



# Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Meeting Summary  
May 18, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

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NAME	REPRESENTATION
Rebecca Brouwer (RB)	City
Sarah Elder (SE)	City
Matt Engwall (ME)	City
Andy Lynch (AL)	Alamance County ETJ
Chelsey Morrison (CM)	Orange County
Patty Philipps (PDP)	City Council Delegate
Sylvia Sichi (SS)	City
Aaron Davis (AD)	Recreation & Parks Director

## **INTRODUCTION OF ASHLEY OWNBEY**

CS introduced AO as a new planner with the City and staff to BPAC. AO and BPAC members shared brief introductions of their background and interests in BPAC.

## **APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 24, 2020, MEETING SUMMARY**

AL moved to approve the minutes.

SS seconded the motion.

A unanimous vote supported the motion.

## **FY21 MEBANE CITY BUDGET UPDATE**

CS shared updates from the City Manager's recommended budget, noting the pandemic has altered the recommendations. The recommended budget still includes finishing the MACC-Holt Street Greenway, the trails and playground at Cates Farm Park, and noncapital funding for stenciling and signage.

PDP commented that the budget has not yet been adopted by City Council and will be discussed at the Council meeting on June 1<sup>st</sup>. She noted the Council is moving forward carefully and is mindful that many individuals are currently not working. She recommended BPAC members join the Zoom meeting on June 1<sup>st</sup> and voice their support for the recommended BPAC projects.

RB asked if BPAC should prepare to present an update to Council.

PDP recommended one to two slides that share the progress made over the last two years and the importance of continuing these efforts,



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especially considering the value of getting outdoors during the pandemic.

RB asked if the BPAC missed the opportunity to appear on the June 1<sup>st</sup> agenda.

CS and PDP both responded no. CS will follow up with the City Clerk and City Manager.

RB asked AL to work with her on preparing a short presentation to City Council. They will work on slides and share with the group.

The BPAC commented on the observable uptick in individuals walking and biking around Mebane and using trails, greenways, and parks.

PDP recommended that each BPAC member submit a one- to two-sentence synopsis of what they shared to the City Clerk for comment during the June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. She asked that members also ask friends and family members to do the same.

RB asked for instructions for how to submit.

PDP recommended checking the City's website and asked CS for advice.

CS stated that members wishing to speak should notify the City Clerk in advance of the meeting that they would like to make a comment. The City Clerk will walk individuals through the process. Verbal comments are preferred but written statements can also be submitted and read aloud by the City Clerk.

PDP recommended sharing a link with instructions for public comment on social media.

RB stated that she will work to get the instructions, encourage others to comment, and prepare slides for the June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.



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## **BIKE AWARENESS & SAFETY CAMPAIGN**

RB asked SS to go through the campaign. The original plan was to have an awareness campaign in May and to distribute signs and information at the Dogwood Festival. RB noted SS did a good job in her email outlining what BPAC needs to discuss.

SS asked how everyone felt about proceeding with the campaign.

RB remarked that BPAC could still get things ready and begin the campaign when the time is right. She noted this may be the perfect time.

ME noted that more people are biking, and the demand is up. Staying on schedule makes sense to him.

SS commented that distribution of signs is trickier now and asked for ideas of how to distribute the signs.

The BPAC discussed different ideas, noting the constraints of contactless distribution. Agreement emerged around an idea to do a first run of the campaign this summer that involves placing a portion of the signs in key places throughout the city. After a few weeks, the signs will be retrieved. When things open back up, a more public distribution can occur. This plan takes advantage of the current moment where people are spending more time outdoors while also maintaining the original intent of the campaign.

The BPAC also discussed the size, content, and lettering on the signs. A decision emerged to purchase 100 double-sided signs, sized 18 by 24 inches. Four designs were selected, with one originally designed to state "A cyclist lives here" adjusted to read "Bikers live here. Watch out!" The BPAC agreed to include hashtags on the signs for a potential social media campaign in the future. CS reminded the BPAC that sign designs must also be approved by the City Manager before they are printed or distributed.

AD noted that he is happy to have the Recreation and Parks Department assist with any social media campaign.



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CS asked to be put in contact with the sign vendor. He will share the Mebane style guidelines with the vendor. CS will also place the order for the signs, which will be delivered to City Hall.

## **ANNUAL REPORT & WORK PLAN**

CS asked BPAC members if they were satisfied with the 2019 annual report and 2020 work plan. The BPAC already provided feedback on the first draft. CS reviewed the content of the report and the changes made since the first draft. He will email the document for BPAC members to review. The annual report and work plan will be shared in packets to City Council and posted to the website.

RB asked if the document would be formally presented to Council.

CS stated it has never been formally presented but this is only the second one to ever exist. The BPAC can determine how it wants to share the annual report and work plan.

RB asked the group if the report and work plan should be included with the June Council packets.

AL commented it would be beneficial to mention the report in BPAC's presentation to Council and ask them to turn to a specific page in their packets.

CS also noted that as drafted the greenway is presented as a recreation project in the report, without explicit discussion or a graphic.

RB stated a graphic is desired.

## **NEW & ONGOING BUSINESS**

PDP stated communication with City Council is in good shape.

CS provided an update on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) for the Burlington-Graham Metropolitan Planning Organization (BGMPO). The MTP will be used by the MPO to guide future transportation investments. The BGMPO is not bound by its MTP but it provides strong guidance and is considered by the DOT for state funding. CS showed an online map displaying recommended investments using



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three time horizons. One bike-ped project in Mebane is included – a shared-use path connecting West End to Holt Street Park. Other Mebane projects include the NC-119 Bypass and the Lowes Boulevard Corridor. The public can comment on the plan through June 11<sup>th</sup>. CS noted concerns about the data used for the MTP and remarked the City of Mebane is likely to send a letter to BGMPO with the concerns.

The BPAC reviewed Trello boards for projects and programs/initiatives.

CS provided updates on projects, including the completion of the N Charles bike boulevard, continued discussion with Duke Energy about the Cates Farm Trail, and positive DOT feedback about three crossings. The City is applying for an encroachment agreement for the Cates Farm Trail and future greenway.

RB asked about any updates on the momentum to place crosswalks at railroads.

CS stated the improvements are unexpected and welcome. The City is unaware of a schedule.

CM asked about submitted SPOT projects appearing on the Trello board, recalling that the connector between Food Lion and Mill Creek did not score well.

CS stated that the S Third Street and Mill Creek connectors scored okay but not well enough to be competitive projects. Should development occur in the area, private development would be expected to provide facilities.

CM asked that the two projects mentioned by CS be moved to the “Rejected/Denied” column of the Trello board.

CS stated that was safe to do at this time but noted these projects may score better with SPOT 7.0.

SS asked if disc golf was officially dead with Cates Farm.



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AD replied that officially no, but the coexistence of trails and disc golf does not make sense from a safety standpoint.

SS asked if there were any plans to make the area only used for disc golf and not walking trails.

AD replied that no such plans existed at this time, but the City is considering alternative disc golf options around Lake Michael.

SS remarked that she noticed the stencils Downtown and on Fifth Street. She expected to see a line of separation for bicyclists. SS asked if any plans existed for real bike boulevards or if there would only be share-the-road stencils.

CS stated this is something to discuss once the budget is approved. He noted the difference between bike boulevards and bike lanes as described in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan. So far, only bike boulevards have been suggested and approved. Washington Street is one example of a proposed bike lane. Bike boulevards are mainly stenciling and share-the-road signs. CS noted that if a desire exists to revisit the type of improvements for bike boulevards, that can certainly happen and be a topic for future discussion.

RB remarked on her surprise to discover Fifth Street being repaved after the stenciling.

CS said he would talk to Public Works and knows there have been recent repairs to water lines.

RB noted a bike rodeo may not occur until 2021. She asked for updates on the Better Block Program.

CS stated he plans to get together with planners in Graham. The City of Mebane invested cash in the project and will work with Graham to help move it forward.



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The BPAC discussed the use of the Trello board and how to maintain it as a useful tool for the group.

AO described an open-source dataset sent prior to the meeting that reports local actions to support bicycle and pedestrian access during the pandemic. She reviewed the usefulness of the spreadsheet for learning about policies and practices adopted in the United States and internationally that could be adapted to a Mebane context.

CM asked about the advisory role of the BPAC.

PDP stated the BPAC could raise issues with Council and advocate for ideas.

RB commented members of the BPAC could act in the capacity of interested members of the Mebane community. RB also noted that SS disappeared from the meeting because her computer died.

RB asked if Zoom meetings should be expected for future meetings.

CS replied yes. The City will provide guidance as it reopens. In-person, public meetings are unlikely to resume until after Phase 3.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

*Meeting summary by Ashley Ownbey, City of Mebane Planner*