

MINUTES

September 20, 2011 Meeting

Members Present: Toby Berla, Scott Carter, Dan Clever, Jim Dunlop, Greg Garneau, Ken Kaye, Teiji Kimball, Erik Landfried, Jonathan Leach, Mathew Palmer, Merry Rabb, Dwayne Taylor, Lars Trost

Members Absent: Ninna Gagnon, Lou Goetz, Steven Lee

Staff Present: Dale McKeel, Helen Youngblood, Mark Ahrendsen

Liaison Present:

Guests Present: Jack Warman, Aaron Weinbaum, Jeffrey Katrencik, Rachel Raney (Trinity Park Neighborhood Association's Traffic Committee), Lisa Miller

A. Introductions

B. Approval of Minutes

- ◆ Teiji pointed out that the section in the minutes regarding the bylaws ended abruptly. The paragraph should read "...and have the committees review the revisions and report back to the commission next month."
- ◆ *Dan moved and Eric seconded to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion passed unanimously.*

C. Adjustments to the Agenda

- ◆ New Business items were moved to the beginning of the agenda.

D. Announcements

- ◆ Scott introduced new members Mathew Palmer and Teiji Kimball. Teiji is the liaison from the Planning Commission. Ninna Gagnon, who was unable to attend this meeting, is also a new commission member.
- ◆ Ken Kaye will be leaving the commission after next month.
- ◆ Dale and Lisa Miller indicated that Clean Energy Durham, which helps promote bicycling and walking, will be holding a fund-raiser October 23rd from 2-6PM, at the Casbah on W. Main St.
- ◆ Ken was at the Biogen Idec campus for their health fair.
- ◆ Dan mentioned that NCDOT has a survey available for the 2040 long range plan. Dan had previously provided the link to the commission.

E. Public Comment

- ◆ No comments.

F. Committee Reports

1. Development Review Committee Report (Dan Clever)

First Thursday, 6:30 pm, Sunset Grill

- ◆ Meeting held September 1st. Attendees were: Dan Clever, Jim Dunlop, Lars Trost, Dale McKeel.
- ◆ The committee reviewed various development rezoning plans, including plans for the Witherspoon property near US 15-501, and the old drive-in site on Club Blvd.
- ◆ The committee reviewed the commission bylaws, and came to the consensus that the changes that Dale has added covered all needed adjustments.

2. Bike Plan Implementation Committee Report (Greg Garneau)

Second Thursday 6:30 pm, Geer Street Garden

- ◆ Meeting held September 8, 2011
- ◆ In attendance were: Dan Clever, Dale McKeel, Mathew Palmer, and Greg Garneau (Convener).
- ◆ Phase E - American Tobacco Trail (I-40 Bridge and its approaches)
The Committee supports the effort of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization to find additional funding for the bridge that will not impact pedestrian and bicycle projects already in the pipeline. We are especially grateful for the efforts of Councilman Mike Woodard and Mayor Bill Bell in this regard. Councilwoman Diane Cattoti, plus Mark Ahrendsen (and his staff) are also shepherding this important regional project. The members of TAC are:
 - Chair: Town of Carrboro - Alderman Lydia Lavelle lydia@lydialavelle.com
 - Vice-Chair: Durham County - Commissioner Ellen Reckhow EReckhow@aol.com
 - Members:
 - Town Of Chapel Hill - Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt mayor@townofchapelhill.org
 - Chatham County - Seat vacant
 - City of Durham - Mayor William V. "Bill" Bell bill.bell@durhamnc.gov
 - City of Durham - Council Member Mike Woodard Mike.woodard@durhamnc.gov
 - Town Of Hillsborough - Commissioner Eric Hallman ehallman@nc.rr.com
 - Orange County - Commissioner Alice Gordon gordon.alice@gmail.com
 - NC Board of Transportation - Charles D. "Chuck" Watts Jr. cwatts@ncdot.gov
- ◆ Striping Main Street (road diet and the Main St. Bridge replacement)
The City is moving ahead in its negotiations with Duke University and the Norfolk and Southern Railway. The water main under Main Street will be replaced first and then the Main Street Bridge. These projects will determine when road resurfacing and striping will take place.
- ◆ Updates on other striping projects
Juliette Drive was resurfaced and provided with 11 foot motor travel lanes and 6 foot bicycle lanes.
- ◆ Bicycle Lanes (Top Projects) Map on BPAC web site
Will be updated by Greg Garneau in coordination with Dale McKeel.
Suggestions about other maps needed and/or those maps that are now available on the BPAC web site
Greg Garneau will update the map of Bicycle and Pedestrian Access to Duke University and Medical Center. Greg will be happy to accept suggestions for additional maps.

- ◆ Signage on the Downtown Trail
A virtual "look-see" of the signage is available on line. Comments about a few minor changes are available there.
Signs and markings on the ATT informing cyclists and pedestrians about safety rules and trail etiquette
The Town of Cary has a good design that will be passed along to the Durham Dept. of Parks and Recreation. Note: Dan Clever, Carl Sundstrom and Mathew Palmer subsequently shared designs which might be incorporated into the final version.
- ◆ Sharrows
Before they are implemented we need to prepare a press release and possibly a brochure. Dale McKeel will provide three or four examples examples (plus a draft of a press release) and solicit our feedback.
- ◆ The Durham County Bike and Hike Map will be updated in the 4th quarter of 2011. We need one or more representatives from BPAC to serve on the "bike and hike map committee". Greg Garneau offered to serve in this capacity. Other volunteers will be welcomed. Dale McKeel noted certain persons who have helped to defray the cost of map printing by soliciting donations when distributing it. Dale suggested that we should formally thank those who have helped us in this fashion.
- ◆ Comments on the draft BPAC Bylaws
Although this was touched upon by BPAC at the end of our last meeting - we are reminded to review the bylaws prior to our next BPAC meeting in September so that they can be formally adopted.

3. Pedestrian Plan Implementation Committee Report (Erik Landfried)

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

- ◆ Meeting held September 6, 2011
- ◆ In attendance: Erik Landfried, Merry Rabb, Dale McKeel, Greg Garneau, Carl Sundstrom, Bergen Watterson, Honor Gifford, and Amanda Mansfield
- ◆ Dale introduced Bergen, who is working as an intern for the Transportation Department and will be working on ped/bike projects for the City.
- ◆ Erik updated the committee on the progress of a few key items that were discussed at the August meeting.
- ◆ Greg will work with his son to determine how to update the various Google maps they created over a year ago and will talk with Dale about the best time to update these maps.
- ◆ Amanda Mansfield provided an update on an effort she is leading on behalf of Triangle Transit to determine high priority ped/bike access to transit locations in Durham. She has met with a number of groups thus far, including the bus operators at DATA and Triangle Transit, the DATA PRIDE Ambassadors group, and the Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities, among others. Amanda asked for any locations the committee was aware of – Holloway Street was one location discussed. She will send out a draft list to the committee for any other feedback before the list is finalized and presented to the City of Durham.
- ◆ Dale requested feedback on how to re-score the transit element of the DurhamWalks! Plan based on new bus stop boarding and alighting data available. It was tentatively agreed that presence of bus stops along each corridor would receive either 2, 1 ½, 1, or ½ points depending on how many total boardings and alightings occur in the corridor.
- ◆ The committee would like BPAC to discuss the following items:

- ◆ Asking the City and MPO to fund an update to both the Ped and Bike Plans in FY2013. After discussion, the commission will put this on next month's agenda for further discussion.
- ◆ Advocating for a full-time Ped/Bike Coordinator in the FY2013 budget.
- ◆ A potential bond referendum in the near future

4. Communications Committee Report (Merry Rabb)

Second Wednesday, 7 pm, Beyu Caffè

- ◆ Meeting held Wednesday September 14, 2011, 7pm Beyu Caffè
- ◆ Attending: Merry Rabb & Dale McKeel
- ◆ Due to the light attendance we had a short meeting. Mostly we discussed the following three upcoming events:
- ◆ Moving Planet - Saturday September 24 – ECGA is sponsoring several rides on this date and 350.org is sponsoring a Moving Planet event in Durham Central Park from 2-5.
<http://transitiondurham.org/?p=332>
- ◆ ECGA would like us to help out at their table at this event and bring along some of our materials. Merry can help set up and until about 3pm, can someone else help from 3-5?
- ◆ Open Streets – October 9 – there will be a “bike corner” at Washington and Geer - we may participate in some way.
- ◆ Bike Day - October 28 10am to 2pm at Eastway Elementary School, sponsored by Northeast Central Durham Livability Initiative/Salvation Boys & Girls club. Right now they are not asking us to provide any in-person support but it's on our radar.
- ◆ In addition to the regular committee meeting, Merry Rabb & Jack Warman met on Sunday September 19 to work on the Commission's social media. We have created an open Facebook group to replace the page Merry created earlier. One difference is that people can join a group (rather than just “like” a page) - anyone can join and post messages or events to a group. Jack is also looking for a new template for the bikewalkdurham.org main page in order to allow our blog to support sharing, comments and other features. We are working on some guidelines in terms of what types of posts and topics make sense in which type of social media or on line forum. Our goals are to reach more people (i.e. through their choice of media) and increase participation/dialog.
- ◆ If you are on Facebook, look for the “Bike Walk Durham” group and join it.

G. Updates from Liaisons

1. NCCU – Jonathan Leach

- ◆ Employee health/wellness fair was cancelled, hopefully to be rescheduled for the spring.
- ◆ Jonathan has been asked to serve on the committee overseeing the Bull City Connector. Ridership has increased.
- ◆ Jonathan will find out updated information on the Pearsontown Trail.

2. Duke – Steven Lee

- ◆ Steven was absent, but Dale provided an update from Steven and Brian Williams. A plan for campus bike infrastructure is being worked on by the university, and should be ready soon.

3. DOST – Toby Berla

- ◆ Will Wilson is the new president of DOST. They also discussed the two trail maps, which were updated at the BPAC meeting by Helen Youngblood (see New Business.)

H. Old Business

1. ATT Phase E Update (Mark Ahrendsen)

- ◆ Mark provided an update on funding for the ATT project. He indicated that initially the TCC (staff to the MPO) was going to recommend shifting funds from other bicycle/pedestrian projects and programming future funds to fill the gaps for the other projects. In the interim, staff discovered federal funds that were not programmed for projects. The money came from cost under runs and other similar sources, so other projects were not affected. The MPO voted to use these funds to cover the funding gap for the ATT project. Staff is working on the logistics for reassigning the funds, and rebidding the project. Some adjustments to the bid package were being worked on to hopefully reduce the cost of the project. One of the major changes will be lengthening the time allotted for the bridge fabrication and installation (but not the trail portion of the project) that should give the winning contractor more flexibility during the contract.
- ◆ Teiji asked if any of the “found funds” could be used for other projects. Mark indicated that most of the eligible projects, other than the Durham-Chapel Hill Road project, are not far enough along to use these funds in the short term.
- ◆ Toby asked if other adjustments could be made to projects, and what are the expected cost over runs for the Durham-Chapel Hill Road project. Mark indicated that a redesign of the bridge was not reasonable. The cost over runs expected for the Durham-Chapel Hill project are related to right-of-way acquisition, and that Public Works will be reviewing the plans to see if any adjustments could be made to reduce the right-of-way impacts.
- ◆ The likely completion date of the project will now be in 2013.

2. Resolution to Support Transit Referendum (Scott Carter)

- ◆ Scott provided a resolution for consideration. Lars suggested some changes that were included in the resolution. *Scott then moved and Toby seconded to approve the resolution.* Discussion of the pros and cons of the resolution followed. The vote was unanimous in favor.

3. Revision to BPAC Bylaws (Scott Carter)

- ◆ Scott brought up the revisions to the bylaws. Scott brought up a comment from Teiji that some of the syntax of the bylaws was poorly formed. It was mentioned that the section in question is part of the interlocal agreement, so it could not be changed at this time. Scott mentioned that the attendance requirement is no more than three absences, while only six meetings were required annually. The statement in the bylaws is that if a member is absent more than three times, the Secretary is to report that member to the full commission for consideration of appropriate action. The commission felt that was adequate.
- ◆ Ken moved and Dan seconded to adopt the bylaws as revised. The motion was passed unanimously.

I. New Business

1. Update to the Durham Trails and Greenways Master Plan (Helen Youngblood)

- ◆ Helen, staff liaison to DOST, made a presentation on the proposed changes to the trails/greenways master plan. Details can be found in her presentation, which will be on the city website once staff can clean up the maps for presentation.
- ◆ These revisions will be forwarded to elected officials in October or November.
- ◆ Maps will be available online, and will be printed for some of the trails. In particular, the Bike/Hike map is very popular.

- ◆ Teiji asked if pedestrian and bicycle trails can be combined. Helen indicated that some trails, such as the ATT, where the two modes are merged, however there is another thought that some of the trails are more appropriate to separate the different modes.
 - ◆ Some trails will not be able to be paved, so those are more appropriate for walking and hiking.
 - ◆ The commission asked questions on various elements of the trail system.
- 2. Update to the Durham Bike & Hike Map (Dale McKeel)**
- ◆ Dale reported that funds are available to update the bike and hike map. He asked if there were BPAC members interested in serving on the review committee for the map. Toby, Dan, and Scott expressed interest.
- 3. Project Status Report (Dale McKeel)**
- ◆ Dale provided a copy of the new format for the project status report.

J. Staff Report / Questions / Announcements

- ◆ No reports other than what was covered in specific agenda items.

K. Adjournment

- ◆ **Dan moved and Lars to extend the meeting by 15 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.**
- ◆ *Eric moved and Dan seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously and meeting was adjourned at 9:11 PM.*