



Minutes

City of Columbia Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)

Monday, October 17, 2016 5:00 PM

Present:

Members: Gene Bell, Fritz Hamer, Will Haltiwanger, Debbie Bloom, Keith Gosselin, Julie Hartwell, Brian Curran, John Green, Bethany Bell, Jane Downey ; City staff: John Fellows, Leigh DeForth and Dana Higgins.

Keith Gosselin brought the meeting to order. The September 2016 minutes were accepted and approved.

New business:

A presentation by Councilperson Tameika Isaac Devine at the December 2016 BPAC meeting will feature highlights from her visit to Copenhagen where she studied its bike and pedestrian friendly community.

Mary Roe, Director of Programs and Development for Palmetto Conservation Foundation, shared information about the Mayor's Bike & Walk Summit to be held in Columbia May 4th – 5th. The summit will highlight statewide initiatives to develop bike and pedestrian friendly communities and provide social opportunities to network. BPAC will be asked to support and volunteer during the Summit. Mary will provide more detailed information as it becomes available.

New BPAC members will be appointed by City Council on October 18th. There was some discussion about the best way to introduce new members to the committee without disrupting the current work flow. Keith suggested a separate meeting to bring new members up to date with the committee goals.

Other business:

The committee was brought up to date on the BPAC strategic plan and each member's actionable goals.

Jane Downey updated the Open Streets event. It will be held from 1:00PM – 5:00PM April 2nd on Devine Street between Sims and Woodrow. The event will be developed in collaboration with the Devine Street Merchants Association. Every member of BPAC will be expected to be available to volunteer and absorb event responsibilities. There will be more information forthcoming.

There was some discussion about providing opportunities for local businesses to support a bike and walk friendly community. Columbia needs an increase in local business support to improve the city's standing as a Bike Friendly Community. Changes in the Bike Friendly Business application present challenges to increasing business participation. A subcommittee was formed to discuss possible steps that can be taken.

In- flight project updates included information about the Knight Cities Challenge (knightcities.org). The challenge seeks new ideas from innovators for making the 26 Knight cities more vibrant places to live and work. Grants will be available at the city, block, and neighborhood level. The challenge is open from Oct 10th until Nov 3.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Bloom