing the four new City Parks Foundation murals in the works. Ms. Galardi suggested creating a schedule to share these activities, perhaps one a month. Co-chair Watson indicated that the Marketing subcommittee could take on the creation of a calendar. In addition to Ms. Newman, Ms. John indicated she was interested in the subcommittee. Ms. Galardi and Ms. Watson also indicated they would be willing to help brainstorm.

The committee discussed how the initiative regarding the creation of partnerships might be best incubated within the subcommittee regarding the art/history bike/walk program. Ms. Newman indicated that SERCO – which deals with the history of the Lower Richland area, had some sites that could be considered bikable, but not walkable, and they might also be a good monthly partner. There was some discussion about how the subcommittee might measure impact regarding this program. Co-chair Watson

indicated that some measurement could be obtained via looking at the number of hits on the calendar to be developed by the Marketing subcommittee.

The subcommittee talked about what the Blue Bike SC partnership might look like – there was some discussion regarding this being more of a sharing of events, and this could include a partnership with The COMET, as well, to help spread the word. If and when Blue Bike could provide bikes for these types of activities, this could be a plus. Partner to plan bike ride events, or to plan scavenger hunts with Blue Bike related prizes tied to each monthly walk/ride. Co-chair Watson indicated she would ask Ms. Bynoe-Reed if she would be interested in serving on this subcommittee, and that there would be a lot of overlap with marketing.

There was some discussion as to what the next action items would be between now and the regular BPAC meeting. Discussion of in-person activities like the Mayor’s ride, and organizing a bike month calendar. There was some discussion of the Marketing subcommittee and what their plans might be for Bike Month, and what action items they might develop for April. Ms. DeForth indicated that a plan had been developed for Bike & Preservation Month celebrations. Ms. Galardi indicated she would email the subcommittee last year’s events, and Ms. DeForth indicated she would email this year’s events. The subcommittee includes Co-chair Watson, Ms. Johns, and Ms. Bynoe-Reed. Co-chair Baker asked to be included in the Marketing subcommittee as well. Co-chair Watson noted that working with Eshana to connect with Blue Cross Blue Shield would likely be best, and Co-chair Baker agreed.

There was some discussion of Open Streets, and what the capacity or desire to move that forward was. Ms. Galardi noted it felt a little like planning of Open Streets was back at square one at this time. Ms. Galardi indicated that she hadn’t heard back from Ms. Odom at the North Columbia Business Association, and Co-chair Watson offered to follow up. Ms. Galardi noted that the Open Streets Handbook had a sample timeline, which suggested a lead time of 3-4 months, but that might change based on the capacity and interest of a partner organization. Ms. Statler noted that it sounded like a decision needed to be made by the May meeting if BPAC hoped to move an Open Streets event forward in the Fall of 2021, and indicated staff would reach out to CPD regarding the current permitting process, timeline, and capacity.

- c. City Planning Update – staff
  - Spring events/ Bike Month
  - Bike/ped counts

Ms. Statler noted that bike/ped counts were typically in the Fall, and Public Space Public Life Counts were typically in the Spring. She noted that staff will be organizing these counts, and information on how to sign up will be forthcoming via email, and asked members to save the dates and times for the counts in their calendar.

There was some conversation regarding the Policy subcommittee, and Co-chair Baker indicated that they have yet to meet, but perhaps this subcommittee could be revisited in the future with future members, and would perhaps be better defined at that time. Co-chair Baker noted that the April meeting report outs would be helpful to bringing the new members on board and up to speed. Ms. Statler indicated that staff would work to complete training between appointments and the next BPAC meeting. Co-chairs Watson and Baker noted they might also try to hold a brief meeting with each new member to welcome them prior to the meeting, as well.

### **III. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Anna Gilbert indicated that she had no comments or questions.

**V. ADJOURN**

Ms. Watson made a motion to adjourn, and Mr. Baker seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 5:46pm.