

Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee Minutes

Wednesday, June 24, 2020, 4 PM – 6 PM

[Online Meeting via Microsoft Teams]

Members Present: Mackenzie Turner Borgen, John Barobs, Jennifer Bordon, Wes Durham, Matthew Dyrdaahl, Steve Elmer, Paul Frenz, Robin Garwood, Janice Gepner, Heather Gillich, Matthew Hendricks, Joshua Houdek, Nick Mason, Dan Miller, Tyler Pederson, Greg Sautter, Elissa Schufman, Aaron Shaffer, Georgianna Yantos

Members Absent: Richard Anderson, Dan Boody (excused), Tony Drollinger (excused), Liz Johnston, Jordan Kocak, Chris Linde, Jaime Makepeace, Emily Smoak, Anthony Taylor

Others Present: Shawn Bergstrom, Alex Burns, Carl Casey, Karen Entzion, Millicent Flowers, Grant Johnson, Chris Kartheiser, Jesse Thornsen

Action

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee strongly supports keeping the **Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board parkways and the Minneapolis Stay Healthy Streets** open to people walking, biking and rolling, and closed to vehicular traffic as long as possible, including looking for ways to make these changes permanent.

Summaries of Discussions

The meeting was called to order at 4:07 pm and was chaired by Nick Mason. The February Minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

1. BAC Membership Update

- The BAC Police Department member, Dan Boody, is taking a leave from our meetings, in case his presence might inhibit our discussions of Enforcement.
- Matthew D said that our existing membership will remain in place until City Council action, probably in the fall.
- Ordinarily, new members would be starting next month.
- Matthew D said he will talk to the Park Board about coordinating timing.

2. Public Works Update presented by Matthew Dyrdaahl and Chris Kartheiser

- Chris K provided a list of Public Works projects starting in July and August.
- July projects include 5 reconstructions: Grand Ave S, Luella A Anderson Neighborhood, Bryant Ave S, Franklin Ave, and Hennepin Ave S.
- August projects include: Lyndale Ave N Pedestrian Safety Improvements, Osseo Rd (led by Hennepin Co), University/4th St Protected Bikeway (led by Hennepin Co), and 1st Ave S/Blaisdell Ave S Bikeway
- Smaller projects which may have already begun: 29th & Bloomington Ave bumpouts on the Midtown Greenway, projects on 28th & 43rd, and improvements at Oak Grove & 15th.
- Matthew D provided an update on the Transportation Action Plan (TAP).
- There's no timeline but he predicted approval within a month or two.
- Nick will form a working group to put together a TAP resolution for our July meeting.

- Volunteers for the working group include: Nick M, Janice G, Matthew H, Elissa S, Aaron S, Jenny B, and John B.
- The resolution will be discussed at the 5E meeting, so come to the Subcommittee meeting if you want to have input.
- Nick asked folks to let him know if our BAC meeting time no longer works for you.

3. **Transportation Enforcement** Discussion led Elissa Schufman

- Purpose of discussion is to see if we can come to a consensus on this issue.
- With the TAP in the process of being approved, what do we see as the role of Enforcement in transportation?
- Enforcement is not the same as Police.
- Should enforcement be omitted from the TAP? Should Police be omitted? What is the role of punishment in transportation?
- Can infrastructure prevent bad behavior? Does punishment reduce bad behavior?
- Matthew H said he could envision better traffic safety and effective enforcement without police involvement.
- Aaron S said that cameras could work if used carefully. Infrastructure improvements take time; we need enforcement for the short term. Fees or classes could take the place of fines.
- Mackenzie TB said that MnDOT replaced enforcement with engagement, for example with Safe Routes to Schools. She wasn't sure how to remove racism from enforcement.
- Jenny B pointed out that poorer neighborhoods often have poorer infrastructure.
- Matthew D said that Enforcement is the only negative "E," the others are all positive.
- Nick M said that in many smaller communities in MN, enforcement is a positive, teaching kids safety and how to ride bikes or distributing helmets. He said the "Stop for Me" campaign in St Paul and elsewhere has been successful. He wondered how we get traffic justice for people seriously injured or killed on our streets? The status quo and police have failed at this.
- Paul F said he understands that police have failed at Bike and Ped enforcement, but he hasn't seen a good alternative.
- Robin G said there is a lot of discussion about this between the City Council, the Police Chief and the Mayor.
- He said the Council tried all the police reforms but concluded they haven't worked.
- They are embarking on a year-long process to come up with an alternative to police.
- They are looking at amending the City Charter to remove the need to have a Police Dept.
- Anything we do should take into account the flux at the Council level.
- He said he agrees that we need to protect people not in cars from people using cars dangerously.
- Alex B wanted to know what was the evidence that red light cameras saved lives.
- Elissa S pointed out that fines don't punish people uniformly. They are more of a punishment for poor people than wealthy people.
- Wes D said that they had tried to address disparities in Minneapolis 2040.
- He said that many disparities are hard to discuss as well as hard to address.
- Elissa said she had plenty of notes and will confer with Nick about next steps.

4. **Open Discussion** led by Nick Mason – **ACTION**

- Matthew H said he supported having the BAC make a statement about defunding the police.
- Robin G said it is better to focus on a vision rather than stopping bad stuff.
- Joshua H supports Matthew's idea for a motion if it's framed in a positive way.
- A resolution will be formulated at the next 5E Subcommittee meeting.

- Tyler P said any resolution needs to relate to bicycling and transportation.
- Aaron S said the funding for police could be reallocated to cameras or infrastructure.
- Elissa said that research shows that police don't prevent violence; they show up after it's occurred. Violence and crime are never the best or first choice.
- Dan M said that the detour on Minnehaha Pkwy between 55 and 34th was a great success. He felt safe using it and said it slowed traffic.
- Nick M found that detour scary and not safe.
- Joshua H suggested a resolution on prolonging the street closures for cars.
- Wes D added we also suggest keeping them longer term.
- Joshua's motion with revisions was passed unanimously with one abstention from Tyler P.
- Karen E brought up a safety issue with cars driving on bike paths on W River Pkwy. Matt D said it was a staff issue and he would talk to her about it.

5. Announcement

- Nick said he would be stepping down as BAC Chair when it's time for reappointments and expressed his willingness to help with the transition.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Janice Gepner