

Minutes for RBAC Meeting: July 6, 2022

7:00 – 9:00 pm, virtual Webex meeting

In attendance online: Wendy Aaronson, Jude Abanulo, Bryan Barnett-Woods, Olivia Bobrowsky, Sophie Chan-Wood, Chizo, Bill He, Jake Jakubek, Bill Michie, Corey Pitts, Carl Petersen, Shannon Brescher Shea, Lesak Sibilski, Jonathan Solomon and Tracy Threefoot.

Jake started the meeting at 7:02 pm with introductions.

Shannon motioned to approve the minutes of the June meeting; Olivia seconded.

(1) For the **City Update**, Bryan announced the 1818 Chapman Ave property, also known as Twinbrook Commons, was presented to the Planning Commission. This project will not affect the bike lanes on Chapman Avenue and include 36 bike parking space (that's more than the required 12). There is a possibility of wider bike lanes. Bryan suggested RBAC write a letter to amend the zoning ordinance for bike facilities.

The County plans to install cycle tracks on E Jefferson Street and Twinbrook Pkway as part of two separate projects. Since the intersection at Rollins Ave and E Jefferson is within City limits, they will be working with the Maryland Department of Transportation and Planning.

The Baltimore Road project is continuing with approved curb extensions at Woodburn Rd and Edmonston Dr.

Bryan is working on the League of American Bicyclist application with hopes to reach Silver level versus the Bronze status the City currently has as a bicycle-friendly community.

A protected intersection is proposed at Beall Ave and 355. This is part of a Vision Zero project that includes 10 intersections for SHA (State Highway Administration) to audit.

(2) Corey from the Montgomery County Department of Transportation presented the **MD 355 Flash BRT Project**, which is in preliminary engineering stage and needs funding for parts of the corridor. Plans can be found online at:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dte/projects/MD355BRT/>

Highlights include a new transit center on Mannakee St by the Carver Educational Services Center in lot 13. The Bikeway Master Plan will be considered when trying to make upgrades for pedestrians and cyclists. A milestone at the 35% design mark will see how development is going. Bike racks will be placed inside the articulated busses (with accordions). The Flash BRT on 29 received positive feedback on these. There will be three bike racks on the front of busses versus two. Bike racks will be installed in transit center and many stations that have space for them. Data analysis on bike usage on Flash routes versus regular busses may be helpful. Shannon will write a letter to the

Mayor and City Council in favor of this BRT and to forward to the County. Any comments can be sent to her at shannonbshea@gmail.com

(3) Bill presented his view on **E-bikes** and believes that safety measure are better than road bikes. With a class 1 bike, you need to pedal but can't go over 20 miles per hour. E-bikes will probably replace short car trips.

Bryan attended a recent webinar about E-bikes:

<https://smartgrowth.org/the-past-present-and-future-of-electric-bicycling/>

(4) Leszek Sibilisk founded **World Bicycle Day** in 2018. June 3 was approved by 138 members of the United Nations (<https://www.un.org/en/observances/bicycle-day>) and promotes bicycling for transportation and mobility. He wants to establish a street called World Bicycle Day Avenue in Montgomery County. This has already been established in Poland and India. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=98HQiOreQEU&t=23s>) He was also on the Polish Olympic cycling team for 12 years. There may be a new bridge on Beach Drive and Kensington Pkway that would be called World Bicycle Day Bridge.

(5) Bryan reported that RPAC (**Rockville Pedestrian Advisory Committee**) meets monthly and provided red light traffic and crash information. Eric Fulton has been appointed to the Planning Commission so RPAC will be looking for a new chairperson. Jake will be submitting the letter on contributory negligence law in Maryland in the fall.

(6) Carl announced that Saturday, June 3, 2023 could be ideal for a World Bicycle Day group ride since it falls on a weekend. He also updated that first **Tuesday night ride** had 40 participants going to Carmen's; the second ride had 29 people riding to Old Towne Gaithersburg; the last ride in June had 33 riders going to Town Center with a stop at the Rockville Bike Hub's temporary space. Last night 32 cyclists still participated without a treat stop!

Tuesday night rides in July will start at 1550 Research Blvd. Bryan will change this location on the RBAC website. The Juneteenth ride on Sunday, 6/19 included a stop at York Castle ice cream with 26 cyclists.

Connie will lead the group ride next Tuesday with Carl sweeping and a stop at Krispy Kreme. Since Sunday, 7/17 is National Ice Cream Day, Carl will lead a different ride in lieu of the Carl Henn Millennium Trail ride at 10 am starting at the Senior Center. Wendy can sweep. The CHMT ride can continue in August. Carl may lead a Sunflower ride on the canal on Saturday, 7/23 or 7/30 depending on the blooms. Please look for updates and details from www.meetup.com/bikerockville.

(7) Jonathan reiterated this year's **Tour de Cookie** was cancelled due to rain. He says the Tree House would still like RBAC to serve an advisory role in 2023 as save-the-date magnets have been distributed already. He was reassured by Nina Blecher that she had good feeling about the new executive director, Charlie Regan. He asked about a

debriefing meeting after July 4th for upcoming tasks and assignments. Jonathan will continue to be the liaison as Jake agreed and Sophie seconded this motion.

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Sophie Chan-Wood