

MINUTES

June 21, 2011 Meeting

Members Present: Toby Berla, Scott Carter, Dan Clever, Alan Dippy, Jim Dunlop, Greg Garneau, Lou Goetz, Ken Kaye, Erik Landfried, Merry Rabb, Dwayne Taylor, Lars Trost

Members Absent: Steven Lee, Jonathon Leach

Staff Present: Dale McKeel

Liaison Present:

Guests Present: Jack Warman, Larry Brockman, Matt Brockman, Steve Cohn, Walt Shekrota, Aaron Weinbaum, John Kent, Melva Henry, Emma Robinson

A. Introductions

B. Approval of Minutes

- ◆ Minutes from May 19, 2011 meeting:
Greg moved and Alan seconded to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Adjustments to the Agenda

- ◆ New business items with guests present were moved to the beginning of the meeting.

D. Announcements

- ◆ Wendy Jacobs' term on the Planning Commission has ended; her last BPAC meeting was last month.
- ◆ Scott, Alan, Lars and Greg's terms on BPAC end June 30th.

E. Public Comment

- ◆ No public comments.

F. Committee Reports

1. Development Review Committee Report (Dan Clever)

First Thursday, 6:30 pm, Sunset Grill

- ◆ Meeting held on June 2, 2011
- ◆ Most of the meeting covered a 2009 law about discretionary decisions by review boards. The committee requested Steve Medlin attend a future meeting to discuss the impact to DRB.
- ◆ Working on a schematic of a bicycle parking standard.

2. Bike Plan Implementation Committee Report (Greg Garneau)

Second Thursday 6:30 pm, Sunset Grill

- ◆ Meeting held on June 9, 2011 at 6:30. Minutes emailed June 21, 2011, copied below.
- ◆ Attending were: Dan Clever, Carl Sundstrom and Greg Garneau (Convener)
- ◆ Meetings will be held at 6:30 PM on the second Thursday of each month at the Geer Street Garden until further notice.
- ◆ Dale McKeel submitted the following update on bike lane striping:
 - Chapel Hill St / Duke University Road between Swift and Kent (city project) – the center line has been striped and bike lanes will be marked soon. The City pavement marking crew is extremely busy this summer with all the resurfacing that is underway, but they will get to this as soon as they can.
 - Blackwell St between Morehead and Lakewood (city project) – this section is being restriped for on-street parking and bike lanes. The markings were laid out and it was partially striped yesterday.
 - South Roxboro St between Lawson and Summit (city project) – there was not enough pavement width to provide bike lanes on this section. However, the centerline was moved more to the center of the street in order provide a wide outside lane on the east side and a shoulder on the west side (the width of the shoulder varies from 2 to 4 feet).
 - Briggs between Lawson and Person (city project) – scheduled to be paved in September after which bike lanes will be added.
 - Revere Road in Parkwood (city project) – bike lanes have been restored to the section that was recently reconstructed.
- ◆ The meeting of the American Tobacco Trail Stakeholders was discussed. Greg Garneau will forward minutes of this meeting when they become available. Various subjects were discussed which were mainly related to greatly increased usage of the Trail by the public: signage, availability of drinking water and restroom facilities, courteous and safe use of the trail by bicyclists, special event management, and auto parking. It was estimated that the Trail received 180,000 visits last year on the Wake County section. Each County reported on Trail construction progress. The progress of Phase E (the bridge over I-40 and construction of the Trail from Highway 54 (at Rollingwood Drive) to Massey Chapel Road was of intense interest. The bidding deadline was extended to allow contractors to adequately plan the "lay-down" yard logistics (the R. Kelly Bryant Bridge had an open, level space adjacent to the construction site which the I-40 site lacks) and more importantly - the entire bridge span will have to be hoisted into place over the course of only one night. (I-40 cannot be closed and traffic detoured for more than one night.)
- ◆ West Ellerbee Creek Trail and Greenway Connection Completion Planning Options: After a thorough discussion the Bicycle Plan Implementation Committee declined an endorsement of either Option A or Option B until further discussion takes place. The following is an slightly edited version of Carl Sundstrom's summary of the Committee's discussion:

The Option A pros were:

 - It's in the plan and sets a bad precedent if we don't follow through,
 - It avoids the Costco driveway conflicts on North Pointe Drive,
 - It is possibly more scenic.

And the pros for Option B were:

 - Cost,

- Completion time,
- Fewer security/safety perception concerns,
- Fewer right-of-way acquisition issues,
- Connections to Leon Street (good East-West bicycle network connection other than Stadium Drive.)

Two additional points:

- Bringing the trail up on the south side of North Pointe and crossing it at Broad,
- The issue of the trail crossing so close to the west driveways at North Pointe (an issue with both alternatives, but alleviated somewhat--or just moved to Broad--by having the trail come up the south side). Possibly putting in a signal or HAWK beacon at those driveways and crossing there may be a solution.

A photo illustration of the options and issues was published and circulated. Additional photos illustrating Option A will be added.

Appended here (below) are the materials provided by Stewart Engineering with a link to the official maps and other materials:

Subject: West Ellerbee Creek 2nd Public Meeting Materials and Survey

The City of Durham, and Stewart Engineering would like to thank you for your continued interest in the project and for your participation in the West Ellerbee Creek Greenway meeting last night. Below are links to download the list of attendees, materials and comments from the meeting, as well as a link to the online survey.

Meeting Materials

Please use the following link to access the materials viewed and distributed at the meeting.

- Citizen Input - Contains citizen pro and con comments related to each option
- WEC may 25th Citizens Workshop - PDF copy of the power point presentation
- WEC Handouts - PDF copies of the handouts given out during the meeting
- WEC Sign in - Contains name, address, and email information for attendees
- <https://stewart-eng.sharefile.com/d/s292e3e0b1ce42d5b>
- Survey

An online survey has been created to allow citizens to provide feedback on the options presented. The online survey will be available through June 30th. After you have had time to review the above information, please take some time to provide your comments and recommendations for moving forward.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WECSurvey>

3. Pedestrian Plan Implementation Committee Report (Greg Garneau)

First Tuesday of month, 6:30 pm, location TBD

- ◆ Meeting held on June 7, 2011. Minutes emailed June 21, 2011, copied below.
- ◆ Attending were: Erik Landfried, Toby Berla, Honor Gifford, and Greg Garneau (Convener)
- ◆ The July, 2011 meeting is cancelled. Meetings will resume in August on the first Tuesday of the month and will be convened in the future by Erik Landfried at 6:30 PM at a location to be announced.

- ◆ The main item discussed was the West Ellerbee Creek Trail Extension and Greenway Connection Planning Options. Toby Berla summarized the Committee's endorsement (with reservations) as follows:
- ◆ Option B (widen the sidewalks along North Pointe and Broad for the Greenway) is acceptable to the Pedestrian Committee. Option A might be preferable in some ways, but the added cost and complexity make it less likely to be completed. The Pedestrian Committee recommends that BPAC support this option.
 - There is currently no way for pedestrians to safely cross Broad Street in the vicinity of North Pointe and W. Murray. This needs to be addressed, especially if Option B is built.
 - There is a current pedestrian safety issue where the existing sidewalk along the west side of Broad crosses the intersection driveway leading to the [rear of Costco] across from W. Murray. Motorists may cross directly into the [rear of Costco], putting pedestrians at risk. This will need to be addressed under Option B.
 - The Pedestrian Committee recommends that BPAC [and Stewart Engineering] come up with a better way of treating wide sidewalks meant to carry both bikes and pedestrians when they are located next to streets. Examples are Stadium and Broad under Option B.
 - Greg will be posting the maps and pictures of Option B online later this week. He hopes to do Option A sometime after that.
- ◆ Erik will be attending the Downtown Open Spaces Charrette (Wednesday -- June 8 at 5:30 -- Golden Belt -- Neighborhood Improvement Services -- 3rd Floor -- Large Conference Room). It was recommended that the City plant as many trees as feasible in these spaces (and others) downtown.
- ◆ Appended below is Toby Berla's original discussion of the issues and options regarding the West Ellerbee Creek Trail:
- ◆ The gist of what was presented was that the creek in that section has moved, and the Neuse requirements make it unfeasible to put a paved trail in the existing greenway easement. Two options were presented:
 - A. Keep the trail near the creek, but follow a parallel sewer easement that exists nearby in order to stay out of the critical flood zone. This would require us to obtain more easements in a few places. Due to adamantly opposed landowners (to even the existing greenway easement), the land would probably have to be taken through a condemnation process.
 - B. Put a natural surface hiking trail in the existing easement near the creek. Expand the sidewalk along North Pointe Dr and Broad St for use by bicyclists and non-hiking pedestrians. At the intersection with North Pointe Dr, the route would follow it to Broad, and from Broad up to Stadium.
- ◆ Note that the natural surface hiking trail could be built in the existing right-of-way under option A as well. Further note that the portion of the trail from Westover Park at Guess Rd up to North Pointe Dr is buildable as a paved multi-use trail in the existing right-of-way.
- ◆ A choice has to be made soon because the design funds have to be spent, and there's not enough funding to design both the upgraded sidewalk/streetscape route and the paved route near the creek.
- ◆ We think it would be good for the Trails Committee of DOST to review the options and make a recommendation to DOST, and for the Bike Plan Committee of BPAC to do the same for BPAC. They could either cover it as part of their committee report or ask for a slot on the agenda. Each could craft a resolution to present to their respective commissions.

4. Communications Committee Report (Merry Rabb)

Second Wednesday, 7 pm, Beyu Caffè

- ◆ Meeting held on June 7, 2011. Minutes emailed June 21, 2011, copied below.
- ◆ Attendees: Merry Rabb, Alan Dippy, Dale McKeel, Robin Michler and Stephanie Loyka
- 1. Tour de Fat - June 25:
 - Volunteer scheduling ongoing
 - Discussed logistics; Dale made a list of questions for the New Belgium people such as can we distribute literature, collect money for the bike/hike map etc. (answer was yes to both)
- 2. Eno Festival July 2-4:
 - Merry to send out call for volunteers this week (done)
- 3. Bull City Open Streets in East Durham June 18
 - Robin described the event. It's a more local neighborhood event than the one held in conjunction with Earth Day but anyone can attend.
 - Robin will post to the Bike&Ped listserv to publicize
 - Dale will be there with info as well as the Bike Co-op, Triangle Rails-to-Trails
- 4. Bike Month 2011 de-brief.
 - General discussion of what worked, what didn't. Overall evaluation was positive. We'd welcome input from the rest of BPAC and from other Bike Month event attendees.
 - Need to plan farther ahead for publicity to get on more calendars/in more publications. Re our materials, the calendar was great but a smaller postcard size item might also be good.
 - Would be great to know peoples' opinions and things like: how did people who attended find out about events; if there were events they wanted to attend but couldn't, why couldn't they? What kinds of events are most appealing to people (i.e. solicit ideas for new events, gauge interest in things we haven't done like Bike to the Bulls, Progressive dinner via Bike etc); what time of day is best for after work events (5 could be pretty early for a lot of people.) It would be pretty easy to do a SurveyMonkey poll but who would we send it to other than the Bike&Ped listserv.

G. Updates from Liaisons

1. NCCU – Jonathan Leach

- ◆ No report.

2. Duke – Steven Lee

- ◆ No report.

3. DOST – Lars Trost

- ◆ Looking at regional rail transportation plan, and impact on trails, especially in the NC 54/I-40 area.
- ◆ DOST revising master plan, hoping for an August submittal.
- ◆ Vacancies on DOST, looking for both City and County applicants.
- ◆ Eno River Festival coming up, looking for volunteers.

4. City Council – Mike Woolard

- ◆ No report.

H. Old Business

1. ATT Phase E Update (Dan Clever)

- ◆ In addition to bidding advertisement, reviewing design for gate openings.

2. Public Education on Sharrows (Dale McKeel / Alan Dippy)

- ◆ No new activity this month.

3. Google Maps Bike Data (Toby Berla / Dale McKeel)

- ◆ No new activity this month.

4. Club Boulevard Curb Extensions (Dale McKeel)

- ◆ No new activity this month.

5. Orientation for New Members (Dale McKeel)

- ◆ No new activity this month.

6. Annual Report for 2011 (Dale McKeel)

- ◆ No new activity this month.

7. Durham Comprehensive Plan (Dan Clever)

- ◆ Comments due by the end of the month. Dan will finalize comments and submit to the planning department.

I. New Business

1. Northeast Central Durham Livability Initiative (Melva Henry)

- ◆ Melva Henry from the City Staff shared information via a PowerPoint presentation (emailed to the BPAC Google Groups list) on the Northeast Central Durham Livability Initiative. The staff worked with local groups and residents. The team developed four schemes for the area, Workforce and Economic Development, Safe and Healthy Environments, Coordinated Public Transportation, and Multi-Functional Community Open Space. One of the projects is the streetscape project at Angier and Driver Streets. Other transportation-related initiatives are trail maintenance around the R. Kelly Bryant Bridge over NC 147, and various activities related to the Alston Avenue widening project. A first year anniversary meeting will be held on June 28th, at the Golden Belt complex.

2. West Ellerbee Creek Greenway Trail Phase II (Toby Berla)

- ◆ Steve Cohn and Larry Brockman introduced the trail alternatives developed by city staff. The first section is relatively set, including a culvert under I-85. The northern section has more alternatives, from Northpointe to Stadium Drive. Neuse River buffer rules affect what can be built immediately in the existing easement adjacent to the creek. (Details on the alternatives are in the minutes for the Bicycle Plan Implementation Committee above.) A new alternative routes the trail along a sewer easement east of the creek (Alt. A), which would require right-of-way acquisition. The property owners are not in favor of this routing,

so another route, along Northpointe Drive and Broad Street, has been developed (Alt. B). There is funding available for planning and design, but none for construction at this time. Another option is to provide a trail that was not paved. DOST voted in favor of designing Alternative A. Discussion continued on the various alternatives. After the discussion, **Greg moved and Ken seconded that BPAC send a resolution endorsing the City design Alternative A. The motion passed unanimously.**

J. Staff Report / Questions / Announcements

- ◆ Question about the RTP pedestrian plan. Dan will add the item to the Development Review committee agenda for July.
- ◆ Jim mentioned a note on Google Groups that archives will no longer be available after August 31st. Merry will add the item to the Communications committee agenda for July.
- ◆ Toby attended a meeting on the Compact Design district plan.

K. Adjournment

- ◆ **Jim moved and Toby seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously and meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.**

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