



Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Meeting Summary

October 24, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

NAME	REPRESENTATION
Rebecca Brouwer (RB)	City
Sarah Elder (SE)	City
Katy Jones (KJ)	Chair, At-Large
Jason Smith (JS)	Alamance ETJ
Sylvia Sichi (SS)	City
Nate Wood (NW)	Vice Chair, City
Ashley Ownbey (AO)	Development Director
Aaron Davis (AD)	Recreation and Parks Director
Barbara Hollerand (BH)	DMDC Executive Director

APPROVAL OF JUNE, AUGUST, AND SEPTEMBER MEETING SUMMARIES

KJ, RB, SS, and JS (4-0) supported approval of the meeting summary for the June 27 meeting.

SE and NW were absent from the June meeting.

KJ, SE, SS, and JS (4-0) supported approval of the meeting summary for the August 15 meeting.

RB and NW were absent from the August meeting.

KJ, RB, and NW (3-0) supported approval of the meeting summary from the September 24 meeting.

SE, SS, and JS were absent from the September meeting.

ELECTION OF BPAC VICE-CHAIR

KJ opened the floor to nominations for a new vice-chair.

NW offered to serve as vice-chair.

A unanimous vote (6-0) supported the election of NW as the new vice-chair.

DOWNTOWN MEBANE DISCUSSION

The BPAC welcomed Barbara Hollerand to the meeting. BH attended the meeting to learn more about BPAC and what directions the group is taking.

BH discussed the status of the Downtown Mebane Development Corporation (DMDC).



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- The steering committee for DMDC has become a board.
- Mebane is still a Downtown Associate Community but will become a designated Main Street by July 1.
- DMDC is a separate nonprofit and will have a website by next month.
- DMDC is a 501(c)(3) and will continue to receive support from the City of Mebane.

NW asked about DMDC's goals for Downtown Mebane.

BH described how Main Street groups typically are organized under a four-point approach – organization, design, economic vitality, and promotion. Additionally, DMDC will include components related to health and wellness and equity. DMDC is looking to activate Downtown Mebane with more typical downtown amenities and held community workshops earlier in the process. BH wants to get the word out about the organization and tie its work into what others are doing in the community.

KJ discussed improvements and business engagement in and around Downtown. She mentioned the BPAC's engagement efforts for last year's Downtown parklet and mentioned the value of having the DMDC as an organized conduit to businesses.

CATES FARM PRESENTATION

AD presented on an Accessibility for Parks (AFP) grant, which the Mebane City Council recently provided approval for staff to apply for. At the same Council meeting, the Council also approved funding for a parking lot, entryway, restroom, and Phase 1 of the playground.

- The grant has \$10 million available in total and offers a 5-1 match. It is primarily intended to serve children or veterans with physical disabilities.
- The grant application is due November 1, with awardees announced in March 2023.
- Recreation Resource Services (RRS) is a state-associated nonprofit that reviews projects (this is the same nonprofit that reviews applications for PARTF). So far, RRS has liked the project and has not received many other requests.
- Recipients are selected based on criteria such as ADA compatibility and universal design.



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- The playground will include several unique features including a wheelchair swing and accessible zipline. Not all equipment will be accessible, but much of it will be.
- In the future, the playground will tie into other parks and trails.

AD also discussed the survey for the City's Comprehensive Recreation & Parks Master Plan and Bicycle & Pedestrian Transportation Plan

RB recommended another email push.

AD asked if anyone had questions about the AFP grant and clarified that Phase 1 is already funded, and Phase 2 will require the \$375,000 grant. Once the grant is approved, the project could require additional funding.

JS asked about the potential crosswalk shown on NC 119.

AD said additional conversation is needed with City Engineering.

RB asked if a crosswalk into Cates Park had been pursued before.

AO noted that there is no sidewalk or anything to connect to along NC 119 and NCDOT will not approve a crosswalk until sidewalk exists.

DISCRETIONARY FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS, 2022-2023

AO commented the BPAC has \$10,000 in discretionary funding for fiscal year 2022-2023 and briefly summarized the presentation at the September meeting regarding the study completed for the Ashbury neighborhood. She mentioned the Mebane Public Works Director requested a recommendation for the proposed crosswalks in the Ashbury neighborhood by the end of this meeting.

KJ mentioned that the proposed improvements at the four-way intersection of Ashbury Blvd, Mockingbird Ln, and Ashbury Square were the only items the BPAC had determined would be considered for funding.

AO shared an itemized list of costs for curb ramps, crosswalk striping, stop bar pavement paint, and signage. The total cost would be \$7,315, which includes a ten percent contingency.

The BPAC discussed applying green paint to existing bike sharrows, which was discussed with the Public Works Director at the September meeting.



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RB noted that there is no crosswalk at Lee Street and the new basketball courts have been highly utilized. She suggested the BPAC consider funding a crosswalk.

AO said the cost for the crosswalk striping would be similar to Ashbury, in the \$500 to \$1,000 range.

The BPAC discussed other potential crossings near the basketball courts.

Due to the need to decide on the Ashbury project at the meeting, KJ recommended the BPAC decide on that item.

SE made a motion to approve the funding, and JS seconded the motion.

A unanimous vote (6-0) supported approval of the \$7,315 in discretionary funding for the proposed improvements at the four-way intersection of Ashbury Blvd, Mockingbird Ln, and Ashbury Square.

RB remarked the BPAC has at least \$2,685 in discretionary funding that remains for the current fiscal year. She asked about improvements fitting with the schedule for street resurfacing.

AO replied the resurfacing list was reviewed by Planning staff and no projects stood out for discretionary funding.

AO reported on a presentation scheduled for the November meeting of the Mebane City Council. Staff will present on proposed improvements to Clay Street that include curb bump outs and sharrows. The project focuses on utility and street repair, but some changes will improve walkability and bikeability.

AD pointed out that the main door to the MACC does not have a bike rack. It would not have to be as big as the larger blue ones.

AO noted that bike racks typically run for \$500.

The BPAC agreed a larger bike rack may be needed given the future greenway.

BETTER BLOCK UPDATES TO CITY COUNCIL

The BPAC discussed how it plans to present an update on the Better Block Project to the City Council and agreed upon a memo to be completed by December. RB, KJ, and AO will assist with the memo. AO will share the final report for the Ashbury study once provided by the consultant.



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NEW AND ONGOING BUSINESS

The BPAC discussed public engagement for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan update.

AO said that the consultants have been pleased with the number of survey responses so far.

AD added that postcards have gone out, and once a certain number have been received, the survey will be opened to everyone. Data will be segmented between those who received unique codes via postcards and the general public.

AO asked if AD had any social media plans.

AD thought the next social media post would be for the surveys opening.

AO commented the City has hired a public information officer who will be starting soon.

AD added that a parks superintendent will also be starting soon. AD plans to invite the superintendent to a future BPAC meeting.

The BPAC reviewed vacancies on the commission.

There is currently a vacancy for an Orange County BPAC seat. AO said that the City has one qualified applicant and potentially another.

Terms for two current BPAC members will expire in January. Neither member plans to serve again, so there will be two new people appointed at the February City Council meeting. These seats serve three-year terms. AO will contact past applicants in the City. The City will start advertising those positions in mid-November to allow individuals a couple of months to apply.

The BPAC reviewed the December meeting date. The meeting may occur on December 17 or be cancelled.

RB asked about the rezoning of the Kingsdown property and the lack of crosswalks on S Third Street, which is maintained by the NCDOT. She noted pedestrians currently must dart across the street to access recreational amenities in the area.



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AO commented the developers will provide one crossing of S Third Street as part of the development.

RB noted the need to improve the crossing of Third at Lee.

NW also recommended lowering the speed limit in that area and said that the current speed limit was too fast.

RB asked if a traffic analysis was needed to lower the speed limit.

AO said the work may be completed internally since City staff have received training with the Ashbury study.

NW added that improvements will only be more needed with more people in the area.

AD discussed a potential trail connection between S Third and S Fifth Streets. There is a “secret” trail between the Grace Reformed Church parking lot and S Fifth Street. The church currently owns all of the land. Doing anything now would be unlikely because of Bradford Primary School using the space. If the school moves, a future trail in the area has potential.

The BPAC also discussed a connection between the streets further to the north, noting drainage concerns and minimal sidewalk on the west side of S Fifth Street. The “secret” trail would require less sidewalk extension since the sidewalk picks up again a quarter mile to the south.

Regarding Kingsdown, AO commented updates to the Bike/Ped Plan could include recommendations for the area. The updated plan should be completed prior to the start of the development’s construction.

AO reviewed the Kingsdown development approved by the City Council in October. Recommended multi-modal improvements at the development include pedestrian and bicycle striping, signage, and sidewalk to connect to Downtown Mebane; shared-lane markings on Washington Street; and a bike boulevard on South Second Street.

AO provided a final update for the Bike/Ped Plan process, adding the consultants will tour the City with staff and use that as the basis for additional plan recommendations, especially when regarding feasibility.

KJ asked if a project plan could be presented at the November meeting.



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AO commented she would follow up with the consultants who may be able to join via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Meeting summary prepared by Joseph Hoffheimer, Planning Department Consultant, and reviewed and edited by Ashley Ownbey, Development Director.