



Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Meeting Summary
April 25, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

NAME	REPRESENTATION
Andrew Bixler (AB)	Orange County
Rebecca Brouwer (RB)	City
Katy Jones (KJ)	City
Sylvia Sichi (SS)	City
Jason Smith (JS)	Alamance County ETJ
Nate Wood (NW)	City
Cy Stober (CS)	Development Director
Ashley Ownbey (AO)	City Planner
Grace VandeVisser (GV)	Alamance County Visitors Bureau

Sarah Elder had an excused absence.

APPROVAL OF MEETING SUMMARIES

RB moved to approve the meeting summaries from the February meeting and March retreat.

A unanimous vote (4-0) supported approval of the meeting summary.

OCTOBER 2023 MOUNTAINS TO COAST EVENT

The BPAC welcomed Grace VandeVisser (GV) from the Alamance County Visitors Bureau.

GV described the Alamance County Visitors Bureau was approached by the North Carolina Amateur Sports Organization (NCASO) about hosting a mountain-to-coast cycling event on October 7, 2023. This event has been hosted by Mebane in the past as well as other local communities. Currently both Mebane and Burlington are interested and vying to host. A NCASO representative will be coming in early summer to discuss the event with key players. GV indicated she had spoken with Recreation and Parks Director Aaron Davis who is excited about the opportunity. She described Davis' concern about staffing for the event and his hope the BPAC could help play a role. GV noted NCASO is very well organized and supplied and commented the City would need to provide the site and some staff, especially in law enforcement for routing and safety, EMS for emergencies, etc. The Mebane Arts and Community Center and the Mebane Community Park are under consideration as potential sites, with the chosen site required to host a dinner, yoga, and other activities. GV remarked the Visitors Bureau can organize and fund transportation for the cyclists throughout town and NCASO supplies water, tents, showers, and additional transportation for the cyclists. Based on past events, the expectation is for approximately 1,000 cyclists and hundreds of tents.



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RB asked about anticipated costs for the City to host.

GV clarified the City can expect costs associated with providing evening entertainment, supporting volunteers, providing public safety and trash collection services, and donating space for the event. Benefits to the City include light shopping in Downtown Mebane and exposure for the area.

CS discussed roles of other individuals, such as the City Manager and Mayor, who will likely want to be involved in planning and implementation of the event. He remarked the BPAC would be involved in an advisory role and assist with gathering volunteers.

GV shared that volunteers and others can be helpful in ensuring that water, ice, etc. are available and in managing the nightly entertainment. She noted quiet time is 10 p.m. Volunteers can generally expect to arrive early in the day and stay most of the day.

JS asked how the City could prepare for the first visit.

GV replied not much is required of the first visit as this is a simple evaluation of potential sites.

DOGWOOD FESTIVAL DEBRIEF

NW, RB, and AB volunteered at the BPAC tent during the Dogwood Festival and provided updates to the BPAC.

NW commented the event went well and that turnout was good. The event provided an engagement opportunity and more people learned about BPAC as a result.

RB noticed many people are not aware of the ordinance to allow cycling on the sidewalk and suggested the BPAC expand awareness.

The BPAC discussed creating an urban biking trail map that encourages bicyclist safety and protection for pedestrians using the sidewalk.

AB shared similar comments about engagement and sharing resources. He recognized a desire for more information, including the surface material, for bike trails. AB commented on learning some visually impaired people are misdirected by the sidewalks and the bumps when going into the crosswalks.

CS shared City staff have been reviewing a sidewalk retrofit to correct those issues, noting several remain in the City.

RB suggested having an idea board next year so folks can record and share their ideas.



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NW asked about the crosswalk at Washington and Center and the timeline for the crosswalk to be working again.

CS shared that he is hopeful all issues will be resolved and the signal will be operational soon. He remarked of an upcoming meeting with the NCDOT Rail Division.

The BPAC recapped the team gave out several helmets and bike signs at the Dogwood Festival, agreeing to participate again with an idea board, coordination with Mebane on the Move and other partners, better signage to communicate what the BPAC would like to learn (e.g., signs that say, "Ask me about...") and more materials and resources, particularly for cyclists.

AO asked if items should be added to the BPAC webpage.

AB recommended cyclist resources, once they are ready.

RB recommended the urban trail map and suggested the BPAC take on a project to recommend different routes for biking in the City.

NW agreed and suggested the BPAC develop a route specific to kids, that is more protected.

CS shared that DOT also has recommended bike routes that could be included.

The BPAC agreed that RB, JS, and SE could work together outside of a BPAC meeting to begin the process of identifying possible bike routes, beginning with NCDOT identified routes.

SPRING BICYCLE CAMPAIGN CHECK-IN

KJ updated the BPAC on the Mebane Activity Challenge, which has been launched. Prizes have not been acquired yet. Some social media posts describing the challenge and bicycle campaign have been published, and others will be soon. KJ clarified that individuals completing two of the challenge goals will receive Mebane swag.

AB recommended asking folks for permission for the BPAC to share the submitted photos.

NW noted the Mountains-to-Sea Trail (MST) is not identified on the City Trails Map.

JS replied an effort is underway to mark turns for the trail throughout the area, with MST folks working with NCDOT and the City to post signs and blazes useful for guiding trail cyclists.

The BPAC agreed MST resources should be linked on the BPAC webpage.



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AB asked who is tracking the activity challenge emails sent to BPAC@cityofmebane.com.

AO explained that emails should all be forwarded to BPAC members as a group through the City email accounts. AO is available to help clear up issues with access to emails.

The BPAC discussed how to track submissions, with AB agreeing to be the point person and coordinating with Recreation and Parks staff to gather and distribute prizes.

KJ remarked the Mebane Activity Challenge has been integrated with the bike campaign and shared that other parts of the campaign are educational or for other purposes.

CS remarked the activity challenge is set to end right before the bike rodeo.

The BPAC discussed how the deadline might be extended, deciding prizes could be collected in October at the bike rodeo.

SS agreed to be the point person for the bicycle campaign signs. She will post some throughout the community and work with AD to contact residents who kept the yard signs from previous campaigns.

KJ updated the BPAC on her work to coordinate an interview with the Mebane PD as part of the social media campaign.

RB suggested sharing information on the bike campaign through more avenues.

AB asked if there's a central marketing/messaging email, suggesting the BPAC use an email list to share information for opportunities like this.

RB suggested creating a public-facing annual or quarterly report with BPAC updates.

AB recommended promoting BPAC items on other pages, not just official Mebane pages.

NEW & ONGOING BUSINESS

2022-2023 Budget Process

CS reported the Mebane City Council is scheduled to review the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 at the May 2 meeting. The capital budget is expected to include projects recommended by the BPAC or projects relevant to the BPAC's work.



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BGMPO Transportation Safety Plan

CS updated the BPAC of an upcoming working session on May 4 for the Burlington-Graham Metropolitan Planning Organization (BGMPO). Several topics will be covered, including impaired/distracted driving, EMS response, and bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. This will be the first highway safety plan in North Carolina when completed and could lead to access to federal dollars.

Updates to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan

AO reported the deadline for the request for proposals was extended to April 18. City staff hopes to have a consultant identified and a contract finalized by the end of June.

Ashbury Hot Spot Analysis Update

CS updated the BPAC on a contract with Ramey Kemp and Associates. Transportation engineers will be in Mebane installing monitoring equipment and collecting data on safety and speed concerns in the Ashbury neighborhood. Additionally, the City is using this as a training opportunity so similar analyses can be conducted in the future.

RB asked if the City will be publicizing the ability to complete these types of studies in the future.

CS replied he is unsure and expects the City will follow a set policy.

City Trail Map

AO reviewed edits to the City Trail Map and asked of additional comments before printing. The BPAC requested identification of unpaved trails.

RB suggested a separate map for biking, as the existing urban trail system is designed for pedestrians.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Meeting summary prepared by Jamie Andrews, Finance Intern and edited by Ashley Ownbey, Interim Development Director.