

Minutes for RBAC Meeting: May 4, 2022

7:00 – 9:00 pm, virtual Webex meeting

In attendance online: Monique Ashton, Bryan Barnett-Woods, Nancy Breen, Sophie Chan-Wood, Bill Michie, Carl Petersen, Mark Pierzchala, Julie Wiater Ransel, Jonathan Solomon, Shannon Brescher Shea and Tracy Threefoot.

Nancy started the meeting at 7:07 pm.

Bryan asked for the minutes from last month's meeting to be approved. Tracy asked for clarification about the bridge over Wootton Pkwy by Lakewood Elementary School.

(1) As part of the **City Update**, Bryan announced the Town Center Road Diet project is out to bid for construction. Once the contractor is selected, construction is expected to begin in the summer and end in early 2023. The construction plans can be found on the City's Vision Zero webpage: <https://www.rockvillemd.gov/2312/Vision-Zero>

Bryan is applying for two FY23 grants that would be used for a feasibility study for the bike lanes on Martin Lane and bike counters throughout the City. Letters of support and application are due June 2. RBAC agreed to support these project and Shannon will revise the letters of support.

Bicycle and pedestrian counters will likely be permanently installed on the Carl Henn Millennium Trail. He is looking at 4 permanent counters and 2 mobile counters at locations based on public feedback. The counters may have a post with infrared to detect pedestrians and metal in the asphalt to detect bicycles.

In relation to the property at 900 Rockville Pike at Edmonston, a 9-foot bike/ped trail is not wide enough as proposed by the developer. But plans may change with BRT (bus rapid transit) in design and development.

(2) As part of the **Council Update**, Mark congratulated Shannon and Tracy on successful Bike to School Days. He said at the Mayor and City Council decided on FY2023 Budget. Also, at the last meeting the number of names of the TERRIFIC Kids were quite long. He thanked the Rockville Bike Hub for providing the bikes for this program.

Mark also said the 900 Rockville Pike property is still in argument stages not development. The property owner and the neighbor next-door (who owns the access that 900 would need to use) still needs to agree.

Monique attended the Ritchie Park Bike to Day and noted that the principal biked and the police were helping at the intersection. She was pleased with the turnout at the Bike

Month Kick-off Ride and also thanked the Rockville Bike Hub for all of the work to help provide bikes and helmets for the TERRIFIC Kids bike program.

Due to tax duplication for shared services in the County and City, Rockville will be getting additional tax revenues from the county. About \$600,000 will be allowed for sidewalks; \$200,000 for Vision Zero safety projects and bridge replacements.

The Maryland Ave project shows a 70% decrease in traffic tickets which exemplifies how a road diet benefits everyone.

Mark said the Lakewood Bridge from the Glenora Hills neighborhood over to the school is for pedestrians only. So cars can park in the neighborhood to drop off and pick up their children who cross the bridge from Lakewood Elementary. He doesn't know where to put a crosswalk across Wootton Parkway. The Rockville Pedestrian Advisory Committee (RPAC) also proposed a better connection to the Carl Henn Millennium Trail from the school. Considerations may revisit the intersection at Dundee.

(3) Jonathan updated that 220 riders are registered for Saturday's **Tour de Cookie**. The Tree House Executive Director Charlie did meet with Nina Blecher to review previous event planning procedures. He appreciated all our group's efforts. Duwan from Montgomery County is scheduled to host the bike rodeo. RBAC volunteers should be at the start location between 8 and 8:15 am.

(4) The **Ride of Silence** will be on Wednesday, May 18 with a police escort. Sophie will lead and Nancy and Jake can help sweep.

The Rockville Bike Hub will be hosting the **TERRIFIC Kids Bike Giveaway** on Saturday, May 21 and will reach out for volunteers.

Rockville Reports will have the **July and August group rides** listed.

The **Memorial Day Parade** will be on Monday, May 30. Sophie will ask RBH to invite the TERRIFIC kids and their parents to march. Nancy and Bill will bring the RBAC banner. Shannon will probably march as well. Nancy will find out meeting location and time and share on the listserve.

(5) Tracy reported on **Bike to School Day** at Ritchie Park Elementary School. She said Duwan and a team of 7 people from Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) provided balloons and banners. Montgomery County Public School also had media coverage and shared this video: <https://youtu.be/O3h2v9RUKdE>

This is Tracy's 7th year coordinating this event and having MoCo SRTS there really added to the event, but SRTS will probably help at another school next year. Bryan

provided City of Rockville lights which were a big hit. Duwan also provided 12 helmets which will be raffled off by the end of the week.

Nancy asked Tracy to create a checklist for future schools who may want host this event too.

Shannon had the first Bike to School Day at Beall Elementary. About 31 students participated and a police officer helped direct traffic due to construction. Due to the rain, no one showed up for the bike train. But this may have also conflicted with Bring Flowers Day as well a week of other activities. Bryan suggested Shannon touch base with Duwan in a couple of months to see if he can come to Beale next year.

Bill would like to discuss eBikes at a future RBAC meeting. . It was agreed that he, Carl and Bryan would each spend 5 minutes talking about their experiences with eBikes.

A Juneteenth Ride will be held on Sunday, June 19 at 10 am starting at the Civic Center.

Jonathan would like to debrief the Tour de Cookie at next meeting.

Report from RPAC, including status of letter to Mayor and Council re contributory negligence law in Maryland will be tabled to the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:16 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Sophie Chan-Wood