



Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

December 10 – 6:00 to 7:30 pm

Springfield City Hall Council Chambers, 225 5th Street, Springfield

Attendance

Staff: Michael Liebler, Emma Newman, Dawn Williams

BPAC members: Allison Camp, Brian Sorensen, Holly Rockwell, Claudia Denton, Matt Keeler, Garry Swanson, Raymond Linneman, Robin Mayall, Sam Miller (Eugene ATC Liaison), Karla Berg, Sheri Moore (City Council Liaison), Andrew Landen (Planning Commission Liaison), Robin Mayall

Excused Absence: Sandy Coffin, Simon Daws (Willamalane Liaison), Laughton Elliott-DeAngelis (Safe Routes to School Liaison)

Guest: Grace Kaplowitz, Nathaniel Burnett, Grace Brookman, Dennis Weirich, Rick Glover, Randy (*last name unknown*)

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

Welcome/Introductions

Introductions were made.

Agenda Review

No agenda changes.

Committee Business

Public Comment

Rick Glover, a faculty member at Lane Community College, stated that their Facilities Committee has been discussing transportation. One of the largest gaps is between LCC and Springfield and as a community member of Springfield it can be harrowing to ride to LCC. He asked what the Springfield City plans were for the future and what could be done to help connect that space that involves Lane County, Eugene and Springfield. He asked what they could do to help facilitate communication between the two committees and what could they do at the college to help that process.

Emma Newman responded that the City's Transportation System Plan ends at the Urban Growth Boundary, so there is a gap, but there are two projects in that plan to continue the south bank path from where it ends right now close to Franklin Blvd near the Hotels in Glenwood around to the edge of the city limits so that could provide a piece of it. She stated that she had heard that Lane County had started their bicycle and pedestrian planning process and that will look more county wide which would be an opportunity to connect from the city piece into the broader county area. Emma suggested that he reach out to Becky Taylor who is there Senior Transportation Planner and would be involved in the Bike/Pedestrian planning process.

Rick Glover asked if there were any long-term plans to extend what goes up through Dorris Ranch across the river.

Emma Newman responded that there are a couple bridge projects that have been discussed; one closer to Mt Pisgah from the Middle Fork Path and then a bridge across the river closer to McVay Hwy area.

Claudia Denton stated that she is an outgoing member of the BPAC but felt it was up to the continuing members if they wanted to see it as a potential agenda item.

Robin Mayall spoke from a transit perspective and suggested connecting with LTD on their website.

Claudia Denton asked if there were any more public comments.

No additional public comments.

Meeting Minutes

Karla Berg moved to approve the minutes from the October meeting.

Holly Rockwell seconded the motion.

All approved.

BPAC Recruitment, Bylaws, Leadership Elections

Emma Newman stated that BPAC recruitment was currently underway and the deadline to apply is this Friday at 5:00 p.m. The next step is the City Council selection process, interviews and appointments. There should be new committee members appointed by early February. Then the committee will move into developing the Work Plan for 2020. Emma went on to say that there have been some changes from City Council about the bylaws of different boards and commissions. It looks like it will be going to 9 voting members. Currently we have 6 members continuing so if it changes to 9 members they would be recruiting for 3 new members with 3-year terms. She also advised the continuing members of upcoming leadership elections in February and encouraged them to consider nominating themselves or others.

Robin Mayall asked if there had been any outreach to attract more diversity on the committee?

Emma Newman responded that there had been outreach to different community organizations that work with more diverse populations.

Councilor Moore suggested CityLink, which is a program that gives opportunities to underrepresented groups to come and learn about the City and the different committees so if anyone knows anyone that might be interested it is a good program.

Subcommittee Updates

Claudia Denton explained to the potential BPAC applicants in attendance that there were two sub-committees, Planning and Programming,.

Allison Camp stated that on January 1st, 2020 the state law changes so that cyclists can yield at a stop sign versus stopping. She stated that LCOG has reached out to the BPAC to see if they would be interested in helping spread the news about this new law. They are currently developing some materials and once they have them she will share them with the committee.

Garry Swanson stated that they put a Stop as Yield flyer in the GEARS newsletter.

Garry Swanson explained that their subcommittee conducted an activity where they looked at 10 of the worst endings for bike paths. This year they focused on 5th Street. The bike lane ends at 5th and Broadway. He stated that their recommendation is to turn right on Broadway, then left on 4th to A Street. At A Street turn left to 5th Street where one would turn right and have access to the Middle Fork Path, the Mill Race Path or downtown. He went on to say that 5th Street is dangerous and it even narrows at G street (southbound). He compared it to riding on Hilyard in Eugene. He presented the Planning Subcommittee's proposed route on a visual map and explained that it would require 4-6 new bike signs, sharrows painted on 4th Street, relocating some wayfinding signs and educating the public on the bike route.

Councilor Moore asked if this is something that would have to be put in the Transportation Plan?

Emma Newman responded that this would be a low enough cost that it would be a few thousand dollars and could be done through operations efforts.

Councilor Moore asked if this could be done in the spring?

Emma Newman stated that it was doable but the question is does the full committee support this? If there is full consensus, then the staff could start working on this, but if there are differing opinions then there needs to be a conversation.

Robin Mayall stated that she thought cyclists were already doing this which is what makes it a good route. Her only concern is that once cyclists are pushed onto another route it removes the importance to fix the through route. If there is a plan for 5th Street in the long term she wanted to make sure this does not detract from that. Wherever possible it is nice to have cyclists have the same privileges as cars which is to go the straightest, shortest route.

Garry Swanson stated that is why he compared it to Hilyard and Alder because that is what occurred there and it was decided that Hilyard was not a street to be on for cyclists.

Sam Miller commented that he felt it would be valuable to create new way finding signs. He went on to say that at the right turn onto Broadway installing two right arrows indicating that there is downtown as well as the paths. He felt that this would legitimize the route and provide continuity with the park that connects the river path to downtown Springfield.

Emma Newman responded that the City Traffic Engineer is in favor of moving away from the simple bike route signs and having the destination way finding. One concern she had is that if they go too far with destination specific way finding and then do the comprehensive plan and decide on something different, we don't want to have too many signs we are then taking out and replacing at an added cost.

Sam Miller stated that he was not opposed to old way finding signs or the older style bike routes.

Claudia Denton concurred that a way finding sign at 5th and Broadway stating that one can get to all these places from this route would be an important one.

Emma Newman confirmed that would be a new sign.

Garry Swanson stated that there was a sign that stated "downtown, 3 min, Mill Race Path, 5 min".

Karla Berg stated that when she rode from south Springfield to Gateway she was unaware of 4th street so she would come in on G. She questioned whether they would want something on E or G streets directing rider to 4th?

Holly Rockwell stated that she believed that was the idea with the sharrows.

Karla asked if someone was coming west on E would there would be sharrows before 5th?

Garry Swanson stated that this is a great discussion but it is not a plan that fixes all things but if it is looked at like a temporary construction route, something that will serve the need now but won't take away from a plan that could come later.

Claudia Denton stated that this sounded like something that should be discussed at the next planning subcommittee meeting and then bring it to a full committee meeting for next steps.

Emma Newman asked if there was anyone that was opposed to moving this forward since if they were to start on this they may be able to complete it by the next construction season if they conclude it tonight.

Claudia Denton asked for those in favor to show a thumbs up and those opposed to show a thumbs down.

There was one sideways ("stand aside") vote and the rest thumbs up.

Sam Miller stated he wanted to voice one more concern about 4th Street. Those stop signs have limited visibility so it can be difficult for a cyclist to see that traffic that does not stop. Ideally it would be a 4-way stop but this is supposed to be a quick fix.

Brian Sorensen stated that he doesn't feel strongly either way, when asked to share his opinion based on his stand aside vote.

Robin Mayall asked how Google Maps gets this information?

Emma Newman responded that she didn't know. She went on to say that City of Springfield works with City of Eugene to complete the regional bike map.

Karla Berg covered the topic of Safety on Paths. She stated that at one of the light giveaways a group of women voiced concern about path safety. She explained that they had specifically had issues on the Mill Race Path after dark when they travel from downtown to Jasper Road. Some of the suggestions for making people feel safer after dark were lighting or a call box. Karla went on to say that she didn't believe it was something that needed to be discussed as a group today but she wanted to put it out there so they could start talking about it next year.

Claudia Denton gave an update on the Light Giveaway Program. She stated that they have been giving away biking and walking lights. There have been 4 or 5 events this season and there is definitely a need especially this time of year. She felt that it has been really successful.

Karla Berg added that they were at the Willamalane Celebration, Jerry's Safety Fair and people are always very engaging, especially the children.

Claudia Denton stated that there would be another giveaway event on Tuesday, December 17th from 4-5:30 pm at Centennial and Pioneer Parkway on the Rosa Parks Path. Claudia added that she brought some lights to the Ebbert Memorial Church and the Egan Warming Center a couple of weeks ago.

Councilor Moore asked how many lights had they given away to date?

Emma Newman stated she could pull those numbers but with the slap bracelets they had several boxes of a 1000 each and they are gone. So approximately 3000 slap bracelets and several hundred lights.

Councilor Moore asked how those were funded?

Emma Newman responded that they were being funded through City programming dollars.

Councilor Moore asked if they could follow up with a number so she could update Council on the great things the committee is doing.

Emma Newman confirmed.

Claudia Denton stated that at one of the events they gave away approximately 40-50 sets (front and rear) of bike lights.

Karla Berg responded that was one of the smallest events they did. She stated that at the Willamalane event they gave away two boxes of the slap bracelets, and 100 walking lights and that was the largest event.

Emma Newman concluded that for the season they gave away approximately 2-3 thousand slap bracelets and 2-3 hundred lights.

Councilor Moore asked if this was an ongoing event.

Emma Newman responded that this has been on the Work Plan for the committee this year but the 2020 workplan hasn't been developed yet. She stated that if Council wanted to see that work continue to let her know.

Karla Berg added that last year they only went to 2 or 3 events and they have gone to 7 events this year.

Councilor Moore asked if they ever do helmets?

Emma Newman explained that they have not so far. She added that Fire and Life Safety has expressed some interest in that, Safe Routes to School has partnered with Safe Kids West and PeaceHealth to giveaway helmets to children who need them in Springfield but City of Springfield has not done helmets recently.

Emma Newman gave an update on Open Streets. She stated that Michael Liebler and her met with Willamalane staff a few times and found they have interest in starting an event and then growing it. It may not be much of a street closure but they maybe able to get something started potentially in the next calendar year. It would be where they partner with one of Willamalane's events and then grow it and incorporate some more transportation elements.

Claudia Denton explained to the attending members of the public that the subcommittees chose their own activities for the year and the Work Plans expire at the end of each calendar year.

Approve End of Year Report

Emma Newman explained that in the last meeting the committee discussed making it a single page report and just highlighting some key items. They highlighted two top accomplishments this year, the Path Safety Signage and the Bike Friendly Business program. Then for the future BPAC priorities; desire support for continuing the North Bank Path and West D Street improvements, support for Open Streets program and improving communication with City Council and Springfield's BPAC.

Councilor Moore asked about the Bike Share program coming to Springfield.

Emma Newman stated that Bike Share is on the 2019 BPAC Work Plan but it was not chosen as an accomplishment in the End of Year Report, but there is a Council work session tentatively scheduled for February for that topic.

Claudia Denton stated that they did discuss a long list of accomplishments for the website. She then asked if anyone would like to make a motion to approve the report.

Holly Rockwell moved to approve the End of Year Report.

Robin Mayall seconded the motion.

All approved.

Emma Newman stated that in previous years the committee has also taken a motion to support the Chair and Vice-Chair going to City Council the first meeting in January and highlighting anything verbally. She asked if there was a desire for that and anything anyone wanted commented on.

Karla Berg asked if the 4th Street Bike Facilities plan would be something to include?

Claudia Denton clarified that this is during the public comment period and while they would go on behalf of BPAC anyone can go and comment on anything they see fit.

Emma Newman stated that the meeting would be Monday, January 6th, 2020.

Allison Camp asked the committee if they wanted the Chair and Vice-Chair to go and if so, what they wanted them to talk about.

Garry Swanson stated 4th Street.

Allison Camp stated that she felt that reminding Council that Bike Share was on the BPAC Work Plan.

Councilor Moore suggested having a map of 4th Street to pass out.

Garry Swanson stated that there was a two-page written presentation with a map.

Willamalane Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Input

Emma Newman stated that she emailed out the input that BPAC had provided so this is just an opportunity for any additional input to be added to that list. She shared a list which included a path through Guy Lee Park, traffic garden, west D Street / North Bank Path improvements and the Northbank Path lighting feasibility study.

Robin Mayall suggested adding Mill Race safety. She asked if that is the same kind of natural zone.

Michael Liebler stated that he didn't believe so.

Matt Keeler suggested a beginner's mountain biking course which could possibly be tied in with the traffic garden.

Claudia Denton stated that Emma Newman would bring all of our suggestions to Willamalane but Simon Daws said that suggestions could be emailed directly to him as well.

Raymond Linneman stated that he believed that this is the first time Willamalane is doing this and it was nice to be able to share our ideas with them. He wanted to see this check-in process continue.

Updates

City of Springfield

Emma Newman shared that Thurston Road is scheduled to be overlaid. They had a meeting to discuss the bike lane gap by Thurston Middle and they will be filling in that gap. She went on to say that West D Street has funding queued up to do some improvements from the Northbank Path along West D Street where there isn't a path. They had a recent pop-up urbanism event out there.

Michael Liebler stated some University of Oregon students in partnership with LCOG put fourth some safety improvements at the path connection with some straight / zig-zag center line markings as a conflict zone marker and then had the students conduct a pop-up event. They also sent out a small mailer in the neighborhood and received a lot of good feedback.

Emma Newman stated that the Main Street Safety Project is moving forward and should come to BPAC in February or April.

Emma Newman shared that there were some federal funds that Springfield will be applying for. They are expecting approximately \$5 million so they asked Council what they should apply for. The directions from Council was the pavement on Q Street from Pioneer Parkway East to 5th Street, a package of walking and biking safety improvements, including additional funds for West D Street if needed as well as a few higher priority crossing locations based on the Safe Routes to School rankings. The other high priority location was the 19th and Marcola intersection. The city is entering into a study on how to improve that location.

Councilor Moore asked what the State was doing at that ramp.

Emma Newman responded that ODOT has a project to rebuild ADA ramps in response to the state lawsuit. It is currently under construction there at the Mohawk/126E interchange.

Emma Newman shared that the Transportation System Plan is moving forward. The Council and Board of County Commissioners held a public hearing November 4th. There was one public comment so they are responding to that and taking it back to City Council on January 6th.

Emma Neman stated that there is a Bike Share work session tentatively scheduled for February with the City Council.

Liaison Updates

Robin Mayall gave an update on Lane TrAC. She stated that in the fall they did a road trip that looked at a bunch of projects throughout the county for pavement overlay. Territorial Highway community preferred option was forwarded to the Board. The curves south of Hamm towards the vineyards, where a cyclist was killed, the community preferred that they be straightened and widened.

Emma Newman asked if she had any information on the timing for the Ped/Bike planning for Lane County's Pedestrian Biking Master Plan.

Robin Mayall responded that she would contact Becky and then get back with her.

Sam Miller gave an update on Eugene ATC. He stated that Eugene is looking at starting a scooter program. They have a staff person putting together some criteria due to concerns from the community on the program. Some of the concerns the community had were; safety, sustainability, equipment abuse, and enforcement liability. He went on to say that Eugene would have a pilot program sometime in 2020. He stated that they also discussed the leaf program and they felt that the community isn't aware of when they are supposed to place their leaves in the bike lanes for pick-up.

Holly Rockwell added that she would send an email out on Friday recapping this Thursday's meeting.

Info Share

Claudia Denton stated that Tuesday the 17th from 5 to 5:30 there would be another bike light giveaway and anyone is welcome to attend.

Holly Rockwell stated that it would be near Hamlin Middle School on the Rosa Parks Path.

Robin Mayall stated that at the Eugene City Council meeting Transit Tomorrow was discussed. Approximately 12 people spoke and the bulk of the testimony seemed to be that they should incorporate more high speed or high frequency corridors which is similar to the #11 in Springfield but retain the bicycle and pedestrian improvements that would have come with the EmX corridor. She suggested anyone who has a bike/pedestrian interest to follow that planning process.

Allison Camp suggested that everyone dress in bright colors due to the fog in the mornings.

Matt Keeler shared that Friends of Trees is having a Tree Planting this Saturday from 8:30 to noon.

Emma Newman acknowledged Claudia Denton and Allison Camp in their roles as Chair and Vice-Chair this year. She went on to say that she had some thank you cards for the outgoing members.

BPAC 2019 Reflection and Celebration

Emma Newman explained that they would share their answers to the following questions with the group;

1. What is an accomplishment related to BPAC that you are proud of?
2. What is something you are looking forward to for walking and biking in the future in Springfield?

Allison Camp stated she was proud of the path etiquette signs that were placed on the Northbank path.

Matt Keeler stated he was busier than he thought he would be when he joined the BPAC. He was proud of being an advocate for the bike share program. He was looking forward to the work that BPAC will continue to do to make positive change in the community.

Sam Miller stated he was most proud of the organization of the community events.

Karla Berg felt that as a group they had completed more items this year than in the previous year.

Matthew Nelson stated he was grateful for all the lights that they had given away. He was most looking forward to the possibility of an Open Streets event.

Ray Linneman stated the thing he was most proud of was the improvement to the D street path surface near the boat ramp. He went on to thank the Council for allowing him to be a part of the BPAC the last two years.

Garry Swanson stated that there were multiple things to be proud of, the most being the EWEB bike path improvements.

Holly Rockwell stated she had a chance to work with Bike Friendly Business program and she was proud of the growth of that program over the last two years. She stated she was most looking forward to the connectivity issues and creating a better network.

Andrew Landen stated being a part of the Planning Commission and watching the plans come through and it's exciting that people are even talking about it and wanting to make a difference.

Michael Liebler stated that over the last five or six years he has watched the BPAC committee flourish and double the amount of work and he was really proud of that.

Councilor Moore stated that the BPAC was started in 2011 after she suggested it in 2010 upon joining the City Council. She stated that they are the most enthusiastic committee when it comes to interest in joining. She thanked them for all their hard work.

Emma Newman stated that she started at the City in 2015 and seen some members cycle through. She stated she enjoyed the new enthusiasm with the incoming members. She stated it has been a pleasure to see some of the ideas get completed.

Claudia Denton stated she had been on the committee for four years and this is her last meeting. She stated that she was excited about the variety of things they have accomplished. She stated that it was even more than last year and was thankful for Emma and Michael and the partnership.

Robin Mayall stated this had been her first experience with city government but had been a long-time cyclist. She stated it had been great going from making statements about how she wished something would change to being a part of that change. She spoke to the potential incoming members stating that a person can't complain about things unless you're trying to make a difference and this is the most concrete way to do that.

Next Meeting: February 25th, 2019; 6-7:30