



CITY OF COLUMBIA
BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)
May 10, 2021
4:30 PM

Virtual meeting using conferencing technology
Columbia, SC

PAMELA BYNOE-REED • ZACH CAVANAUGH • DEREK DAVIS • CHRISTINA GALARDI
ANNA GILBERT • DOUGLAS GIOVANETTI • GEORGE KOKOLIS • CARMEN LATIMER • JENNIFER LEAPHART
BETSY NEWMAN • RACHEL THOMASON JOHN • CYNTHIA WATSON • MARY SCOTT-CHANCEY WILLIAMS

In attendance: Zach Cavanaugh, Derek Davis, Christina Galardi, Anna Gilbert, Douglas Giovanetti, Carmen Latimer, Jennifer Leaphart, Betsy Newman, Cynthia Watson, Mary Scott-Chancey Williams, and Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine

Absent: Pamela Bynoe-Reed, George Kokolis, Rachel Thomason John

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

I. CALL TO ORDER- Chair Watson

Chairwoman Watson called the meeting to order at 4:32pm, and welcomed new members. She introduced and welcomed Councilwoman Devine.

Carmen Latimer entered the meeting at 4:34pm. Betsy Newman entered the meeting at 4:35pm.

II. REGULAR AGENDA

a. Welcome Councilwoman Devine

Councilwoman Devine thanked BPAC members for their service.

Anna Gilbert entered the meeting at 4:37pm.

Councilwoman Devine urged members of BPAC to collaborate with CPAC in the coming year as the goals of the two committees are aligned in many ways. She asked that BPAC come up with annual goals, and reviewed some of the opportunities she anticipated in the future tied to infrastructure investment at the federal level. She noted that the City was moving forward with a road diet and bike lanes on Calhoun Street, noting that the project included Penny & CTC funding, and expressed her excitement about the potential infrastructure investments in the near future.

Ms. Williams asked about updates regarding the River Drive area. Ms. Devine talked about the City's negotiations to obtain the SCDOT right-of-way which would include a RFP for the right-of-way property, ensuring that an easement would be reserved for a greenway, which would allow the greenway to traverse the right-of-way. Dana Higgins reviewed the potential for a multi-use trail through that corridor, with the trail hugging the property line.

Chairwoman Watson asked about the possibility for outdoor events in the short and long-term. She indicated that whether there was a mask ordinance or state regulations, the City was asking event organizers to follow CDC guidelines.

Ms. Newman asked Councilwoman Devine to discuss the difference between her at-large role and the role of the Mayor, and Councilwoman Devine talked about how the Mayor in many ways sets the collective vision for the City, has a greater chance for regional collaboration.

Councilwoman Devine left the meeting at 5:02pm.

b. Walk Friendly Communities

Leigh DeForth noted that the City had been re-designated as a Walk Friendly Community, and that the Walk Friendly Communities Program would be following up with a feedback document in the coming weeks or months.

c. Approve April 12, 2021 minutes

Ms. Galardi made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, Mr. Cavanaugh seconded, the motion to approve the minutes was carried by unanimous vote.

d. Open Streets discussion

Ms. Statler noted that 90 days notice is preferable, but 30 days notice is the absolute minimum required. If a SCDOT street is chosen, an application to SCDOT would also need to be made. At this point, a plan for social distancing would also be required to be in place as part of the application. Ms. Galardi noted that the Open Streets event had not been necessarily prioritized in the strategic plan, and that she had not heard back from North Main. There was some discussion regarding potentially waiting until 2022. Ms. Galardi noted that there had been some interest from Cottontown, and that she would be happy to hold a separate subcommittee session about Open Streets. Ms. Gilbert noted the community desire to participate in outdoor events, and there was some subsequent discussion of equity and planning for future Open Streets events. Ms. Galardi provided a brief review of open streets, noting she could schedule a follow up discussion/subcommittee meeting. She noted that after the creation of the handbook, they were really seeking neighborhood ownership and implementation of open streets activities throughout the community moving forward.

e. Committee reports

- Ambassador program- Christina Galardi

Ms. Galardi noted that the plan for the Ambassador program had been referred to the marketing and outreach subcommittee to better understand feedback from that subcommittee, and that the subcommittee was waiting on that feedback to move forward.

- Bike/ped tours/partnerships- Betsy Newman

Ms. Newman indicated that she hadn't been able to move the item forward, and hadn't been able to connect with Rachel Thomason John regarding the subcommittee. She noted she would like to meet with interested BPAC members to move the concept forward.

- Marketing- Cynthia Watson (interim subcommittee chair)

Chairwoman Watson noted that the marketing team needed a subcommittee chair, and encouraged new members to join a subcommittee. She noted the subcommittee was still trying to determine who might be responsible for the calendar, and noted that Ms. Bynoe-Reed had offered the use of her intern in posting items to the BPAC facebook page, if the marketing team could provide the content. Ms. Statler and Ms. DeForth provided an update regarding their request for guidance from the City's Public and Media Relations and Marketing (PR) staff regarding BPAC social media. She noted that City policy was that boards, commissions, and committees would not have their own social media pages. However, given that BPAC's Facebook page had an existing presence and followers, the advice was to post regularly to ensure that posts by BPAC were still seen due to Facebook's metrics. PR Director Utsey had also indicated that staff should be granted administrative privileges to the page, and suggested turning off commenting, as the page was not regularly monitored. Ms. Galardi indicated she would add Ms. DeForth to the BPAC Facebook page.

Ms. Statler noted that members could reach out to one another, but that each subcommittee should have a chair, and that discussion at the strategic planning meeting had been that each subcommittee should be submitting a report prior to the BPAC meeting so that it could be included in the agenda. She noted that it would be helpful to be copied on those emails so that staff could understand the makeup of each subcommittee. Ms. Williams noted she would be willing to step in to manage the BPAC Facebook page if no one else was interested.

- f. City Planning Update – staff
 - Spring events/ Bike Month

Ms. Statler indicated that the monthly update was not reviewed at each meeting because of time, but she was always happy to discuss any items in the update, or other questions, during the meeting should BPAC wish for more information. She indicated that the tentative plan for Calhoun Street outreach was in late June; and that the planned meeting would be a public information meeting, as the project was funded, and the meeting was more of a reminder for the community.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Election of Vice-Chair

Ms. Statler noted that no nominations had been received, so that this item would be shifted to the next meeting, and she encouraged folks to nominate themselves or others.

Ms. Galardi left the meeting at 5:36pm.

There was some discussion of when BPAC might meet in person again, and Ms. Statler noted that City Council planned to meet in person in July before asking boards, commissions, and committees to shift to in-person meetings.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

V. ADJOURN

Ms. Williams made a motion to adjourn, and Ms. Latimer seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 pm.

**Respectfully Submitted,
City of Columbia Planning & Development Services Department**