



Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2021 – 6:00 to 7:30 pm

Via Zoom Virtual Meeting

Attendance

Staff:

Michael Liebler, Emma Newman, Molly Markarian, Dawn Williams

BPAC members:

Teresa Roark, Dennis Weirich, Steve Abbott (Eugene ATC Liaison), Karla Berg, Kevin Campbell, Simon Daws (Willamalane Liaison), Bryce Mayall, Jeff Sakacsi, Joseph Pruski, Laughton Elliott-DeAngelis (Safe Routes to School Liaison), Kori Rodley (City Councilor)

Excused Absence(s):

Mitchell Coon

Unexcused Absence(s):

Julia Johnson, David Leedom, Andrew Landen

Guest(s):

Claire Roth (Safe Streets Coordinator, Better Eugene-Springfield Transportation)

CALL TO ORDER. Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Welcome/Introductions

Dennis Weirich facilitated introductions.

Agenda Review

No agenda changes.

Dennis Weirich moved to approve the agenda.

Kevin Campbell seconded the motion.

All approved.

Committee Business

Public Comment

Claire Roth introduced herself as the Safe Streets Coordinator with Better Eugene-Springfield Transportation (BEST). She explained that since COVID her organization has moved to virtual events but were also planning for bike rides as things return to a new normal. She added that they have been paying attention to the Main Street Safety Project and were impressed with how it has been moving along. She added that they were interested in partnering in increasing safety for residents. She provided her contact information to members via chat.

Meeting Minutes

Emma Newman noted that they were unable to determine who seconded one of the motions during the last meeting. She stated that they may have to just note that everyone approved the motion if they can't remember who seconded the motion.

Dennis Weirich covered some housekeeping and referenced *Robert's Rules of Order*. He sent a two-page version to Emma Newman and suggested that it would give everyone a good idea of what it is all about. He expressed that he liked the flow that it suggests and allows everyone to be respected. He has asked Emma to email everyone a copy of it.

Emma Newman stated that Kevin Campbell believes he was the one who seconded the motion in question and the last meeting's minutes would be updated to reflect that.

Dennis asked for a motion to accept the minutes as written.

Bryce Mayall moved to approve the February meeting minutes.

Joe Pruski seconded the motion.

No vote was taken.

Update and Approve Protocols and Ground Rules

Emma Newman stated that the Bylaws that they submitted to Council for approval references the Protocols and Ground Rules, which can be updated more frequently and is intended to serve as a collective agreement for the committee. Emma went over the suggested changes to the document and highlighted the section that had been added regarding virtual meetings. She added that Julia had submitted a change in verbiage to "lead city staff" and Emma's name in parentheses when it comes to submitting information to be shared with the committee. Emma went over the decision-making section that covers "consensus" and stressed the importance of these rules.

Dennis Weirich asked for a motion to approve the amended Protocols and Ground Rules.

Bryce Mayall asked which document in the section stating "that brief summaries will be prepared for each meeting" is it referring to.

Emma Newman responded that it is referring to the meeting minutes that are sent out in advance of the next meeting.

Teresa Roark asked if it was appropriate to ask questions in the chat feature. She also asked if when they are permitted to have in-person meetings again will there still be a remote option. She additionally asked if they should have a formal process for consensus such as fist to five.

Dennis Wierich stated that if they can't get a verbal agreement for everyone then they would go to a vote.

Teresa Roark described a few different ways that a consensus can be reached while allowing individuals to make their opinions known.

Dennis Weirich agreed that it would be a good idea and asked for Emma's input.

Emma Newman stated that she felt that it was important to have an agreed upon decision making process, but it was up to the group to decide.

Kevin Campbell stated that he was comfortable with the majority vote decision-making process for consensus.

Bryce Mayall that he liked the ability to state that "this is for the greater good but I don't like it", but it usually comes up in the discussion so he wasn't sure that it needed to be part of a formal voting process.

Dennis Weirich asked if he wanted any changes made.

Bryce Mayall stated that he did not.

Dennis Weirich responded to the question about in-person and virtual meetings. He felt that it was a personal preference due to the concerns of some people but felt it may be difficult to conduct a Zoom meeting and in-person at the same time.

Emma Newman stated that she felt that there would be some broader conversations regarding how meetings are conducted as they are phased back in while following public health guidelines. She felt that City Council would give some guidance to boards, committees and commissions at a later date.

Teresa Roark confirmed that there was not a consensus to have a formalized voting process and that the city will provide guidance for return to in-person meetings.

Dennis Weirich asked for any other comments.

Kevin Campbell moved to approve the Protocols and Ground Rules.

Bryce Mayall seconded.

All approved.

Work Plan Development

Emma Newman thanked everyone who provided their input in the questionnaire that was sent following last meeting.

Dennis Weirich stated that they needed to choose their subcommittees. He felt that the programming subcommittee was not as important as it has been in the past due to COVID.

Emma Newman shared the Interest Survey results. She went over each item listed in the survey: Community Outreach, Safe Streets Audits, Support Launching Springfield Open Streets, Create a Plan When Bike Facilities Terminate, Pedestrian Network Inventory/Review ADA Transition Plan, West D Street Improvements, Implement Bike Fix-It Stations, Expand Bike Share, and Northbank Path Lighting. She added that there was additionally an area where members could contribute any other ideas they had.

Dennis Weirich asked what stood out the most to everyone. He felt Safe Street Audits and the Northbank Path Lighting stood out the most.

Kevin Campbell stated that he did not see very much interest in the Pedestrian Network Inventory, but he still felt very committed to that project and would like to see it continue.

Dennis Weirich responded that was something that they could consider and asked if it would be handled by the Planning Subcommittee.

Kevin Campbell confirmed that it should.

Dennis Weirich asked if there were any other suggestions. He asked Michael Liebler for any guidance.

Michael Liebler stated that as a staff member he was hesitant to direct the group, but felt that they had a good list so far.

Dennis Weirich stated that they would like input from the public, but felt that Michael Liebler's input was also important to them.

Emma Newman shared that the Bike Fix-it Stations and installing bike racks throughout Springfield are both items where there is grant funding available as soon as this fall. It would be helpful to have BPAC input on how to implement those items.

Bryce Mayall asked if the bike racks included bike lockers.

Emma Newman stated that the funding probably specifies "racks" but if they felt there should be fewer racks and include some more secure bike parking lockers, then they could consider that. She added Bryce's question was an example of why she felt it was important to get BPAC's input on these items.

Dennis Weirich asked if anyone had anything that they would like to go with.

Teresa Roark stated that she was interested in working on the recommendations for bike parking even if the funding might not be available until fall but felt it would be helpful to start the discussions now. She added that she was basically suggesting priorities on the things they know funding is available.

Bryce Mayall asked if there was a way to list these projects by funding availability so it could help them determine where they should put their efforts. If there is no chance of something happening, then it may not be something they should waste their efforts on.

Emma Newman gave a rundown of the items that had potential funding. Bike Fix-It Stations and Bike Racks both have funding in the Regional Bicycle Enhancement grant, Bike Share does not have any specific funding, Northbank Path lighting does not have any specific funding, West D Street has some funding from the remaining funds of the Walking and Biking Safety Improvements grant, Pedestrian Network Inventory does not but does not need it to do the inventory, Plan for When Bike Facilities Terminate does not have funding, Open Streets does not have funding but there has been work done to identify grants and sponsorships, Safe Streets Audit does not need funding to complete the audit but does not need it to do the audit, Community Outreach uses some city funds to purchase lights and brochures.

Michael Liebler asked if they were looking for a ranking or supplemental information about the projects to decide.

Bryce stated that just having the information on what type of funding there is in order to decide.

Michael Liebler stated that he also suggested looking at stuff that already have some momentum started.

Dennis Weirich stated that he would like to see the Bike Parking initiative move forward. He added that they don't need to decide them all tonight and he would still like to see if they could come up with another committee so everyone can have some input on something.

Establish Subcommittees

Emma Newman stated that there might be a split between work items. The Pedestrian Network Inventory would pair well with the Safe Streets Audit. The Bike Fix-It Stations and Bike Rack Installation are coming from the same grant so they would pair well. Additionally, there is continued interest in West D Street which is a project that will be seeking BPAC input as the project progresses. The work plan items could basically be Pedestrian Network Inventory, Safe Streets Audit, Bike Fix-It Stations and Bike Rack Installation. She felt if it was approached this way then as things hopefully open up and COVID situations allow for other opportunities, they could consider adding items then.

Dennis Weirich asked who would like to be a part of the Planning Committee.

Teresa Roark asked which committee was focusing on which items.

Emma Newman responded that the Pedestrian Network Inventory and the Safe Streets Audit is more focused on pedestrians and then the Fix-it Stations and the Bike Racks are more bike oriented, it may be logical to split them by modes, but she was not sure if the committee would want to do that.

Bryce Mayall stated he would like to be a part of the Bike Racks and Fix-it Stations.

Joe Pruski asked if there was a way to make community outreach an overall part of everything they are doing. He felt keeping the public informed and getting feedback would help them do a better job.

Emma Newman stated that the city was limited to supporting two subcommittees, but if an individual wanted to attend both subcommittees and then help with communication a hybrid model could be explored this year.

Dennis Weirich added that each committee could get together with Joe and then bring it all together later.

Teresa Roark felt that the suggestion was to have a Bicycle Subcommittee and a Pedestrian Subcommittee, or they could go with different names.

Kevin Campbell suggested that the group with the Safe Streets Audit and the Pedestrian Network Inventory be named the Facility Audit Committee. He didn't feel comfortable separating the groups by pedestrians and cyclists. He doesn't advocate for one group over another based on mode.

Dennis Weirich concurred. He then asked if that group should be called the Safe Streets Audit Committee.

Kevin Campbell nodded in agreement.

Teresa Roark stated that she was thinking Facilities Committee but wasn't happy with the word "facilities".

Joe Pruski suggested the word "infrastructure".

Dennis Weirich stated that they are not always on the same page, but they eventually get there. He then asked if they wanted to have a meeting next month for one or both committees.

Bryce Mayall said he personally thought that was a good idea so they could establish some of these things.

Dennis Weirich asked if the committees have met on the alternate months in the past.

Emma Newman stated that it helped to have the subcommittees meet on Tuesday nights on the alternate months to stay consistent so it would help to see if that still works for everyone. She added that as of now, she has Kevin Campbell down for the Safe Streets Audit Committee and Bryce Mayall and Teresa Roark down for the Infrastructure Committee. She asked to hear what the interests were from the rest of group.

Dennis Weirich responded that he would be interested in the Infrastructure Committee.

Joe Pruski responded that he would like to join the Safe Streets Audit Committee with Kevin Campbell.

Dennis Weirich commended Kevin on his ambition and looked forward to working with Joe on the communication portion.

Emma Newman asked if Jeff Sakacsi had a preference.

Jeff Sakacsi responded that he would prefer the Safe Streets Audit Committee.

Emma Newman stated that she would reach out to the members who were absent to get their preferences. She then explained that they needed to decide which committee meets on which Tuesday of the month.

Dennis Weirich stated that he was open to any option.

Bryce Mayall also stated that he was open to any option.

Emma Newman noted that there were no specific preferences so she would reach out to the other members and see if they had a preference and then would let them know when they would be meeting in May.

Future Agenda Item Suggestions

Dennis Weirich went over the future agenda items listed on the second page of the agenda and asked what they would like to discuss at next month's meeting.

Emma Newman noted that some of these items were carryover and so if they wanted to clean it up and start from scratch they could do that so they could tailor the agenda to what the current committee would like to spend time discussing.

Dennis Weirich responded that they would like to have the items that the subcommittees would be working on added to the agenda.

Kevin Campbell stated that he was unclear on the Bike Index item and he felt it would be good to restart the conversation on the electric assist devices on paths since he felt that there is going to be a significant increase in their use.

Dennis Weirich stated he uses a power wheelchair but felt he was very cautious due to his experience as a commercial driver.

Kevin Campbell stated that they need to think about that when they work on this in the future when it comes to the language they use so there is no unintended consequence on user groups that deserve to have protected access.

Dennis Weirich stated that some feel that the use of electric scooters is just as important to them as someone in a wheelchair.

Asked if there was any state or local distinction on any of these things.

Emma Newman responded that there is a vehicle classification list that outlines them, and they could share that as an agenda item. She asked if there was any other support or materials that they would want for that discussion.

Dennis Weirich suggested they have this discussion at the next meeting and asked what other items there should be.

Emma Newman suggested the work plan approval.

Teresa Roark stated she thought that Emma Newman had organized some helpful presentations about what was in the docket for the city to help them give helpful and effective feedback.

Emma Newman referred to the future agenda items and stated that that is what the Funded Capital Projects Updates for June is, and the Capital Projects team will come give an update. So, this along with the other items will make a full meeting.

Dennis Weirich agreed.

Updates

City of Springfield

Emma Newman gave an update on City of Springfield projects, which included their grant application for the Oregon Community Paths Program for the connectivity from Thurston at Highbanks Road to the existing McKenzie Levee Path, but it was not recommended for funding. Additionally, they have requested the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to fund McVay/Nugget design and construction in Glenwood. They are also requesting funding for work at Gateway and Beltline to improve the congestion and safety issues. They have also requested funding with Eugene for updates to Franklin Blvd in Glenwood. She added that all this week the elected officials and staff have been meeting with US Department of Transportation and the federal Congressional delegation as part of the United Front to see what projects they can get behind for funding at the federal level. The Eugene-Springfield bike map is being updated so input is requested.

Michael Liebler gave an update on the Main Street Safety Project. He explained that they have refined alternatives to create a draft toolbox and recommendation and spent a lot of time in local access forum meetings with businesses and property owners to inform the facility plan. He added that all recommendations include some sort of raised median and roundabouts. They have presented to the Planning Commission and will be moving forward with Council's recommendation and then possible adoption of the facility plan starting in the fall. He referred everyone to www.ourmainstreetspringfield.org with any questions.

Teresa Roark asked if there was a plan to expand improvements to the downtown area of Main Street.

Michael Liebler stated that it currently is not focused on the couplet section. The funding is for 20th all the way out to 72nd.

Emma Newman noted that ODOT is planning to fund an enhanced crosswalk on South A to the bus station at 4th street as well as some safety improvements at 14th and Main.

Emma Newman stated that the 4th Street Bike Route that the BPAC recommended over a year ago, still needs a few more updates before it is ready to promote. Once it is done later this summer, they would like to have BPAC input on how to promote the route.

Dennis Weirich suggested they start those discussions in the subcommittee meetings.

Emma Newman stated that they would like feedback on path naming for a Willamalane path.

Simon Daws explained that they were looking at path naming for the newly paved section through the new Woodland Ridge subdivision.

Emma Newman shared on screen a list of the potential names: South Hill Path, Booth Kelly path, Haul Rd Path, Timber Path, Lumber Path, Little Butte Path, Old Cascades Path, Jasper Path, Timber Truckers' Path, and Evergreen Path.

Simon Daws asked if the BPAC had additional names to suggest.

Emma Newman asked for the committee members to rank their choices in the chat. She suggested that they could also include their own suggestions as well.

Kevin Campbell stated that the community has not been afraid to use controversial or victimized groups in naming, so he suggested naming it Breonna Taylor Path.

Bryce Mayall asked if they were trying to decide this now or was there a timeframe.

Emma Newman stated that they are initially looking for feedback from the BPAC to help inform further community outreach.

Simon Daws clarified that there was not a deadline, but they would be taking it to the Willamalane Board and phase 2 would be constructed this summer so it would be nice to have way finding signs with path names soon, but it is not critical.

Emma Newman advised them to continue to put suggestions in the chat and she would save and forward it on to Willamalane. Committee members expressed a desire to know if there are indigenous terms/names for anything in that area that could inform a path name and whether there were any historic landowners in the area before Weyerhaeuser. Committee members liked Old Cascades Path, Jasper Path, and Evergreen Path.

Dennis Weirich adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting: June 8th, 2021; 6-7:30