

Minutes for RBAC Meeting: August 3, 2022

7:00 – 9:00 pm, virtual Webex meeting

In attendance online: Bryan Barnett-Woods, Joe Gillespie, Jake Jakubek, Claire Ligon, Bill Michie, Shannon Brescher Shea, and Vince Vuong.

Jake started the meeting at 7:06 pm with introductions. Shannon will be taking notes in Sophie's absence.

Shannon motioned to approve the minutes of the July meeting; Jake seconded. Since RBAC is not an official commission, a quorum is not needed to start the meeting.

(1) For the **City Update**, Bryan announced that a **bike fix-it station** will be ordered as a pilot program. This will give Rockville an extra point the League of American Bicyclists Bicycle Friendly Community application. After consulting the Prince George County Parks and Recreation Department, they suggested a post without an air pump since maintenance of the nozzle has been difficult. Their county has several installed along the Anacostia River Trail. Although the City Park and Recreation department will have veto power, Bryan wants are input on where a fix-it station should be installed. Please email him with any recommendations at: bbwoods@rockvillemd.gov

Shannon suggested along the Carl Henn Millennium Trail at the Thomas Farm Community Center; Joe suggested Dogwood Park with high-visibility for cyclists. If this fix-it station is well-used, Bryan suggested we write a letter to Parks & Rec in favor of budgeting for 3 to 4 more next year.

Bryan is also working on grant opportunities including a **Safe Street and Routes for All Act** which offers federal funding for Vision Zero programs. This would help the Scott Drive/Viers Drive shared-use path from Wootton Parkway to the City boundary which is currently in a feasibility study. Another project would be sidewalk improvements on West Guide from Watkins Pond to Piccard which is also under a feasibility study. Complete Street improvements can be made on N Stonestreet and Park Rd to the Metro for bike lanes and sidewalks.

Another part of this grant would to look at 53 intersections for a safety study that would involve city and county streets. State roadways in improvements so this may be a way to fund these projects too. The grant application is due mid-September. Bryan will have a proposal by the next meeting for RBAC to review.

The Reconnecting Communities project involves building a **Twinbrook pedestrian/bicycle bridge** over the railroad tracks. A feasibility and design plan has started to review connecting Lewis and Chapman. This new bridge will probably not going to be a similar design to Unity Bridge due to the tight switchbacks for bicyclists. The ground around Lewis Drive is more level so the height of the bridge may not be a concern for the construction design. Bryan will keep us updated with the progress and ask for feedback as needed.

The **Town Center Road Diet** project went out to bid and got rejected, It's now out to bid again for contractors to construct the separated bike lanes on N Washington and widened sidewalk and bicycle facilities on East Middle Lane.

(2) Jake provided the **Bike Rides update** in Carl's absence. Since the July meeting we've conducted three Tuesday evening rides (one rain cancellation). Our annual tropical-themed Tuesday ice cream ride (Carl lead, Sophie sweep) drew 31 participants. A Bikeshare tour with a stop for sweets in Downtown Crown (Sophie lead, Carl sweep) had 24 participants. Last night's scenic ride to Lake Needwood (Carl lead, Jake sweep) brought out 31 participants.

We also hosted two weekend rides in July: A brand new National Ice Cream Day ride (Carl lead, Wendy and Jonathan sweep) had 25 participants. Our modified 2nd annual C&O Canal sunflower ride (Carl lead; Jake sweep) drew 31 participants.

Continuing with Tuesday night rides in August, they will be starting at Civic Center Park at 6:30 pm. Sophie will need a sweep to help on 8/23. She will also be leading the Carl Henn Millennium Trail ride on Sunday 8/21. The Carl Henn Memorial Ride will on Sunday 9/18 at 10 am starting at the Thomas Farm Community Center. Carl will lead but will need a sweep. Volunteers are welcome to help on any of these rides.

On a different note, Baltimore Road from First St. to the Civic Center is still under construction and expect to be completed in October/November. Bryan lobbied for the contractor to work on the path/curb near the church before school starts

(3) Jake provided the update on the **Rockville Pedestrian Advisory Committee** in Dave's absence. Evan Glass from the Montgomery County Council attended and spoke at their last meeting. They also reviewed the latest pedestrian and bicycle accident report.

(4) Bill stated changes are coming due the technology of autonomous cars. This technology will have a huge influence on how they are used and what their impact is, such as free parking, etc.

Bill was also concerned about how electric bikes are advertised by wattage (which is electricity used, not power output). Units of measurements are confusing for users who may not understand this difference.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Sophie Chan-Wood