



# Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Meeting Summary  
January 30, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

---

NAME	REPRESENTATION
James Allen (JA)	Orange County
Rebecca Brouwer (RB)	City
Sarah Elder (SE)	City
Katy Jones (KJ)	Chair, At-Large
Sylvia Sichi (SS)	City
Nate Wood (NW)	Vice-Chair, City
Ashley Ownbey (AO)	Development Director
Rachel Gaffney (RG)	City Planner
Barbara Hollerand (BH)	Executive Director, Downtown Mebane Dev. Corp.

*Jason Smith and Aaron Davis had an excused absence.*

## **APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 19, 2022, MEETING SUMMARY**

RB moved to approve the meeting summary from the December 19 meeting. NW seconded the motion.

A unanimous vote (5-0) supported approval of the meeting summary. SS arrived just after the approval of the minutes.

## **2022 ANNUAL REPORT AND 2023 WORK PLAN**

RG asked if there were any changes needed to the draft 2022 Annual Report or the 2023 Work Plan. SS stated that she was disappointed that they couldn't do more to resolve some of the traffic issues on Ashbury Blvd. RB agreed but explained that she was happy to learn more about the process of identifying hot spots and when traffic calming measures are needed.

JA indicated that he had a question on the North Mebane Multi-Use Path Network described in the annual report. He said he bikes regularly on Lebanon Road and that there is an emerging traffic problem at the crossing from Lake Michael to the proposed Multi-Use path. The road is downhill with the speed limit changing from 55 mph to 35 mph which results in many vehicles traveling above the speed limit. JA asked if there is anything in the work plan or in the BPAC's purview that would allow for traffic calming or warning measures in this area. AO explained that Tupelo Junction (under construction) will be installing a crosswalk across Lebanon Road to Lake Michael. A residential development off of Saddle Club Road has also been reviewed by staff (has not yet gone through public hearing) and this might also include a crossing in this area. AO acknowledged that this may not address speeding issues and suggested that BPAC could play an educational and advocacy role in assisting with that concern. RB asked if a flashing ped-head sign



# Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Meeting Summary

January 30, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

---

could be included with these proposed crossings? AO stated that it would depend on the electrical availability in the area. At this point, staff will need to wait until the improvements are installed and then reevaluate from there. AO stated that there is also a potential that a traffic signal will be installed at Lebanon Road and Stagecoach Road. That could assist with traffic calming. JA suggested that driver feedback signs (aka Your Speed signs) that show drivers' their speed compared to the speed limit could also be helpful in this area. AO stated that she thought the City has also had conversations with DOT about the speed limit on Lebanon Road so this is an issue that is being examined from a number of angles. KJ asked if there are also plans for a multi-use path on Lebanon Road. AO stated that there are plans for a trail from the Retreat at Lake Michael residential development through City owned property to Lake Michael Park. The rest of the sidewalk network will be the responsibility of the developers.

RB asked why the description of the inclusive Cate's Farm Playground is in the BPAC report. AO answered that it was because BPAC was briefed on the project and supported it. SE agreed that it isn't hurting anything but it is a little confusing. JA said that he had an idea for bike trails. Near the entrance to Cate's Farm Park there is a piece of land that could potentially connect to Carr Street. He asked if that could be used to create safer bike and pedestrian access to Cate's Farm. AO responded that the neighborhood in that area has not been interested in any type of connection to Cate's Farm Park so that might not be feasible. JA explained that it would be good to get bicyclists off of 1<sup>st</sup> Street. Conditions have improved since the 119 bypass went in, but the sightlines are poor and it can be a dangerous area for cyclists. JA suggested that adding a bike lane to 1<sup>st</sup> street could also help the situation if that was a feasible project. RB explained that could be discussed as part of the Bike and Pedestrian Plan updates. AO also added that some of the developments on North 1<sup>st</sup> Street will include a 10' wide multi-use path.

KJ asked if the City Trail Map discussed in the annual report had been added to the City website. AO stated that she was not sure. KJ asked if a QR code to the map could be added to the annual report. SS asked if there were also printed copies of the map. AO responded that Aaron Davis was working on a pamphlet version of the map but he was not able to attend the meeting as the RPAC was meeting at the same time. SS asked where they would be available. RB answered that they should be available at City Hall and the MACC. SS asked if they would be at the library as well. RB stated she wasn't sure. SS stated that it would be useful to have them available at the trailheads. RB, KJ, and SS agreed that there isn't currently a place on the existing maps or trailheads for paper maps but that would be a good idea. JA added that it would be good to have weatherproof maps posted at locations along the route showing users their current location. RB suggested that BPAC consider further trail signage as part of their 2023 discretionary funds. NW added that the City Trails Map is available on the trails and greenways page of the City of Mebane website. RG indicated that staff would make sure that the map available on the website is the most current version as some recent updates had been made. AO clarified that the Mountains to Sea Trail had been added.



# Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Meeting Summary

January 30, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

---

KJ added that on the idea of future discretionary funds, she had seen a bike repair kiosk in downtown Gastonia and thought that could be an interesting project for BPAC to pursue. There was general agreement to add that type of resource to the list of potential projects and research it further. JA added that some of these types of repair stations include a stand so users don't have to work on the ground.

RG asked if there were any other comments on the annual report and work plan. KJ asked if staff had gotten permission from participants in the Mebane Activity Challenge to use their photos. RB and NW indicated that they thought there was language in the contest description that stated that any photos submitted for the contest could be utilized by BPAC and City staff.

KJ made a motion to approve the annual report and work plan with the requested changes. RG asked for clarification on the requested changes. KJ explained that she would like a QR code link to the City Trail Map added. AO suggested that staff can also look at the language for the Cate's Farm Playground and try to prevent any confusion. RB and KJ agreed that they would like to see that. NW said that the section has a preface explaining that those are projects that the BPAC was informed about not that they participated in and he thought that was fine. He said he did initially find it confusing but on reading it again he thought it had been explained sufficiently. RB seconded KJ's initial motion. A full vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

## **BIKE RACK MAP DISCUSSION**

At the previous meeting, BPAC members had asked staff to provide information on the current locations of bike racks in the city so that they could determine where new bike racks were needed. RG presented a map, developed by staff, showing all of the existing bike rack locations on City properties. She explained that she had checked all of the sites to confirm the type and location of the bike racks. Large bike racks were shown on the map as yellow stars and smaller bike racks were shown as purple stars. RB asked if the smaller bike racks were the ones that looked more like sculptures than bike racks. RG explained that there were a few different designs and brought up pictures as examples. RB explained that "I am a bike rack!" stickers had been placed on some of the more sculptural looking bike racks to try to address the issue. Several BPAC members agreed that the leaf shaped bike racks were not immediately recognizable as a bike rack but they thought the other designs were more clear. RG stated that there was a large bike rack at Cates Farm Park but the bike rack at Lake Michael Park is small. She asked if BPAC wanted to consider a larger rack there. JA stated that Lake Michael is not a big biking destination yet but as the trails are further developed there will be more bike traffic there. RB agreed. JA stated that there are only about 2+ miles of trails right now that are not very well designed. SE stated that as the park is configured now, cyclists are not really stopping and leaving their bikes at the park. Cyclists like JA are biking to the park, through the trails, and then leaving the park to go elsewhere. It was generally agreed that there might be a need for a larger bike rack at Lake Michael in the future but there is not much demand now.



# Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Meeting Summary  
January 30, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

---

RB asked if there was a bike rack at Tanger. KJ and AO explained that this map is only showing City facilities and not businesses or schools. NW asked if there are any bike racks at the basketball courts. RG explained that there are not currently any bike racks at the basketball courts. There are also two new pocket parks that do not have bike racks. All three locations are marked on the map. RG stated that most of the existing parks, with the exception of the Veteran's Memorial Park, have a bike rack. KJ asked what bike racks are located downtown. RG responded that there is a small rack at the Clay Street Pocket Park and another small one at the Clay Street midblock crossing. NW asked if these are the only bike racks downtown and SE added that she would like to see a larger bike rack downtown. RB agreed that was a good idea but questioned what a good location would be. JA suggested that further down Clay Street towards the Community Park would be a good idea. This would help facilitate travel between the Park and Downtown. KJ asked if there was any room in the State Farm parking lot. There was general agreement that the corner of Clay Street and Third Street would be a good location that should be investigated further. NW asked to confirm that there isn't a bike rack at Veteran's Memorial Park. RG confirmed that there is not. RB, AO, and RG explained that there probably isn't room for a bike rack to be added to that park. JA asked if the City or BPAC had ever reached out to any commercial locations like Lowe's Foods to ask if they would consider installing bike racks. AO answered that it has been previously discussed by the BPAC. All new commercial developments are required to provide bike racks. AO suggested that it had been previously discussed that BPAC could try placing the portable bike rack that they had acquired for the parklet project at different commercial locations and see if that generated interest in any new permanent bike racks. KJ and JA agreed that Lowe's food would be the ideal location for that kind of pilot project. RB asked if that would be something that BPAC members should take the lead on or if City staff would reach out. AO answered it could go either way. KJ suggested that she could contact Lowe's Corporate Office and ask if they would be willing to install a bike rack.

RB asked if it would be appropriate to offer to install bike racks at apartment communities. AO stated that she would need to check with the City Manager. RB asked if it would be a potential liability issue and AO agreed. SE asked if most apartment communities wouldn't already have a bike rack near the clubhouse or other locations. AO agreed that many do. SS explained that she would prefer a classic grid style bike rack. SS asked which type of bike racks they would be getting and what the price difference is between classic styles and more artistic styles. There was a general agreement from the BPAC that they had a preference towards classic bike rack styles rather than more artistic or sculptural ones. It was also agreed that a larger size bike rack would be good for downtown. SE asked what other locations besides downtown they should look at. AO stated that the basketball courts had been discussed and that the MACC had also been discussed, but RG had found that there is a large bike rack at the rear of the MACC complex. RB suggested that the MACC is very large and a second bike rack might be needed at that location. RG explained that there is a large bike rack at the rear of the MACC building at the entrance to the rear athletic fields. There is also a small bike rack at the soccer fields on



# Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Meeting Summary

January 30, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

---

Corregidor Road. It was agreed that BPAC members wanted to pursue a large, standard style bike rack in downtown, preferably at the Third Street and Clay Street Intersection. KJ asked if the second location should be the basketball courts or if they should look at the North Fist Street Pocket Park. RB and NW stated that there wasn't really anything at the Pocket Park so there wouldn't be much reason for a cyclist to stop and use the bike rack. It was agreed that the basketball courts would be the best location for the second bike rack. RB suggested that the third bike rack should be placed in a prominent location at the MACC. NW asked RG if she thought any of the existing racks were in poor locations and if any of them could or should be relocated. JA asked about relocating the bike rack at the Fifth Street Pocket Park as that is not a popular location for cyclists to stop. KJ answered that the rack is probably cemented in and it would probably cost more to move it than to get a new one. RG agreed that it is a very small bike rack and probably would not be worth the cost of moving it. RG suggested that the basketball courts is a good location for a bike rack even though there are existing racks at the nearby tennis courts, museum, and baseball fields because cyclists going to the basketball courts are going to go straight there and may not be aware of bicycle parking in those other locations. SS agreed that the basketball courts deserve their own bike rack. RB suggested that the MACC should be the third location and JA agreed. KJ asked if there was sufficient bicycle parking at the Community Park and JA asked if there was a bike rack at the Holt Street Park. RG confirmed that there were two bike racks at the Community Park and one small rack at Holt Street Park. BPAC members came to the final decision that a large bike rack would be placed downtown, ideally at the intersection of Clay Street and Third Street, another bike rack would be located at the basketball courts, and a third bike rack would be placed at the front of the MACC building. AO also suggested that the portable rack could be tested at various locations.

## **BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATES**

KJ explained that there is a public meeting to discuss the results of the public engagement efforts on the following evening, January 31<sup>st</sup>. RB asked if the meeting would be recorded. AO explained that it would be streamed live on Youtube and a recording would be available there after the meeting. She explained further that the meeting will be primarily informational and there would not be much discussion or other engagement. AO encouraged BPAC members to attend if they are available. KJ confirmed that there would be another event for the Plan Update during the BPAC's regular meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup>. AO explained that so far the public engagement effort for both the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update and the Recreation and Parks Master Plan Update had been combined but now the efforts will be split we proceed to developing the new plans. The purpose of the meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> will be to discuss visioning and project prioritization for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan only. Joan Lyons of Stewart will be completing an inventory and evaluation of existing street conditions prior to the meeting. KJ asked if there were any action items for the BPAC at this time and AO confirmed that there were not.



# Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Meeting Summary

January 30, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

---

## **2023 SPRING BIKE CAMPAIGN / BIKE RODEO**

RB explained that Sergeant Ward with the City Police Department was curious if BPAC would be interested in organizing the bike rodeo in conjunction with the Dogwood Festival. SE asked for clarification on what the location of the bike rodeo would be. RB explained that the downtown area will be very congested at that time and the bike rodeo would probably have to be some distance away from the center of the festival. SS asked if it would be better to just have a booth at Dogwood and to hand out flyers for a bike rodeo scheduled the following week or something similar. RB asked what everyone's schedules are for the Dogwood Festival, which will be held on April 22<sup>nd</sup> this year. KJ asked if there was a reason why Sergeant Ward was leaning towards having the bike rodeo at the Dogwood Festival. RB explained that she thought there was talk about that at the bike rodeo last year. JA added that he had an idea to draw more traffic to the bike rodeo, which would be to invite food trucks to the event. RB and KJ answered that they thought it was a good idea but it probably wouldn't work during the Dogwood Festival. They suggested that scheduling the bike rodeo for a different day would probably be better. NW stated he was surprised that the Police Department would want to schedule it during the Dogwood Festival as their staff will be extremely busy and could become overextended. There was concern that, in the event of staffing issues, the bike rodeo could end up cancelled.

RB suggested scheduling the bike rodeo for a different day but making it more of an event by inviting food trucks and maybe adding additional activities or entertainment. RB asked if anyone had ideas of good dates for the bike rodeo. KJ suggested that May is a good time as it's Bike Month. BH explained that she has been developing a calendar of all downtown events and it may be helpful to coordinate the bike rodeo with other events happening in Mebane. BH explained that there are tentative plans for a food truck rodeo in June. RB asked if it would be possible to schedule the bike rodeo in conjunction with the food truck rodeo. KJ asked for an estimate of when the new bike rack could be placed downtown. She explained that it could be cool to incorporate an unveiling of the new bike rack into the bike rodeo. There was some discussion of what the downtown bike rack should look like and if it should have a Mebane specific design. SS explained that the biggest factor in getting good attendance at the bike rodeo is getting the word out. She suggested setting up a booth at the Dogwood Festival to advertise the bike rodeo and then scheduling the rodeo on a date fairly soon after the Festival. RB agreed that it was a good idea but that June could still work for that and she really likes the idea of pairing the bike rodeo with another event. There was some discussion regarding temperatures in June and if it would be too warm. KJ suggested that they should review the event calendar that BH is putting together and discuss further at the next meeting. BH explained that she is on version 10 of the calendar so far, but she is trying to keep it updated. RB asked BH to email her some potential dates that would coincide with compatible events. RB asked if they wanted to try to organize some sort of additional activity or entertainment like a BMX trick show. It was generally agreed that BPAC would move forward with scheduling a date



# Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Meeting Summary

January 30, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

---

and then see if any other activities could be coordinated on that date. Tying the event to an unveiling of a downtown bike rack was also suggested again. KJ suggested that there could also be a raffle. There was also some discussion as to whether the term bike rodeo was misleading and if the event could be named something else. BH asked what the duration of the rodeo usually is. RB answered that it would probably be about 11-2 and it is usually about 3 hours. AO suggested that is another good reason to coordinate with another event as it would be hard to convince a food truck to come to an event that only lasts 3 hours. NW suggested that they may need to have an agreement with the food truck where BPAC will compensate them for their time if they don't make enough in sales. JA added that selecting the right food truck for the event would be important. RB asked that the bike rodeo be placed on the next meeting's agenda so that there can be further discussion. RG agreed and asked if BPAC members also wanted to discuss having a promotional booth at the Dogwood Festival. There was general agreement and RB asked if that could be placed on the next meeting's agenda too.

## **NEW AND ONGOING BUSINESS: YEAR OF THE TRAIL**

RG and AO explained that staff had reached out to two possible guest speakers: one is with the East Coast Greenway Alliance and the other is Sig Hutchinson, a former Commissioner for White County who is very involved with greenway development. He and his business partner are writing a book and are working on developing a regional trail initiative the Triangle Trails Initiative. The speakers would join a BPAC meeting and discuss launching and administering a greenway. RG asked when in the year staff should look at scheduling guest speakers. NW asked when BPAC would hold a retreat and if a guest speaker could be scheduled then. RB asked if they should discuss when the retreat would be held now. NW suggested holding the retreat in June. KJ asked if the new bicycle and pedestrian plan would be done by June as it would be good to be able to discuss that in depth during a retreat. AO answered that a draft of the new plan should be done by then. A Sunday in June or possibly July was tentatively decided as a good time for the retreat. There was general agreement that one guest speaker would be scheduled for the retreat and one would be scheduled for a BPAC meeting in the Fall.

## **NEW AND ONGOING BUSINESS: 2023 CYCLE NC MOUNTAIN TO COAST RIDE**

BPAC members viewed a promotional video identifying Mebane as a stop on the 2023 Cycle NC Mountain to Coast Ride. The ride will stop in Mebane from October 3-4. There is no action needed from the BPAC at this time but staff will keep members updated on any developments.

## **NEW AND ONGOING BUSINESS: NEW MEMBER RECRUITMENT**

RG explained that there were 3 applications received for 2 open BPAC spots. The applications will go before City Council for their decision. The new members will join BPAC at the February meeting.



# Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Meeting Summary

January 30, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

---

## **CELEBRATING OUTGOING MEMBERS:**

The BPAC members thanked SE and SS for everything they've done for BPAC and the City of Mebane. SE and SS asked to be kept informed of future BPAC projects and said that they could potentially still volunteer for some efforts. KJ suggested that the BPAC needs to have further conversations about how to engage with other groups and members of the public. RB added that at the Dogwood Festival last year there were several people who asked how they could find more information and get updates on the work BPAC was doing and volunteer opportunities. RB suggested that having some sort of formal listserv may be a good idea. KJ asked if the City's PIO could come to a BPAC meeting so they could discuss some of these ideas. AO answered that some sort of meeting with the PIO could be arranged.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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