



# Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Meeting Summary  
December 19, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

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| NAME                 | REPRESENTATION       |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| James Allen (JA)     | Orange County        |
| Rebecca Brouwer (RB) | City                 |
| Katy Jones (KJ)      | Chair, At-Large      |
| Sylvia Sichi (SS)    | City                 |
| Jason Smith (JS)     | Alamance ETJ         |
| Ashley Ownbey (AO)   | Development Director |
| Rachel Gaffney (RG)  | City Planner         |

*Sarah Elder, Nate Wood, and Aaron Davis had an excused absence.*

## **WELCOME NEW CITY PLANNER**

RG was introduced to the BPAC.

RG stated that she had spent approximately three years as a planner in Colorado and was very excited to be starting as a City Planner for Mebane.

The rest of the BPAC gave brief introductions.

## **APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 28, 2022, MEETING SUMMARY**

RB moved to approve the meeting summary from the November 28 meeting. JS seconded the motion.

A unanimous vote (5-0) supported approval of the meeting summary.

## **DISCUSSION OF DISCRETIONARY FUNDING AND CAPITAL PROJECTS**

KJ asked AO for information regarding costs of green paint and other potential project costs. AO indicated that she had spoken with the public works director and an engineer associated with the City. Neither was able to provide an estimate regarding green paint for bike lanes as a pilot project has not yet been completed. A pilot project is planned for Spring 2023. Crosswalk paint is approximately \$2-3 per linear foot. Bicycle racks cost about \$500. Signs and wayfinding improvements would likely be \$100-\$150 per sign. Roughly \$2,600 remain in the discretionary fund.

RB suggested that a bike rack was needed at the Mebane Arts and Community Center (MAC). JS and JA concurred. SS asked if there was a bike rack at the new basketball courts. AO stated that she did not think there was. KJ indicated that there was one at a park across the street, but not



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one actually on the same lot as the basketball courts. RB stated that she did not think there were bike racks at the new tennis courts either. KJ stated that an audit may be needed to confirm bike rack locations. AO stated that there had been a previous effort to map bike rack locations which had not been completed. RB suggested that the BPAC look at acquiring 3 bike racks, with locations to be determined based on an audit of existing locations. KJ agreed that 3 was a good number. The BPAC agreed that they would utilize their discretionary funding to purchase 3 bike racks, location to be determined. BPAC members also discussed funding for a simple 2-line crosswalk. Funding for marketing and promotional materials for BPAC events was also discussed. It was clarified that funds for capital projects needed to be designated soon but that discretionary funds for other projects could be determined at a later date.

Potential capital projects were reviewed. Many of these projects relate to the proposed multi-purpose trail (greenway) through the City. JA stated that there are many pedestrian accesses into downtown but few that are ideal for bicycle use. He suggested that if the proposed greenway could intersect with 4<sup>th</sup> street, then that would be an ideal downtown route for bicyclists. Alternate bike routes into downtown were also discussed. SS and JA also brought up the need for wayfinding signs identifying bike routes. RB asked if sharrows and signage would qualify as capital projects. AO stated that discretionary funds could probably be used, but it would depend on the scale of the project. JA asked AO if lighting for sidewalks and trails is within BPAC's purview. AO answered that BPAC could make recommendations to the Public Works Department, but any projects would be handled by that Department. AO also indicated that some roads are maintained by the State Department of Transportation (DOT) and she does not know if lights for those roads are also maintained by DOT or if there is an agreement between that State and the City. AO stated that new developments are being required to provide sidewalks and lighting. New developments near Oakwood Street and the sidewalks that will be required were discussed. Planning Staff intends to develop a map of sidewalk gaps to identify some of the gaps between these developments. RB asked if it would be possible to request that DOT address sidewalk gaps on state maintained roads. AO explained that such requests would have to go through their prioritization process and that projects with local funding may be able to move forward faster.

KJ asked if the City has reviewed bike lane feasibility. AO explained that will be a component of the new long-range bike and pedestrian plan. The consultants for the plan will be walking through the city with the city engineer and identifying feasible locations for bike lanes. JA suggested that high-vis sharrows combined with signage can be a good alternative to bike lanes for streets that are not wide enough for a dedicated lane. AO stated that the consultants should also be providing a map of all project recommendations included in the new long-range plan, which should help with tracking progress. JA asked if the consultants have identified any other potential railroad crossings besides at-street level crossings. AO indicated that she did not think that the consultants would be looking at that. JS stated that he thought some options had been considered in the past but were determined to be prohibitively expensive. RB asked what would



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be the best way to determine where new bike routes should be located. AO indicated that there should be some data collected as part of the long-range plan that would help. KJ suggested that a public survey through the City's Public Information Officer (PIO) would be helpful too. JS suggested that websites like Strava collect location data and can provide heat maps of biking and walking routes to municipalities.

## **2023 Spring Bike Campaign / Bike Rodeo**

RB stated that Sergeant Ward with the City Police Department would be the BPAC's contact for organizing a bike rodeo / spring bike campaign and she will be working with him to determine the time of year and the involvement of the Department. She stated that she would have more information for the January meeting.

## **New and Ongoing Business: January Calendar**

AO stated that the work plan and annual report would be drafted by staff for the January BPAC meeting. Moving the meeting date from January 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> was discussed.

## **New and Ongoing Business: New Member Recruitment**

AO stated that the openings for new members had been posted but no response had been received yet. AO also indicated that she needed to contact previous applicants to see if they would like to reapply. Various ways of attracting applicants as well as the need for applicants of diverse backgrounds were discussed. RG suggested that perhaps some sort of youth outreach should be considered. Adolescents tend to be significant users of bike trails and pedestrian walkways but they tend to have less of a voice in these types of planning processes. RB suggested that some sort of ad hoc membership for young community members could be considered or researched further. KJ stated that the BPAC has not done a lot of outreach in general and asked if that was something they could work with the new PIO on. AO indicated that she would need to get more information on that, but it is a possibility.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

*Meeting summary prepared by Rachel Gaffney, City Planner.*