



**CHARLOTTE
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
August 24, 2021
6:00 PM**

This meeting was conducted in remote session as a virtual meeting due to COVID-19.

BAC Members Present:	Liza Pratt	Veda Evans	Angela Stoyanovich
	Michael Trivette	Lekisha Hamilton	Caitlin Tobin
	Alane Paraison	Eoin Sheil	

Members Absent: James Lee

Staff Present: Will Washam Keith Sorensen Ashley Landis

Agenda Item #1 Call to order

Chairperson Tobin called the meeting to order at 6:08PM.

Agenda Item #2 Introduction of members and guests

All BAC members introduced themselves for the benefit of the new members. Also present was Dick Winters, Kate Cavazza, Dustin Branham, Terry Lansdell of Bike/Walk NC, and Clint Grant with County Health.

Agenda Item #3 Call to the public

Dustin Branham shared that he would like to see more done to discourage driving in Charlotte and make it easier to get around by bike so that cycling becomes a normalized mode of transportation beyond recreational riding.

Terry Lansdell announced the Bike Walk Summit dates for 2021. He talked about some of the agenda topics and the importance of the state budget for funding cycling projects. Mr. Lansdell declared that all bike trips are for transportation, regardless of trip purpose, and emphasized the need to reconceptualize how we think about cycling in this way if we are to further the cause for normalizing cycling. Mr. Lansdell went on to talk about an audit for the SMP and the five goals thereof. Lastly, he reminded the group of the aggressive driver report that can be filed on CDOT's website. Mr. Lansdell ended his share by thanking everyone for their service and said he is pleased to see all the new faces.

Agenda Item #4 Review of the minutes

Angie Stoyanovitch noted that her last name was misspelled. With that correction, Eoin Sheil motioned to approve the June minutes, Liza Pratt seconded, and all members voted to approve.

Agenda Item #5 Monthly reports

Chair's report: Adam Raskoskie has resigned due to a conflict with serving on another board. There will be a bike ride on September 21 in place of the monthly subcommittee meetings; meet at CMGC at 5:30PM. The invite is extended to the public, all are welcome as this is an open meeting.

Staff report: Kate Cavazza and Will Washam gave a presentation on the pop-up bike park that was held at Cordelia Park June 14 to 20 in coordination with Mecklenburg County Park & Rec and Bike CLT. Will Washam talked about what a bike park is, described and defined. Essentially a playground for bikes. There are none in the Charlotte area. They are for skill building and should be safe to ride for children and novices. Bike parks are a great way to provide another gateway for cycling. Kids can ride unsupervised and they get people excited about riding. Mr. Washam showed photos and schematics of bike parks in other places. Ms. Cavazza said they originally planned to do a pop-up event as a part of OS704 but the pandemic caused a need to pivot. One of the main goals was to showcase to Park & Rec staff what can be done. No permanent impact was made on the park. They brought out experienced riders to show kids how to do it. They showed a video of the route with riders in action. Kate Cavazza talked about not having to drive because it was right there in an urban park, central location, with surrounding neighborhoods. There were two routes: beginner and intermediate. Public Health has a safety focus and overlaps with the social determinants of health and transportation options being a major barrier. There was a nod to Dick Winters for helping make this a requirement during his tenure with County Health. They took some COVID-19 precautions: staggered launches, etc. They talked about this being an easy build, not a lot of materials or manpower needed. All materials were about \$2k. Biking Dads, TFK, and Tarheel Trailblazers were partners in the project. Survey results were shared; more people want to ride. Whole families came out. 97% said they want a bike park in their neighborhood. Will Washam talked about parking concerns. There is a relatively small parking lot at Cordelia Park, but there were never any parking problems despite the pool opening for the season at the same time. This speaks to how many people rode their bikes to the pop-up. Kate Cavazza said stay tuned for OS704 scheduled for November. Will Washam said he wanted to show the demand for and benefits of providing a bike park to urban neighborhoods where access to this type of amenity is limited. There was talk about opportunities to implement by adding bike parks along our greenways. Ms. Tobin thanked them both and asked to put questions or comments in the chat.

Standing subcommittee reports

Engineering & Evaluation: Liza Pratt talked about the letter to Council on the progress of the Uptown CycleLink and how to encourage newer Council members to support this project. She pulled up and shared the letter. They want to highlight these milestones and progress to date. A future letter would encourage Council to continue funding the uptown CycleLink to completion. Caitlin Tobin encouraged discussion and would like to get a motion to vote on tonight. Angie

Stoyanovitch likes that this is an infrastructure progress update and supports it. Liza Pratt made a motion to send this letter, Ms. Evans seconded, and all members voted to approve.

Education & Encouragement: Veda Evans gave the update. The County is still working on the final edits to Meck Playbook so it's not ready for County Commission to vote on yet. She talked about why the plan is important: greenway connections to bike facilities, potential bike parks, etc. They reviewed the pop-up bike park presentation as a part of their meeting so the subcommittee will have more input on that as well.

Agenda Item #6 New business

BAC goals and objectives: Caitlin Tobin talked about wanting feedback on the goals and objectives, what are our directives? She asked the group what directions do we want to go in? Ms. Tobin also went over the bylaws and reminded members of the attendance requirements. Individuals cannot represent the full BAC; don't talk to Council members representing the BAC, only as an individual. This is why we submit formal letters of support. She wants to highlight this because there have been questions in the past about other activities. Veda Evans talked about the relationship between staff and BAC being solid. But they are trying to work out and understand the relationship with CDOT and City leadership. They would like to know how to disagree when there is a difference of opinion and is looking for feedback. How can we improve interactions with Council and staff during COVID? Ms. Evans would like to see other members join subcommittees. Are there other areas members would like to see improved? How can the BAC better support cycling in Charlotte? Angie Stoyanovitch thanked them for taking the time to ask these questions. The group talked about the challenges of meeting virtually for so long. Ms. Stoyanovitch said if we do have an opportunity to meet in person safely that would be nice. Mr. Trivette said good job onboarding but wants the chairs to feel they have permission to keep members in line if they think anyone is stepping out of line. Mr. Sheil talked about how we want to have different perspectives and points of view, but how do we implement the vision of what we want? It was agreed this is good to revisit and course correct. What are next steps? Make sure it's clear why we are doing what we are doing. Veda Evans suggested to have a half day retreat, if not a full day, would be good. Eoin Sheil talked about a document from the league of American bicyclists that gives useful info as a how-to of best practices. Angie Stoyanovitch emphasized that a strong BAC should not be thought of as a substitute for a strong local advocacy organization. Where and how can we direct that type of activity? It was noted that the BAC is an advisory committee not an advocacy organization. They would like to think creatively about how we can make the changes we want to see. Caitlin Tobin talked about how it is a one-way/no-feedback relationship with Council right now, but they have been invited to the upcoming bike ride. They are hoping to be able to have a holiday social again this year. Angie Stoyanovitch wanted to know why Council doesn't reach out to the BAC for advice since they appointed them. Why is it so one-sided?

Future goals: The group discussed funding and moving the needle on bike infrastructure projects. They want to push for earmarking funds for major bike projects like the uptown CycleLink. That is just one example but there could be many more, in addition to continued funding for the bike program. Veda Evans said let's identify what's out there for education and

encouragement. She sees a lot of good stuff from the City and County. What is the way to tap into the existing programming or expand upon the good things that are already being done? They would like to push the importance and safety of cycling by getting more people on bikes because that is how you come to have a vested interest. They want to push to have additional staff resources to implement this programming. Ms. Evans asked if this should be at the City level, County level? She stated that if there is other input to please let her know. Ms. Evans said she was so excited about the pop-up bike park and asked how can we take that pilot and use it as a model for other types of projects?

Terry Lansdell gave some advice on the budget process, that the BAC should submit those requests for budget increases to the City directly.

Agenda Item #8 Member topics and updates

Eoin Sheil said he is noticing a lot of progress on the Parkwood bike lane, kids and families riding in them. He is happy to see this and said to keep up the good work.

Agenda Item #9 Confirm next meeting and adjourn

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the BAC is on September 28, and there will be a group bike ride September 21. The meeting was adjourned at 7:56PM.