



**Holyoke Biking & Pedestrian Committee Meeting
August 29, 2022 Minutes**

Attendance: Shannon Bliven, Chair

Price Armstrong, Ileana Carrion (OPED staff), Christine Berge (Secretary), Stephanie Colon (MIM), Kris Baker, Elena Langdon, Ed Baez

Public Participation: Nathan, Bruce of ValleyBike, MacKenzie, Chris

1. Call to order: At 6:07 PM, Elena made a motion to call the meeting to order. Ed seconded. The motion carried.
2. Review of August 1, 2022 Minutes: Shannon had corrections to the minutes. Christine noted them.
3. Public Participation: Chris asked what the BikePed Committee's aims were, and Shannon explained the 2019 Complete Streets Plan first, for the downtown and surrounding areas. Ed informed him that the Plan comes out every year and is updated by MASSDOT. Price gave a rundown of the top priorities of the Committee, and that BikePed funding is through MASSDOT. He also mentioned the PVPC's Plan of "Land-Use Environment" and the ongoing Transportation Project for Holyoke.
4. Complete Street Update: Kris Baker gave an update about the Route 5 MASSDOT project from Riverdale to Ingleside, and the 2-Appleton Street bridges being replaced. He spoke about Canalwalk moving toward its final design phase in 2025, and how Holyokers would have more say in its design when a Public Hearing is then held. He also talked about the City Council raising issues with traffic homing, where accidents are most frequent in Holyoke, and finding ARPA funding. He mentioned he has a list of bad areas being addressed this fiscal year, and asked us to inform him of areas of particular concern. He informed us of 2-raised crosswalks being constructed on Appleton Street and West Franklin. He also mentioned that DPW was running behind in street line-painting and striping, and trash collection.
5. Events: *a. Joining other events*- Discussion about this was frequent throughout the meeting, and many suggestions were made.
6. ValleyBike: Ileana informed us there were no new updates about the bikes being thrown into the canals, but that now there was a video produced by the Mayor and ValleyBike telling how to use the bikes in an effort to minimize vandalism. Bruce said he was reaching out for "Public Ambassadors" who would speak to kids about the bikes. Ileana also mentioned that the Planning Office was working with the Police Department about the vandalism.
7. Old Business: Nothing new about bike racks/bike parking or new member outreach
8. New Business:
 - a. Website*- Shannon mentioned she would love volunteers to maintain the Facebook page.
 - b. New Member*- Liz Oder is our new member, but has not been sworn in yet. She is expected to attend the next meeting.
 - c. Map*- Shannon discussed the map she was given by OPED, and how she would like to form a sub-committee to mark BikePed's completed projects on the map, projects planned, and events in the future. She plans to talk at a future meeting about this sub-committee. She also spoke about the possibility of bikers sharing their favorite bike routes, and how the map was key to developing bike routes.
 - d. Goals*- A Social Media Calendar was mentioned as a way of getting more people to attend events, and to post upcoming projects. Joining more community events was discussed as an important goal.
 - e. Inviting Council Members to Meeting*- Tabled.
 - f. Walking Schoolbus*- Ileana spoke about beginning to get volunteers. She spoke about trying more parent outreach, the June trial to see the popular routes to schools, and that the Lawrence School was being worked on now.
 - g. MIM update*- Stephanie introduced herself, and mentioned she was excited to be of service. She spoke about the MASSWorks plan she was working on- 1. Active Transportation, 2. Food/Housing, and 3. BikePed Planning. She is working with different committees to get these things done, and to feel free to contact her with questions and concerns.
 - h. Bicycle-Friendly Application*- Tabled until Kristen returns.
 - i. Brochures*- Shannon mentioned the goal of having the brochures tell of future BikePed projects. Aaron would like us to participate in more community events, and the brochures could help advertise BikePed. Christine offered her graphic services to any member who wanted to work with her and give information. Elena spoke about creating BikePed business cards to hand out also.
9. Next meeting is scheduled for October 3, 2022.
10. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Price. Elena seconded. The motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 7:26 PM.