



**CHARLOTTE  
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
November 23, 2021  
6:00 PM**

BAC Members Present: Alane Paraison Veda Evans Angela Stoyanovitch  
James Lee Lekisha Hamilton Caitlin Tobin  
Michael Trivette Eoin Sheil

Members Absent: Liza Pratt

Staff Present: Will Washam Keith Sorensen Keith Bryant

Agenda Item #1 call to order

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Caitlin Tobin, at 6:10PM.

Agenda Item #2 Introduction of members and guests

Also present was Martin Zimmerman, citizen at large.

Agenda Item #3 Call to the public

Mr. Zimmerman shared that thanks to the tenacity and forward thinking of the CharMeck leaders, the stakeholders were able to get a parking maximum in the Center City Innovation Plan. He believes this shows we have more power leaders in our court.

Agenda Item #4 Review of the minutes

Ms. Stoyanovitch made a motion to approve the October minutes as written, a second came from James Lee and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 Monthly reports

*Chair's report:* Ms. Tobin announced there were two BAC appointments made by Council last night.

*Staff report:* Will Washam shared that the BAC has been talking a lot about the uptown CycleLink. The RFQ is closed and got lots of submissions from good consultants so hopefully the rest of the CycleLink can be programmed for funding soon. An on-call consultant contract is also in the works so that more projects can be ready when funding is approved. Angie Stoyanovitch asked if it was a national bid? Mr. Washam confirmed it was. She was just wondering because we should be leveraging good expertise from other cities. Will Washam

shared the TPE committee met yesterday and had some interesting topics relating to bicycling; SMP elements, transportation review guidelines. When large developments come in, they are required to have a TIS. There is a proposal to reduce the trip generation threshold to trigger a TIS. And to incorporate new multimodal assessments, including the ability for people to walk, bike, or take transit to a new development. There will be the addition of TDM guidelines beyond the current TOD requirements. This is very exciting progress. Veda Evans asked about the success of Biketoberfest, feedback from riders? Mr. Washam replied we could ask Sustain CLT for a report. James Lee asked about TDM. Will Washam explained the concept, to develop strategies to curb auto demand where big investments have been made in transit. Certain amenities like bike parking, showers, lockers, transit passes, etc. make it easier for people to go by bike and transit and make it less appealing to drive. It is not about taking away from drivers but rather about making it easier to bike. Ms. Tobin said yes, we can write letters of support. There will come a time when Council will need to support this with funding, not just verbal support. So, this may be good for the education subcommittee to tackle.

*City Council:* Two appointees were sent to Council for appointment yesterday.

There were no other reports.

#### Agenda Item #6 Standing subcommittee reports

*Engineering:* Ms. Tobin stated they met this month to boil down the two letters of recommendation, which will be discussed under new business.

*Education & Encouragement:* Veda Evans stated they are trying to figure out what are the next steps for the subcommittee. CDOT leadership recommended considering doing one large event instead of multiple smaller events to make staffing easier. Ideas generated were to host a bike conference, or Biketoberfest/OS704 type of event, so that is what the committee is working on. Something that will not tax our resources but still provide a good venue to achieve goals. Angie Stoyanovitch said the bike expo is the best idea, also a light up the night ride. She suggested the group involve local small businesses and bike shops, and don't lean too heavily on the nonprofits. As much education and workshops as possible, all-day or a couple days? This would be a great opportunity to bring that culture and enthusiasm to CLT.

#### Agenda Item #7 New business

##### *Uptown CycleLink letter of support*

Ms. Tobin stated the goal is to keep this very important project in front of Council. We are looking for a vote of approval or feedback. We want to send in January, so the timing is good, hitting the desks just as the budget is ramping up. The BAC wants to keep funding the remainder of the uptown CycleLink. Ms. Stoyanovitch said she will defer to Ms. Tobin for timing of sending the letter. Mr. Lee asked do we know what kind of cross-uptown ridership we have right now? He wants to see more facilities outside of uptown. Do we have the numbers to support there is real demand for this project? Mr. Washam talked about the counts done during phase 1 of the cycle track. Now we are installing permanent counters on phase 2 of the project, both west side and east side of uptown. Also, this will connect to over 40 miles of existing facilities, so will

make them more useful. Ms. Stoyanovitch thanked Mr. Lee for voicing his concern because it has been brought up before, about where we are investing bike infrastructure and, are we being fair about it. It's so much more complex than just getting it in your neighborhood. This is just the beginning of starting a bike-friendly city. We need to build out from the core—every city has a downtown, an urban core—then we build out connections from there. Ms. Tobin asked if there were other thoughts? Mr. Lee made a motion to send the letter to Council by January, Angie Stoyanovitch seconded, and the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### *Bike lane sweeping letter of support*

Mike Trivette explained why this is an important issue. The City has invested a lot of money to build these bike lanes, but they only get swept twice a year. We need a more regular sweeping schedule. The BAC is not asking for a set amount of money, just making the case this is important and needs to be done, to protect these city investments. Ms. Tobin talked about the great collaboration between CDOT and SWS. But there is a gap in resources. Sending in January, along with the other letter, would be good because of funding and budget discussions. Ms. Stoyanovitch talked about data on the 311 app; images and requests. Do we want to add that to the letter? Also, she would love to see the nastier images at the top. Maybe even eliminate the first two. Or move them to the bottom. And add Milton's 311 idea? Mr. Washam reminded that his idea never really came to fruition and it's more important to highlight we need the resources to sweep the bike lanes. Ms. Stoyanovitch said just to refer that the data is there. Ms. Tobin thinks the letter should be more about regular maintenance rather than reactive. It can become an equity issue about who has access to the 311 app. Mr. Trivette motioned to approve. James Lee paused the motion to talk about using the homeless to sweep the bike lanes to give them employment and a feeling of usefulness, and many of them ride bikes so will directly benefit themselves. So, it seems like a win-win. He likes how this helps give a possible solution to how this request can be implemented. Ms. Tobin countered that there are also equipment needs, more than just brooms and leaf blowers. Mr. Lee said he will need a shovel in some places because the dirt has been there for so long. Ms. Tobin thinks this boxes Council into that idea and feels it is better to keep working with City staff on how best to implement. Mr. Washam suggested to save these good, out-of-the-box ideas for when Council or the City Manager says how are we going to pay for this? Mr. Lee wants them to know that we have ideas, solutions, to help them get a buy-in. Ms. Stoyanovitch talked about the cadence of getting these letters out and the follow up that happens afterwards. They need to accept the politics of it, take baby steps. She fears it might complicate matters too much. She modified the letter to include a statement about workforce development. Mr. Trivette declared he stands by his motion to approve the letter as modified, with a second from Angie Stoyanovitch and all voted in favor.

#### *2021 BAC annual report*

Ms. Tobin went over the draft report. Mr. Washam said the Clerk has a new template, so the headings are set, but it makes it easier for Council to read. He explained the different sections and went over the letters that were sent to Council this past year. Ms. Stoyanovitch wants more support around socioeconomic justice. She trusts that Ms. Evans will help organize the education ideas and bring them to fruition. Ms. Stoyanovitch thinks it's important to highlight the in-person

activities too. Veda Evans said she wanted to piggyback off feedback from the public and highlight the items that got good support, like the pop-up bike park and Biketoberfest, to get more support for these types of activities than what has been historically documented. Ms. Stoyanovitch thinks it would be good to highlight more of the Vision Zero aspirations and data on bike crashes, hit and runs. How can we bring more awareness to that? What else can we do around safety? Because if you don't even have your life, why are we even here? Mr. Lee asked is there anything highlighted in the letter that we are continuing to work on? Veda Evans suggested they highlight the education videos that came out during the pandemic. Ms. Tobin said to continue providing feedback and think more on this before the annual retreat.

#### Agenda Item #8 Member topics of discussion

James Lee talked about the idea of having a cycling mascot, to better represent the movement. Like Smokey The Bear. He said we need an accessible means to educate the public and drivers because they are not educated enough to know how to share the road. Ms. Stoyanovitch talked about the need for a marketing strategy. Mr. Lee said, "We are invisible. How do we make ourselves seen? How do we get drivers to think about cyclists? It feels like we are not supposed to be out there. Education and awareness need to be a priority."

#### Agenda Item #9 Confirmation of next meeting and adjourn

There will be no December meeting. The subcommittee chairs will let Mr. Sorensen know if there is going to be meetings. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45PM.