



Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

MINUTES

October 21, 2008 ■ 7:00 PM
Committee Room
Second Floor, City Hall

Members Present: Scott Carter, Dan Clever, Alan Dippy, Jim Dunlop, Greg Garneau, Ken Kaye, Merry Rabb, Linda Smith, Lars Trost, Jack Warman

Members Absent: Excused absences: Diane Daniel, Henri Gavin, Bo Glenn,

Staff Present: Dale McKeel

Guests Present: Officer Christina Dale-Gaither, Sgt Wayne Hollen

Public Present: Jeff Ensminger

1. Call to Order. Dan Clever called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
2. Meeting Minutes. On a motion by Jim and second by Scott, the September 16 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.
3. Introductions. BPAC members and others in attendance introduced themselves.
4. Adjustments to the Agenda. The commission agreed to move the Downtown Bike Patrol and West Chapel Hill Streetscape Project items to the beginning of the agenda.
5. Announcements. None.
6. Public Comments. None.
7. Downtown Bike Patrol. Sgt. Wayne Hollen introduced himself; he has been a police officer for 24 years. The downtown bike patrol unit was begun in April and is a full-time unit. A bike unit had previously been in existence for four years, but officers assigned to that unit had often been pulled away to other tasks. Two corporals are involved in the unit – Ron Wiggins and Melba Carter. A \$40,000 asset forfeiture grant was used to buy bicycles and equipment for the unit. Seven new Trek police bikes were purchased, as well as a \$400 light system for each bike and uniforms and bulletproof vests. Nineteen persons are assigned to the unit – 1 sergeant / 2 corporals / 16 officers (currently there is one officer vacancy). The unit is divided into 3 squads which work different shifts – there is generally coverage most times except Sunday and some weeknights.

The bike patrol currently works downtown and an area extending from Alston Avenue to the east and Ninth Street to the west. They also patrol the American Tobacco Trail and the trail north of downtown. In response to questions from Scott and Dan, Sgt Hollen stated that the patrol is currently not doing much traffic enforcement for motorists or cyclists. He said the unit is mostly doing public relations work at the moment but the work of the unit will be evolving over time.

Sgt Hollen said the unit does not have a relationship with the Duke University police. He said the officers have received training at the police bicycling school taught at Durham Tech and Guilford Tech and that the officers are learning bicycle maintenance skills. He said the unit's budgetary needs include funds for the equipment and tools needed to maintain a fleet of 25 bicycles.

8. Neighborhood Streetscape Project- W. Chapel Hill Street. Dan provided an overview of the streetscape project – one of five currently being discussed. The project is from Buchanan Street to Kent Street. The adopted bicycle plan suggests five-foot bike lanes and on-street parking on one side of the street.

Jeff Ensminger spoke. He is part of the SW Durham Quality of Life Committee, an economic development committee for the W. Chapel Hill Street corridor. He said that the issue of bicycle lanes has come up at the streetscape meetings and that the committee does not want to avoid the issue. He said the committee supports bicycle lanes between downtown Durham and Duke on W. Chapel Hill Street and Duke University Road, but in the three-block stretch between Buchanan and Kent that sharrows should be considered because on-street parking and a center turn lane is needed to support the business district. He said that traffic is worse between 3 and 5 pm because of the two private schools in the neighborhood; he noted that not many students from the surrounding West End neighborhood, who could walk or bike, attend these schools; instead there is a lot of drop-off and pick-up traffic associated with the schools. Merry stated that left turn lanes are needed at eastbound Buchanan and westbound Kent. Jeff Ensminger said there may be property for additional parking in a lot on Kent Street. Lars stated that sharrows might not entice additional bicyclists in the same way that bike lanes would.

Dan closed the discussion stating that he wants to get input on the streetscape plan to Alan DeLisle in the Department of Economic and Workforce Development. Jack said he doesn't feel the commission has enough information to make a recommendation and requested that the Bike Plan Implementation committee make a recommendation for next month's meeting.

9. Development Committee Report. Jack reported that the committee will begin meeting on the first Thursday of the month. The committee met with Wesley Parham and Mark Ahrendsen on October 16. At its last meeting, the committee discussed bicycle lanes on Fayetteville Road and looked at creating a template for comments on rezoning cases based on DOST's template. The committee also discussed making UDO-based site plan comments, developing a common language for site plan review comments, and providing bicycle parking illustrations for the Public Works Reference Guide and /or UDO.
10. Bike Plan Implementation Committee Report. Scott reported that the committee will begin meeting the second Wednesday of the month. At the last meeting the committee discussed the status of the Durham bicycle map and the Phase 1 projects from the bike plan. He noted that Raleigh is committing to restriping a certain number of miles per year and that Durham should make a similar commitment. The committee also discussed bicycle lanes on Fayetteville Road, and that the Third Fork Creek greenway trail will soon be under construction and the NC 147 pedestrian bridge is going out to bid. Dan noted that a meeting on Phase E of the American Tobacco Trail is scheduled for October 22 at 7 pm.
11. Pedestrian Plan Implementation Committee Report. Greg reported that the committee has discussed the Duke pedestrian plan and the need for a liaison from Duke to BPAC. Greg said that Todd Twigg has asked the head of the Duke School of the Environment to have a public

forum on transportation and that Duke has agreed to sponsor the forum. Greg reported that the committee has gotten comments from BPAC members on a map showing pedestrian connections to Duke University.

On a motion by Ken and second by Scott, the BPAC voted unanimously to extend the meeting to 9:15.

12. Communications Committee. Alan reported that the committee's report is basically the same as last months. He shared revised ideas for the BPAC logo and requested comments from BPAC members.

Meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m. on a motion by Jim and second by Ken. Next meeting: November 18, 2008, at 7 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dale McKeel.

Action items:

- Send letter on ground floor retail for county parking deck (from August). (Dan)
- Present a "coast to coast" award to Judy Martell, former BPAC member and chair, in recognition of completing her goal to bicycle across the United States (from August). (Dale / Communications Committee).
- Check on status of interlocal agreement review with City Attorney's office (Dale)
- Send an e-mail to Alan DeLisle of the City's Economic and Workforce Development Office requesting that the recommendations of the adopted bicycle and pedestrian plans be incorporated into the streetscape projects (Dan).
- Invite someone to speak on the Duke central campus plans at an upcoming BPAC meeting (Communications Committee).
- Send ideas for future speakers at BPAC meetings to the Communications Committee (BPAC members).
- Check on funding status and schedule for Anderson Street changes. (Dale)
- Provide bicycle parking details for inclusion in Public Works Reference Guide and/or UDO (Development Review Committee).
- Create a template for BPAC comments on zoning cases (Development Review Committee).
- Complete work on BPAC logo and brochure (Communications Committee).