

CITY OF AUSTIN
BICYCLE ADVISORY COUNCIL (BAC)
MEETING SUMMARY

Austin City Hall, Room 1029
301 W. 2nd
April 15, 2014
6:00 p.m.

PARTICIPANTS:

Mike Kase – BAC Chair
Tommy Eden – BAC
Sophia Benner – BAC
David Orr – BAC

Tom Thayer – BAC
Nick Warrenchuk – BAC
Eileen Nehme – BAC
Chris Leblanc – Alt BAC

Noni Jarnagin – Alt BAC
Tom Wald - Alt BAC
Bill Blome – Alt BAC
Alison Kaplan – Alt BAC

GUESTS:

Annie Patton – University of Texas, Austin
Nate Jackson – University of Texas, Austin
Luke Urie – HNTB
Lisa Kay Pfannenstiel – St. David's

Stanton Truxillo – UTC
Doug Ballew
Michael Sledge – SRCC/PAC
Colleen Theriot – Norwood Park

Michael Cospes
Rich Hollenbeck
Sounthaly Outhavong – SRCC
Eric Anderson – Norwood Park

STAFF PRESENT:

Aleksiina Chapman
Robert Anderson

Nathan Wilkes

Nadia Barrera

1. Introductions – Mr. Kase begins the meeting with introductions. Mr. Jarnagin and Mr. Blome will serve as voting members.
2. Review and Approval of March Minutes – Mr. Kase moves to approve the minutes with amendments and Ms. Benner seconds. The minutes are approved.
3. Announcements –

Briefing: St David's Episcopal Church Bicycle Storage Program – Lisa Kay Pfannenstiel

Ms. Pfannenstiel introduces the St David's commuter bike parking program. The program is exclusively for bicycle commuters. It is \$40 for an outside locker and \$20 for indoor lockers. Membership is month-to-month, with no additional fees. There is one on-site shower for men and one shower for women. They have clothing lockers offered at no cost and have towels for rent for \$1. See flyer for more details.

4. Items from BAC –

Briefing and Possible Action: Discussion About Possible Formalization of the Technical Subcommittee – Mike Kase

Mr. Kase would like to find out if the BAC is being properly served by the technical subcommittee or if it could be better served if it were formalized. Mr. Wilkes thinks that there is a positive flexibility behind being able to self-assign to different topics. Mr. Eden thinks that there may be sufficient issues that

people are interested in to be discussed in further detail that having a standing subcommittee may be warranted. Mr. Kase asks if Mr. Eden thinks that the BAC would be better served by a standing committee and Mr. Eden thinks that this is the case. Mr. Wald asks if we could not just call a technical subcommittee meeting whenever there is interest but suggests that there is a set specific date so that members can block off a specific day consistently. Ms. Kaplan thinks that it's a good idea to move towards a specific date and if there is no item, then the meeting will not be carried out. She also thinks that there could be a technical subcommittee coordinator who takes the responsibility of scheduling meetings and delivering items back to the BAC. Mr. Wald suggests the bylaws be amended to accurately reflect how the technical subcommittee meetings will be carried out. Ms. Kaplan reads the bylaws relating to the technical subcommittee (Article 6).

5. Items from Staff –

Briefing and Possible Action: Complete Streets Policy – Gordon Derr

Mr. Derr, assistant director of the transportation department, introduces the complete streets policy.

Mr. Wald asks if we have a complete streets plan for streets under TxDOT jurisdiction. Mr. Derr replies that TxDOT may turn these streets over to the city and that the wording also encourages other jurisdictions to adopt the policy and encourages city staff to work seamlessly with other jurisdictions. Mr. Jarnagin asks where funding would come from if we take on TxDOT streets. Mr. Derr replies that if our community makes it a priority we can get funding. Ms. Kaplan asks how soon we will know if we can take over TxDOT roads and wants to know the schedule of input. Mr. Derr says that takeover will have to go through council. The possible adoption of TxDOT jurisdiction roads is fairly serious; otherwise, there is no way to improve streets like N Lamar and Burnet the way that the City would like. Mr. Eden takes issue with the great streets program being a subset of complete streets. 2nd street is a great street but is not a complete street. Great streets do not always provide a separate space for cyclists. Mr. Wilkes says that there has been precedent for including bicycle facilities in the future and points to 3rd street as an example of an upcoming street that has bike facilities.

Briefing and Possible Action: Urban Trails Master Plan – Nadia Barrera

Ms. Barrera presents the Austin Urban Trails Master Plan.

Mr. Jarnagin asks if we will be looking to examples that did not work in other places, like Dallas, to make sure we don't make the same mistakes in Austin. Ms. Barrera says that we should be. Mr. Kase asks if 24-hour access visualized for urban trails. Ms. Barrera has heard that it is likely that midnight will be the curfew for the trail. Ms. Kaplan asks what a ½ mile radius will mean. Ms. Barrera states that every destination in Austin should be within a ½ mile to an urban trail. Mr. Blome asks about how we are defining constructability. Ms. Benner says that it speaks to issues of flooding, flatness, tree removal, etc. A citizen asks why the urban trails plan does not include any unpaved trails. He thinks that paved trails can deny the feeling of escaping the urban environment. Ms. Barrera explains that maintenance is more difficult because of aggregate washing into the watershed. Mr. Wilkes points to the Barton Creek greenbelt that will never be paved to preserve the value of being able to escape the city. Mr. Eden mentions the trail curfew and that we may find that less security presence may be more useful since it can be cost prohibitive. Ms. Barrera cannot comment about security issues. Mr. Leblanc asks if pervious pavement like the pavement used in Pease Park is being considered. Mr. Wilkes emphasizes that this

pavement is still a bit bumpy and that all ages and abilities might not be comfortable on a surface like this; kids on scooters might not be able to navigate the bumpy surface. Ms. Nehme asks about the connection between the Urban Trails Plan and the Bicycle Master Plan. The trail density that is proposed seems very dense. Having a unified network instead of two separate plans might be more understandable to the public instead of two separate independent plans. Ms. Barrera emphasizes that it is all the same network, just on road and off road.

Briefing and Possible Action: Bicycle Plan Update – Nathan Wilkes

Mr. Wilkes presents the bicycle master plan update.

In addition to what was presented, Mr. Wilkes is trying to quantify the health benefit and also the number of hours sitting in a car that can be reduced by the implementation of the plan. Mr. Blome asks why we need to build it so fast. Mr. Wilkes thinks that we have a network that we can implement in the short term that has huge benefits for Austin and that it's a question of whether or not we want to realize these benefits. Mr. Wald says that a benefit of building it quickly is that we will get a whole network instead of segmented pieces. Mr. Wald asks about the design speed question since Austin is hilly and it is very easy for a beginner cyclist to go very fast downhill. Mr. Wilkes explains that the complete plan will have caveats about topography and natural speeds that come out of designs. Mr. Wald suggests that we can try to match existing speeds. Mr. Eden has a list of railroad crossings that need improvements. Mr. Wilkes suggests that a policy suggestion would be the best way to work on the railroad crossings. Mr. Wilkes says that we are trying to make the plan more comprehensible and easier to digest compared to its current format which is very exhaustive. Ms. Barrera says that we are taking a comment log from all councils that are being visited and are being included into the plans. A technical subcommittee meeting will be held on Thursday, May 8th, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. to review the bike plan and urban trails master plan.

6. Announcements/Adjourn –

Mr. Jarnagin forwards thanks from Andrew McCullough about the bluebonnet parking in the bike lane issue and that APD was a huge help in reducing the number of cars parking there.

Mr. Eric Anderson for a future BAC item: A short bikeway segment through the middle of the Norwood Tract Dog Park and will be presented to the BAC in the upcoming months. Begins at I-35 southbound bridge deck, through the fence and will connect to Edgcliffe Terrace and the Travis Heights signalized intersection.

Mr. Robert Anderson has been working on recommendations for the CodeNEXT advisory group to create more walkable environments. He would like to make the recommendations joint BAC/PAC recommendations and is holding a meeting April 23rd, at 6:00 p.m. OTC 5th floor, room 500.

Ms. Chapman presents the option to the BAC to enroll in a boards and commissions online training course offered by the City of Austin, if there is interest.

Mr. Wilkes says that the previously presented shared use path recommendations on frontage roads are good with the FHWA and that they are being added to the toolbox. Also, the previous wide curb lane

recommendations from the last bike plan on TxDOT facilities will be replaced with better recommendations in the upcoming plan.

Ms. Barrerra says that the program consultant position has been posted online and that applicants are encouraged to apply.

Mr. Orr moves to adjourn. Mr. Thayer seconds. Motion passes.