



# Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Meeting Summary  
January 27, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

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NAME	REPRESENTATION
Rebecca Brouwer (RB)	City
Sarah Elder (SE)	City
Andy Lynch (AL)	Alamance County ETJ
Chelsey Morrison (CM)	Orange County
Sylvia Sichi (SS)	City
Anna Wirth (AW)	City
Aaron Davis (AD)	Recreation & Parks Director
Franz Holt (FH)	City Engineer; President, AWCK

*Patty Philipps had an excused absence.*

## **APPROVAL OF December 12, 2019, MEETING SUMMARY**

AL moved to approve the minutes, as amended

AW seconded the motion.

A unanimous vote supported the motion.

RB updated the BPAC that she missed the deadline for the NCDOT helmet grant. However, Councilman Sean Ewing received a gift of 100 helmets from a private donor that will be put to similar use.

## **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

CS recapped the Jackson Street design improvement project, which was recommended by the BPAC last year and funded at \$45,000 by the City Council in the FY20 budget. Alley, Williams, Carmen, and King, Inc. (AWCK), conducted the preliminary design work to realize a sidewalk that will connect the existing sidewalk that stubs between South Second and Third Streets on Jackson Street to Holt Street Park.

FH detailed the recommendations in the design proposal, which would be a \$95,000 capital improvement project. The project can be constructed entirely within the City's ROW for Jackson Street.

AW asked about the perception of homeowners who have been maintaining the ROW and may perceive it as a taking.



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BPAC recommends that general outreach materials be prepared for sidewalk projects on and along existing properties and specific materials for this project.

SS recommended a water bill flyer that can be distributed Citywide in addition to electronic media.

AL noted that it connects several Parks and Recreation facilities with a safe route and can be seen as an extension of the greenway.

RB noted that South Fourth Street is similarly used as a pedestrian route and has no sidewalk – this will avoid that situation.

AW asked if the City would be willing to invest in landscaping to help with landowner relations.

CM asked if there have been any public meetings about sidewalks or the greenway and how they went.

CS replied that there was one greenway meeting that was an invitation to all property owners within 50' of the proposed route. With one exception, everyone appeared to leave the meeting enthusiastic about the greenway.

CS & FH recapped the opportunity to extend the MACC-Holt Street Greenway south on Third Street to coincide with the improvements at South Mebane Elementary School, using site plan review as an opportunity to gain the right of way (ROW) needed for extension of the greenway network, which could then extend along the Duke Energy ROW to South Fifth Street.

The BPAC discussed the value of enhancing the sidewalk to a multiuse path and the necessity of spending money on it rather than using the existing infrastructure to connect new infrastructure. The City Ordinance allowing the use of sidewalks for bicycles was mentioned as a reason not to widen the sidewalk.



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FH informed the BPAC that the total scope of design services would be roughly \$15,000.

SE moved that the BPAC recommend that the City place those funds in the FY21 budget for designing the Third-Fifth Street Greenway Connector.

CM seconded the motion

The vote was unanimous.

CM asked if this would be a good location for the pedestrian counters the City was awarded.

SE replied that it is not currently a heavily trafficked area.

CM replied that the data could be used to advocate for widening the Third Street sidewalk if the public feedback is that the existing infrastructure is inadequate and the new greenway is heavily used.

AL expressed concern about not widening the sidewalk due to the resulting inconsistency of the greenway network design

AW replied that the BPAC needs to recommend projects that are in the public's interest and that are mindful of using the City's limited funds.

The BPAC noted and discussed the opportunity to use three properties on the eastern side of Third Street for the greenway route instead of the sidewalk. Three properties there are vacant and owned by the same party, totaling 0.75 acres. They could also be used for a rest stop with a drinking fountain and shade structure. They directed CS to inquire with City Management and the City Engineer about the feasibility of this approach.

CS noted that there are other bicycle opportunities, but the BPAC made past comments to coordinate bike lanes and boulevards with the City's repaving schedule. City Public Works Director Wayne Pore will attend the next meeting to discuss the repaving schedule and the opportunities it affords.



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## **2020 CALENDAR**

CS & AD updated the BPAC on the Cates Farm Park: they have submitted materials from Duke Energy for an encroachment agreement across their utility ROW. The project cannot be bid until Duke gives their consent in a legal agreement.

AD updated the BPAC on the Spring Bike Rodeo: the American Legion Hall is available for it and can be coordinated with activities at the Community Park, which will be being used for soccer. He needs to coordinate with Chief Caldwell on the closing of cross streets for the bike parade to the Dogwood Festival.

Neither RB nor SE can support the bike rodeo

AL noted that the BPAC had previously asked for the Police to take over the event, since they did the last one.

The BPAC directed CS and AD to ask the City Manager to coordinate with Police Chief Caldwell on the Spring Bike Rodeo.

CS informed the BPAC that Councilwoman Philipps has delayed her BPAC update to the City Council until the March meeting. These will likely be quarterly updates, with semi-annual presentations from the BPAC Chair and Vice-Chair in June and December.

RB confirmed that the requested City staff to attend the next meeting are Public Works Director Wayne Pore and Police Chief Caldwell, or assigned staff.

RB asked for an ongoing list of BPAC-related projects so that the BPAC can create an ongoing status report for them.

Lake Michael Park and Cates Farm Park improvements will both be included but are Parks and Recreation projects, not BPAC projects.

AD has put up the three McGruff signs at the MACC.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

*Meeting summary by Cy Stober, City of Mebane Development Director*