

Meeting Minutes
Durham Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission
January 16, 2007

Members Present: Scott Carter, Alan Dippy, Tim Griffin, Pete Schubert, Dan Clever, Heather Fisher, George Dubay, Bo Glenn

Excused Absences: Diane Daniel, Judy Martell, Mary Malicki

Staff: Dale McKeel

Guests: Audra Foree, Jack Warman

1. Call to Order – Heather Fisher called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.
2. Meeting Minutes – George moved to adopt the December 19, 2006 Meeting Minutes, Tim seconded the item, and it passed unanimously.
3. Introductions – The commission members welcomed Scott Carter, a new member appointed by the County Commissioners, and Dale McKeel, new bicycle and pedestrian planner. There was a period of introductions.
4. Announcements – None
5. Public Comments – None
6. Bike to Work Week – Audra Foree, TDM Coordinator with the Triangle Transit Authority (TTA), discussed Bike to Work Week, which is scheduled for May 14-18, 2007.

Audra discussed the handout which recapped Bike to Work Week (BTWW) 2006 and focus point and steps for 2007. She said that in 2006 the program had been successful in recruiting mentors (76) but not in recruiting new riders. She said for 2007 she would like to do a better job of reaching out to new riders, especially those who do not know cyclists and may not be tied into the cyclist community.

Audra said that prizes and free things help to encourage participation, and that TTA can provide small things like t-shirts and water bottles, but that sponsors are needed to provide bigger prizes. She said the gotriangle.org website has been upgraded and will be used to sign up mentors. She said TTA would welcome suggestions for promoting and making the website better. She also said TTA would be starting a blog on the website.

Audra also discussed that she would be working to get free publicity from the Independent, Herald-Sun, and News and Observer. She will be contacting them and

asking them to do a series of stories. Alan said that local human interest stories are very effective.

Audra asked the BPAC for ideas on bike to work week and how TTA could help and partner with BPAC to promote events and make this year's Bike to Work Week more successful than last year's. Audra left her contact information with Dale. She asked if there was going to be a breakfast event like last year's planned. Dale said he was planning to meet with Alison Carpenter next week and would ask about last year's breakfast. Pete suggested that doing many local events might be better than focusing on one or two events. He stated that events could be held at one or two businesses in RTP but this is difficult because RTP is so spread out.

Scott asked if other organizations had prizes and giveaways. Audra said that GlaxoSmithKline has done some giveaways previously, including bicycles. Scott said that employer-based recognition programs can be helpful in encouraging participation.

Pete mentioned that the "Ride of Silence" is scheduled for May 16, the same week.

Tim suggested placing signs on the ATT and other trail locations to inform riders of BTWW. He also suggested advertising on buses and a commuter pamphlet showing how to put bikes on buses.

Scott suggested having an event in the afternoon, as this might attract more non-bikers and might encourage people to stay longer than they would at a morning event. Pete suggested having both morning and afternoon events.

Tim asked how the BPAC could help get sponsors. Audra said that TTA will put together a list of what they can offer sponsors.

Bo asked for more information about the blog. Audra discussed how TTA sees the blog being used to provide more interactive communication about transportation issues. Bo mentioned that an alternative would be to have a website for bicyclists to log their mileage and recognize those who log the most.

Scott said he would be willing to wear a t-shirt or fly a flag on his bike in advance in order to promote BTWW.

7. Elections – Dan Clever said he would be willing to serve as chair. Bo moved to elect Dan chair, Pete seconded the item, and it passed unanimously. Tim Griffin will continue to serve as vice-chair and Diane Daniel as treasurer. Dale will serve as acting secretary.
8. Development Review Board – No update.

9. Alston Avenue NCDOT Project – Pete asked about the role of the MPO in the reviewing the Alston Avenue project and said he would like to see the MPO take a position. Pete noted that he had written a letter and commented on the design of the turn lanes at NC 147 and other issues.

There was a discussion of the history of the project. Dan said that the East End Connector has widespread community support and will provide an alternative link between NC 147 and I-85. Tim noted that Mark Ahrendsen had stated that it is hard for the city to say it doesn't want the project after asking for it for many years.

Pete noted that the Alston Avenue widening pre-dates the Hope VI project. Bo asked if the federal government had any say on this, since the road project could wreck the federal investment in the community. Bo said that Community Builders could provide contact information for HUD. Bo suggested that Community Builders might also be able to organize a community meeting on the project.

Tim made a motion that the BPAC prior to the next meeting send a letter to the City Council and County Commissioners expressing the BPAC's concern, with the letter copied to Mark Ahrendsen and NCDOT Board members Nina Szlosberg and Ken Spaulding. Bo seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Tim and Dan agreed to prepare a draft letter and will share it with the BPAC for comments prior to it being mailed. They asked Dale to send copies Mark Ahrendsen's letter to the BPAC members. Bo said he would work on a letter to the editor.

10. Law Enforcement – No update. The BPAC members would like someone from the Police Department to discuss the Duke bicycle crash at the next meeting.
11. Web site – No update.
12. University Issues – George reported that the Chemistry Department is moving to a new building. The old building has covered bicycle parking, while the new building has no covered parking and less parking overall. Tim stated that there seems to be a lack of interest in adding a lot of bike parking at new buildings. George said that people are bringing bikes indoors at the new building, which is not what the university wants. Tim suggested contacting the folks at the bike station. Pete suggested contacting someone at the sustainability office.
13. American Tobacco Trail – Pete asked if the funding for ATT Phase E has been approved by the North Carolina Board of Transportation, whether a revised Municipal Agreement has been approved, and whether there were other administrative hurdles. Dale said he would check on these items. There was brief discussion of the trail surface for Phase E. Pete said that the design on the southern portion of Phase E should dovetail with the design of the Chatham County trail at the county line.

Pete expressed concern about the number of cyclists he recently observed on the trail that had no helmet or an imperfectly fitted helmet. He suggested that there is an opportunity for an educational function on bicycle helmets along the trail. Other BPAC members also suggested that trail etiquette could also be included.

14. Winter Retreat – Dale asked for input on the retreat. Bo and Dan mentioned that DOST had a retreat last year. The purpose of the retreat would be to discuss goals for the year and how to implement the adopted bicycle and pedestrian plans. Everyone agreed that the retreat date should be set as early as possible in order to ensure good participation. Pete suggested polling via e-mail, and looking at a Saturday morning in March or perhaps late February. Alan will check on the availability of a room at the Nasher Museum. Bo suggested we invite persons who will make presentations, and mentioned Frank Duke, Beth Timson, and Rosetta Radtke. It was agreed that the list of guests should be determined before the next meeting.
15. Annual Report – Dale said he would draft an annual report for review at the February meeting. The goals that are included in the report could come from the retreat.
16. Jordon High School – No update.
17. Revised Roster – Dale distributed a revised roster and asked for any corrections.
18. Application for Bicycle-Friendly Community Designation – Dale provided an overview of this program. After discussion, the BPAC supported submitting an application this year. Dale stated that the deadline is March 27 and he would prepare a draft for the BPAC to review prior to submission.
19. “Perils for Pedestrians” on Public-Access TV – Dale discussed the possibility of making arrangements for this program to be televised on the local public access channel in Durham. He said he would send BPAC members more information about the program and find out if it is feasible for the show to be shown in Durham. It is currently being shown in Raleigh and Chapel Hill.
20. Other Business – Pete reported that two officers were riding side-by-side and on the wrong side of the road Blackwell Street over the weekend.
21. Other Business – Scott Carter had three items he wanted to mention:
 - He said residents in his community (Woodcroft) want to know more about status of the Third Fork Creek Trail. Dan said he could provide an update.
 - He lives about 200 yards from the American Tobacco Trail, but the access across neighborhood open space is often muddy. He approached the neighborhood association about paving or putting gravel in this area to improve the connection

to the trail, there were some concerns about doing this. Dan said he could provide some additional information.

- He said that the route of the north-south trail through downtown is not clear, and that better signage is needed. Dan said that DOST is working on signage.

22. Other Business – Dan requested that a standing business item for DOST be added to the future agendas.

Meeting adjourned; 9 p.m. Next meeting: February 20, 2007, at 7 pm in the City Council Committee Room.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dale McKeel.

Follow-up items:

- Determine if temporary signs could be placed on trails to notify of events, such as Bike-to-Work Day (Dale)
- Send Mark Ahrendson's Alston Avenue letter to the BPAC (Dale McKeel)
- Invite law enforcement officers to speak at the next meeting (Diane Daniel)
- Get an update on American Tobacco Trail funding and agreement with NCDOT (Dale McKeel)
- Poll BPAC members on the best date for a planning retreat (Dan Clever)
- Prepare a draft annual report (Dale McKeel)
- Contact the City Clerk's office about BPAC vacancies (Dale McKeel)
- Complete the Bicycle Friendly Community Application (Dale McKeel)
- Inquire about "Perils for Pedestrians" on local access cable TV (Dale McKeel)
- Report on the status of the Third Fork Creek Trail (Dale McKeel)
- Add an item for a "DOST Update" to future agendas (Dale McKeel)